



An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada

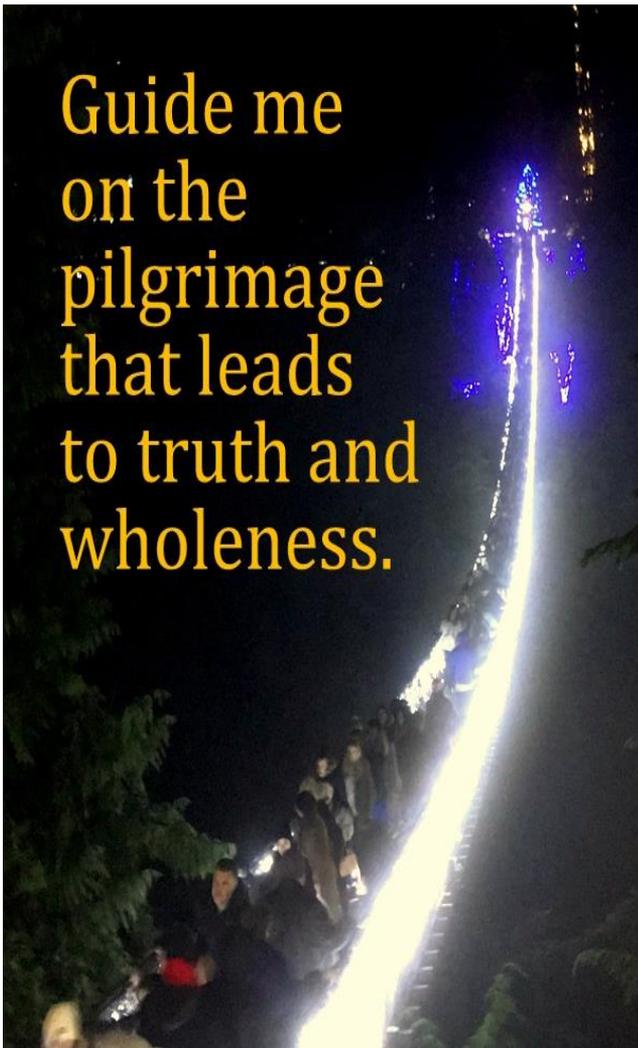
2018 Jan 7

Epiphany 1

10:30 AM

Welcome and Inclusion

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

A photograph showing a group of people walking at night along a path. The path is illuminated by a long, bright, curved light trail that curves upwards and to the right. The background is dark, with some trees and buildings visible in the distance.

**Guide me
on the
pilgrimage
that leads
to truth and
wholeness.**

Friends in Christ

Prelude: *Lord Jesus, Christ, Thou Prince of Peace*, J. S. Bach, arr. Hopson
Tammy-Jo Mortensen, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Call to Worship:

Isaiah said to the people,

“Don’t be afraid.”

The Angel said to Mary, to Joseph, and to the shepherds,

“Don’t be afraid.”

Jesus said to those who would listen,

“Don’t be afraid.”

And, deep in their hearts, deep in our hearts, everyone wondered,

“Why not?”

God says, “Don’t be afraid. I am with you. In the tears and sorrows, in the laughter and joy, I am with you.”

We are not alone.

We will not be afraid.

God is with us! God is with all!

Thanks be to God!¹

Processional Hymn: *Behold, Behold, I Make All Things New*

More Voices 115

Coming Into God’s Presence

Rev. Karen Bridges

Moments of Openness and Honesty

Sung Response: *We’ll Find a Way to Be Honest*, Giffen, Pattison, McHan

R-W Córtes

God’s Holy Word

Introit: *Gate of the Year*, John Butler

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Scripture:

Nancy Heule

John 1: 35-51 • The First Disciples of Jesus

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon

¹ Written by Richard Bott, **Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2015/16, p. 35. Used with Permission.

son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter). The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.” Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, “Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!” Nathanael asked him, “Where did you get to know me?” Jesus answered, “I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.” Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” Jesus answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.” And he said to him, “Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the son of Man.”

This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

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

Anthem: *Arise, Shine for Your Light has Come*, Hal H. Hopson Choir of R-W

Sermon: *We'll find a way to be honest, God being our helper.*

Rev. Karen Bridges

Hymn: *Christ Has No Body Now but Yours*

More Voices 171

Pastoral Prayers

Rev. Leigh Sinclair

The Lord's Prayer

(*Voices United* p. 921)

Grateful Response

Offering: *Prelude on "Irby"*, David Willcocks

Offertory Hymn:

More Voices 53 v4

**God who raised our rolling foothills
crowned with mountain peaks beyond;
call us now to love and serve you,
joyfully will we respond.**

**God whose glory past and present
lights us on our future way,
now baptize us with your spirit,
build tomorrow's church today.**

Prayer of Gratitude

Recessional Hymn: *In the Darkness Shines the Splendour*

Voices United 92

Question for Reflection:

If I were being honest I wish I could...?

Commissioning:

We gather to absorb love and we go forth to love;

We gather to be inspired and leave to inspire;

We gather for a service and we go forth to be of service.

