



# Robertson - Wesley

UNITED CHURCH *Spirited*

*An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada*

2017 Dec 25

Christmas 1

## Welcome and Inclusion

We open our hearts  
and our church  
family to all people  
in our community  
regardless of sexual  
orientation, age,  
gender, differing  
abilities, ethnicity, or  
economic  
circumstance. 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.



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*Friends in Christ*

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Preludes: *Nowell, Nowell, The Boar's Head*, Smert, arr. Andy Melson

*Ave Maris Stella*, Edvard Grieg

Córtet

Text translation: Hail, star of the sea, Nurturing Mother of God, and ever Virgin  
Happy gate of Heaven, Loosen the chains of the guilty, Send forth light to the blind,  
Our evil do thou dispel, Entreat (for us) all good things.

Bestow a pure life, Prepare a safe way: That seeing Jesus, We may ever rejoice.  
Praise be to God the Father, To the Most High Christ (be) glory, To the Holy Spirit  
Honour, to the Three equally. Amen.

Opening Prayer:

Behold! A Child is born - Jesus the Christ child.

**Let us go to Bethlehem and see!**

Let us worship the King of Kings  
on this happy morning.

**May the light of God's love shine upon all as  
we celebrate on the happy morning.<sup>1</sup>**

Opening Hymn: *Now We Sing of Christmas*

*Insert*

Coming Into God's Presence

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*God's Holy Word*

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Carol: *In the Bleak Midwinter*

*Voices United 55, v. 1, 3, 4*

Introit: *Jesus Christ the Apple Tree*, Howard Helvey

Córtet

Prayer of Illumination:

**God of mangers and magi, God of shepherds and stables,  
You have come to us as a human child.**

**Your will is revealed to us in many ways.**

**Open us in this time of worship to your ways.**

**As revealed in the passage of scripture.**

**Amen.<sup>2</sup>**

Scripture: Luke 2: 8-15

Anthem: *Wexford Carol*, Irish Traditional, arr. John Rutter

Córtet

Scripture: Luke 2: 16-20

This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

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

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<sup>1</sup> Written by Jane Sampson, adapted, **Gathering: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, 2017-2018**, pg. 31. Used with permission.

<sup>2</sup> Written by Beth Johnson, adapted, **Gathering: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, 2017-2018**, pg. 34. Used with permission.

Pastoral Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

(*Voices United* p. 921)

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Grateful Response

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Prayer of Reflection:

Sitting here, surrounded by candles, soaking in your grace,

**We know what it is we long for.**

**We long for your presence among us**

**We long for your peace to embrace us**

**We long for your wisdom to guide us**

**We long for your love to enfold us.**

In this hour, help us open ourselves to the power and truth of this moment:

You are here, in the infant child, abiding with us, now and always.

**Amen.**<sup>3</sup>

Sending Hymn: *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

**Voices United 35**

Commissioning:

Send us forth this Christmas morning,  
with the light of Christ growing within us.

**Send us forth from this feast of love  
to celebrate the babe in the manger.**

**Amen.**<sup>4</sup>

Postlude: *My Lord has Come*, Will Todd

Córtet

*Free-will offerings will be accepted at the entrance to Memorial Hall.*

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Music Notes

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Many thanks to the volunteers from the Choir of Robertson-Wesley who have taken the leadership this morning and form today's Córtet (/kôr'tet/): Claire Rolheiser, Shamin Malmas, sopranos, Erin Craig, Caroline De Grave, Kalea Turner-Beckman, altos, Yaroslav Veremenko, Andy Melson, tenors, and Neal Neigel, Matthew McGuigan, basses.

Our prelude features music by well-known Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg, setting the ancient text *Ave Maris Stella*, which was commonly used as a prayer for safe-conduct for travelers. Closer to home, *Jesus Christ the Apple Tree* comes from American composer Howard Helvey, with a setting of the 18th

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<sup>3</sup> Written by Nora Vedress, adapted, **Gathering, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, 2017-2018**, pg. 33. Used with permission.

<sup>4</sup> Written by Robin Wardlaw, adapted, **Gathering, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, 2017-2018**, pg. 34. Used with permission.

century carol that evokes the feeling of longing for Christ’s arrival. English composer John Rutter is well-known to choristers near and far, and we will perform his setting of the Irish tune *Carúl Loch Garman, Carúl Inis Córthaidh* which originates from County Wexford, and features some surprising modal harmony in its melody. Will Todd is an English composer who is also a very accomplished jazz pianist... in fact, he has composed an entire “Mass in Blue” which uses a full big band jazz ensemble! You may hear some of this jazz influence in our final piece this morning.

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### Cover Image

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Cover image: This picture was taken by Hal Thiessen at our Lessons and Carols service, December 10, 2017.

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### Staff

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Minister of Spiritual and Pastoral Care Development: Rev. Leigh Sinclair  
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