



An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada

2017 Dec 24

Sacrament of Communion

Advent 4



Welcome and Inclusion

We open our hearts and our church family to all people in our community regardless of ethnicity, economic circumstances, sexual orientation, age, gender, or differing abilities. Many people's lives continue to be devastated by hatred, prejudice, and inequality, therefore we stand with those who are adversely affected by injustice, alienation and oppression.

Friends in Christ

Prelude: *How Brightly Shines the Morning Star*, Sigfrid Karg-Elert
Tammy-Jo Mortensen, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Opening Prayer:

Many people look at the world and find no trace of your presence, God. To be honest, there are times when we are almost convinced that they are right. We do not know where you have gone or if you were ever here. But in this season we see the child Jesus, and you do not seem so far away. We want to believe in the promise and possibility of this child. May he grow up among us and show us your footprints and lead us in the paths of life. Amen.¹

Processional Hymn: *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* **Voices United 36**

Coming Into God's Presence and Candlelighting

Hymn: *I Will Wait*

Glen Warren & Nancy

Chegus (insert)

God's Holy Word

Introit: *The Glory of the Father*, Egil Hovland

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Scripture:

Jessica Blake

John 1: 1-18 • The Word Became Flesh

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we

¹ Written by John Moses, *Gathering, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2010-2011*, p. 29.. Used with permission.

have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known."²

This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God for Christ, the word made flesh.

Anthem: *Ding Dong! Merrily On High*, Louis Harris Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Sermon: *Have you heard who moved in?* Rev. Karen Bridges

Hymn: *Beyond the Beauty and the Awe* **More Voices 80**

Pastoral Prayers (*sung response*) (*Voices United*, p. 933, Haugen)

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the

Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.

...let us pray to the

Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.

(last time)

Help, save, and defend us, O God.

Choir: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

(*Voices United* p. 921)

Grateful Response

Minute for Mission

Sylvia Duffus

Offering: *'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime*, arr. Lani Smith

Offertory Hymn:

More Voices 222

May the peace of God be your peace.

May the love of God be the love you show.

May the joy of God be the joy you know,

And may the world that God would see be found in you.

Prayer of Gratitude

Sacrament of Holy Communion

All who worship with us today, regardless of age or church membership, are invited and welcome to partake in this sacrament. Gluten-free bread is available on request and the "wine" is non-alcoholic grape juice.

Friends, Jesus invites us to share in this joyful feast!

² *The New Oxford Annotated Bible: New Revised Standard Version*. (1991, Oxford University Press)

“People will come from east and west, from north and south, and take their places at the banquet in the kingdom of God.”

Glory to God in the highest!

And on earth, peace to all!

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is good to give thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, God of peace and promise. Through the words of your prophets and the faith of your followers you prepare the way of our redemption and bring hope to birth. And though we often grow weary of waiting, your signs call us to keep watch for that day when all things shall be made new. In assurance of this hope, we join with all the company of heaven and earth to give you praise:

Holy, Holy, Holy (*sung*):

(*Voices United*, p. 932-933, Haugen)

Holy, holy, holy are you, God of power and might;

Heaven and earth are filled with your glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who comes in your name.

Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

We do what Jesus did the night before he died. He took bread, gave thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, “Take, eat; remember me.” Then he took the cup, and said, “Take, drink; remember.”

O God, Redeemer of all things, with grateful thanks we offer this bread and wine, fruits of your earth and of our labour, signs of your redemptive purpose for our lives and for all your creation.

Memorial Acclamation (*sung*):

(*Voices United*, p. 933, Haugen)

Christ has died. Christ is risen.

Christ will come, come again.

By these signs of bread and wine, we recognize the longings of all our hearts for a time when all humanity will be one family – when justice and compassion will be the way we live according to the One we seek. Holy Spirit, hover over our lives, uniting us in these signs and strengthening us to live the resurrected life of Christ in the world.

Praise be to God, the Source of Love!

Praise be to Christ, Love incarnate!

Praise be to the Spirit, Love’s power!

Praise be to God!

Great Amen (*sung*): **Amen!**

(*Voices United*, p. 933, Haugen)

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Prayer after Communion:

Eternal and gracious One, though we live in a world of need,
Here we have tasted your goodness and hungered for a world more just.

Though afflicted by brokenness and division,
Here we have heard your call to be a people of healing community.

Though daily we touch our limits,
Here we have received the fullness of your grace.

Send us forth, O God,
In faith, in hope, and in love. Amen.

Recessional Hymn: *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* *Voices United 43*

Commissioning:

Go forth in the mystery of faith.

We go as messengers of the good news.

Go forth with the trust and assurance of grace.

We go to walk as Joseph and Mary walked, listening to God's call within our living.

Go forth guided by the Spirit's nurture.

We go as those who bear the name of Christ, as those willing to see the world in humility.³

Postlude: *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*, Gordon Young

*Following worship, all are invited to the Memorial Hall
for fellowship, and refreshments.*

Music Notes

A busy day, with lots of music! Thanks to our dedicated choristers for their musical leadership throughout the year. The opening choral piece by Norwegian composer, Egil Hovland (1924-2013), is based on the John reading for today. It begins with a free chant-like section, with a medieval sound, with many fifths and simple harmonies, then it goes into a 4-part setting, then returns to chant.

The communion music is by American composer Alfred Fedak, on a text by the wonderful contemporary hymn-writer, Carl Daw. The symbols used are common Advent images: Jesse's root, true vine, the Rose, unlocking the fetters that bind us, the swaddled infant, hope, love, peace, and a communion verse. The recessional hymn is the wonderful spiritual "Go Tell it on the Mountain". The lyrics originate around 1865, and the author, John W. Work together with his brother, Frederick, published several collections of slave songs and spirituals. Due to the oral tradition with which this piece was shared, there are

³ Written by Gord Dunbar, **Gathering** Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2017-2018, p. 31. Used with permission.

many more verses, several of which have references to various scriptures.

Cover Image

Cover image: This picture was taken by Brad Campbell of the Nativity at R-W. November 2017.

Page 6 photo (below) was taken by Jane Cheseborough at the Live Nativity at R-W. December 16, 2017.

Minister of Spiritual and Pastoral Care Development: Rev. Leigh Sinclair
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R-W REPORT DECEMBER 24, 2017
Robertson-Wesley United Church

A WARM WELCOME TO EVERYONE

Washrooms are located by the elevator.

Baby changing facilities are available in washrooms.

If you wish to use it, a children's activity centre is set up in the Chapel with nursing space in adjacent room (Millson Room).

Activity kits for children are available from the ushers.

Large print bulletins, large print hymnbooks,
and hearing devices are available from the ushers.

Please do not leave valuables unattended anywhere in the church.

Next Week

December 31, 2017, 10:30 am

Christmas 1

Children & Youth: Children and youth are encouraged to worship with their families today. Activity kits are available for children.

Scripture: John 1: 19-34 The Testimony of John the Baptist

Sermon: *Who are YOU to tell this Good News?*

Let us continue to ponder the amazing Christmas news: God chose to come to the world in flesh! We wonder why and who. Why would God want to get so up close to this world of suffering and pain? Who am I to be given the gift of knowing this Jesus? Who am I to tell others that God's love can be life-giving and hope-bringing in the midst of the darkest despair?

Music: Melisa Guilbeault & Leigh Sinclair, soloists; Tammy-Jo Mortensen, organ

After Worship: After worship all are invited to gather in the Memorial Hall for fellowship and refreshments.

Magic Pantry- Responding to the need in our own neighbourhood, R-W provides a free bag lunch on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays from 12-1. This outreach program relies on volunteers to be available with a bag lunch ready for people that come to the door. This program is a great way to connect and provide outreach in the community.

Wanted: Magic Pantry Coordinator- We are seeking an individual to coordinate our weekly bag lunch program. Bag lunches are given out over the noon hour on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays. We have volunteers that sign up to do this. The coordinator would ensure that

there are supplies to make the lunches and would coordinate Sandwich making parties when needed. The coordinator will also help to train and orient volunteers. If you would like to know more about this program please contact Rev. Karen Bridges.

Garden Patch & Kids' Church- Grandparents, parents, youth and adults are encouraged to volunteer Sunday mornings to lead the children's Sunday morning program on a regular rotational basis. More details are on the sign-up sheet in Memorial Hall. Sign up today!

THANK-YOU.....THANK-YOU.....THANK-YOU

On Saturday, December 9th, 43 people turned up to attend R-W's 7th Annual Christmas Craft Class. It was a wonderful 3 hours of socializing, learning to make a Christmas table arrangement, partaking in delicious food and meeting many newcomers to the class as well as welcoming our regulars who have taken the class for the past 6 years!

This year, from the purchase of tickets for the class, sales of candles, bows made by Tony and beautiful bundles of fresh greenery, we made a total of **\$2,110.00**.

We would like to thank ALL of you who participated in this years event and you can now mark next years class in your calendar...the date is:

Saturday – December 8th, 2018 & we hope to see you there !!

Tony Jansen and Brenda Sheppard

Winter Clothing Bank- Many warm thanks to all who have contributed so generously their pre-loved, warm winter clothing and footwear, and time in sorting for our Winter Clothing Bank. The warm clothes and footwear have been gratefully received, and will provide much-needed comfort from the winter cold. *-Sarah and Victoria, Coordinators*

Another **thank you** from the bake sale last Sunday. We made \$619.40 for the R-W Anniversary Legacy Fund from the proceeds of the sale.

R-W News & Notes

ANNUAL REPORT

The deadline for reports from the committees of the church is **Sunday, Jan 14, 2018**. Send your information to mail@rwuc.org with "2017 Annual Report Submission" in the subject line.

OUR FINANCIAL POSITION IN A NUTSHELL

The financial statements to the end of November 2017 report a deficit of approximately \$35,000. This is generally due to lower than budgeted donations, property income, and fundraising income. Expenses are mostly on budget or a little under budget. The majority of the building improvements expense (the new elevator and the washroom renovation) was covered by government grants, with the shortfall being financed by a

draw on reserves. A new sound system and replacement of some flooring in the upstairs office were unforeseen expenses this year.

Historically, December is a very strong month for donations, with additional church services being provided and the continuing generosity of members during the holiday season. Accordingly, it is expected the deficit will be reduced significantly, if not eliminated, by year end.

Donna Chmielewski, Treasurer

WINN EDWORTHY TURNS 100 NEXT MONTH!!

If you were here during Aubrey's and Winn's ministry there'll be a special place in your heart for them! On January 11, Winn, who still lives in Saskatoon near her daughter, will celebrate her 100th Birthday! How wonderful! With fond memories of her, a notebook will be available in Memorial Hall after the service today for folk to sign their name or write a short message to Winn; and which will be mailed to her early in the New Year. You are all so special to her!!

STAMPS

Please save used stamps over the Christmas season. Leave them in the box in the outer office and Karen Hansen will take to the CNIB.

CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICES

Seeking purpose and meaning

January 7, 2018 Memorial Hall

Are you seeking an escape from the world, an oasis in your busy life? Are you seeking some quiet? Are you seeking time for yourself or inspiration? Then we invite you to engage in Contemplative Practices at Robertson-Wesley United Church in Memorial Hall.

When you enter memorial Hall you will find pockets of inspiration that will clear your mind, open your heart, and bring your spirit into connection with the sacred and the world. Throughout Memorial Hall there will be different spaces with different contemplative practices that invite you to meditate, pray, while engaging in some artistic exercises.

Drop by anytime between the hours of 7:00-8:30 pm. Stay for as long as you would like. This is a self-directed program with instructions throughout the room to give you some guidance on your journey. Invite your friends, family and neighbours to enter the oasis and emerge inspired, enlightened, grounded and feeling nourished.

ART STUDIO HOLIDAY HOURS

The studio will be closed over the holiday season. We will be starting again in the new year on the week of Jan. 8, with Monday night 7-8:30pm, Tuesday 1:30-3pm.

GROCERY CARDS

Please consider purchasing grocery cards from Robertson-Wesley in Memorial Hall after Sunday Worship. Any grocery cards that Robertson-Wesley purchases from Superstore in November & December and Safeway/Sobeys from October to December are subject to an additional discount for the church. Grocery cards are available in denominations of \$25, \$50, and \$100. Cash and cheques are accepted. These make great gifts!

MESSY WEDNESDAYS

Starting on January 10, 2018, in Memorial Hall on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from 5pm – 7pm, families with children gather for dinner, activities and discussion. The families gather to eat a meal together at no cost to the family, which is served around 5:45pm. We have a couple of volunteers who do the cooking for us, so it is night off for parents! This is part of our outreach ministry and a way to welcome all families to gather together for a time of fellowship. There are activities for the children before and after dinner and adults take the opportunity engage in conversation during the evening. Don't worry if you can't make it right at 5pm. Families invited to help with clean up and children's activities. Grandparents are welcome to join us! This is a wonderful way to get to know other families in the church and the neighbourhood. It is a messy and fun time for all!

CHOIR CABARET – SAT. FEBRUARY 24, 7:30

This is a wonderful outing in the new year! This year's theme: Oscar-winning songs! Come have some fun and be entertained by some amazing voices & instrumentalists. Tickets on sale in the new year-\$15!

Community News

WEEK AT A GLANCE

| | |
|------------|--|
| Sun Dec 24 | Christmas Eve Services – 4:00 pm, 8:00 pm & 11:00 pm |
| Mon Dec 25 | Christmas Day service– Memorial Hall 10:30 am |

HOLIDAY HOURS

The church is closed over the holidays from Dec 25, 2017 to Jan 1, 2018. Regular hours resume on Tuesday, January 2, 2018.

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Office hours: Tues. – Fri. 8:30 am to noon & 1 pm – 4:30 pm.

We wish to acknowledge that the land on which we gather is Treaty 6 territory and a traditional meeting ground for many Indigenous peoples.