We gather to connect with truth and go forth to live our truth.²

Postlude: *In Dir Ist Freude (In You is Gladness)*, J. S. Bach

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

Music Notes

Happy New Year! Today we have two pieces that are specifically for the new year. The introit is a lovely poem by Minnie Louise Haskins, set to music by John Butler. I believe John Butler was from Edmonton and did his B. Mus. and M. Mus in piano at the U of A, and then went to Julliard and the Mozarteum in Salzburg. For the last 40 years he's made his home in St. Catherines, ON, where he is a composer, pianist, teacher, church organist/choirmaster at St. George's Anglican, and musical theatre director. His writing is poignant and his pieces and harmonies are well-crafted, as you will hear in this small gem. The poem was written in 1908. It came to broader attention when it was used by then King George in his Christmas broadcast in 1939. The poem continues past the portion that Butler has set. The other new year piece is one by J. S. Bach. "In dir ist Freude" is a new year chorale. This piece from the Orgelbüchlein and has a repeated (ostinato) pedal line, known in this piece as a "joy" motif, representing the joy and gladness of the title. Thanks to the Córte today for sharing a piece by rEvolv. We will be using this piece for the next few weeks in various ways. They are local musicians that have created a lot of contemporary sacred music for use in the church.

Cover Image

Cover image: This picture was taken by Rev. Karen Bridges at the Capilano Suspension Bridge, in Vancouver, BC, Dec 2017. The words, written by John Oldham, come from the hymn "Bathe Me in Your Light", More Voices 82

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² Written by David Lander, **Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2015/16, p. 44. Used with Permission.

R-W REPORT JANUARY 7, 2018
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

January 14, 2018, 10:30 am

Epiphany 2

Children & Youth: Children begin in the sanctuary, then go to their Kids' Church program. Youth meet in the youth room at the beginning of the service.

Scripture: John 2: 1-11 Wine at a Wedding

Sermon: *What will you post, God being your helper?*

Look what they did! They must have meant it as a slight? Right? We often watch others do things and ascribe to those things – both the good and the ugly – intentions. We want the world to fit into good/bad, us/them, and we limit our hopes and expect others to intend the worst. This is especially easy in the comments section of any blog, post or tweet! Now is the time to ask the hard questions of a new year: will we go for the easy definition of “them”? Let's help to bring hope back into our lives and the world by changing our frame into “best intentions”. And let's do it with love.

Music: Choir of R-W; Tammy-Jo Mortensen, organ

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

Volunteer Opportunities

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!

Nominations for Key Leadership Positions- We are seeking people for two board positions this year. We would ask that you all take time to discern, if you or someone you know might have the gifts and passion to full fill these roles. If you have suggestions or are interested please talk to one of the members of the nominations committee, Garnet Thomas, John Fleming, Ted Blezard or Rev. Karen Bridges. We are seeking a person for to be the Secretary to the Board, which will take minutes at the monthly board meetings. It would be helpful if you are familiar with computers for this position. It is a two-year term. We are also seeking an Incoming Chair of the Board. If you are good at facilitating conversation and running a meeting consider taking on this role. This position is a three-year term, you would have one year to learn about things, then one year as the chair and then one year as past chair, in a supportive position. With this particular position we are seeking someone who has formalized their membership with the United Church of Canada. More detailed descriptions can be found on the website www.rwuc.org under volunteers.

R-W News & Notes

CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICES

Seeking purpose and meaning

TONIGHT! 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. 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.

2017 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.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A **Budget Information Session** will be held Sunday, **February 4, 2018.** The **Annual General Meeting** of the Robertson-Wesley congregation will take place in Memorial Hall after the service on **February 11, 2018.** Printed copies of the Annual Report will be available on **Jan 28, 2018.**

BETWEEN THE AISLES

Between the Aisles quarterly publication. Deadline for submissions is **Jan 14, 2018**. Please forward your stories, notices, or musings to: rwucnews@gmail.com. Please consider sending us your writing. It is good for the soul!

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

The Annual General Meeting & Lunch is Tuesday, Jan. 9 at 12:00 pm. Cost: \$8.00. Contact Janet M Clark to confirm your attendance. Janet: 780-483-4261 or email: clarkwinchesters@shaw.ca

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!

SPIRITED SATURDAYS "Saying No to say Yes"

Come and learn through listening and discussion how setting boundaries and saying no can lead us to better love of self and others. We will gather with coffee/tea/juice and our Bibles to explore how to make our "yes" count by using "no"! We will meet the third Saturday of the month, 9:30-11:30 am, January to May, except April)

Come to one or all the workshops and bring friends and/or family! We will meet in the Club Room.

January 20- Exploration into boundaries in our relationships and how we understand God's call to use them!

February 17- Exploration of how we make decisions about life and death (faithful responses to dying, grief dynamics, preplanning funerals, caring for someone you love in palliative care)

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 Events

DELTA KAPPA GAMMA AUTHOR'S BREAKFAST

Author's Breakfast and Talk featuring Laurel Deedrick-Mayne
Hear Laurel Deedrick-Mayne, Edmonton author and winner of the \$10,000 Alberta Readers' Choice Award, speak about her first book **A WAKE AT THE DREAMLAND**. DKG, an international women educators' society, invites you to its 10th annual Author's Breakfast to hear about the ten-year process of researching and writing the book which takes place in Edmonton, Peace River and Europe during WW II. Memorial Hall, Saturday, February 3, 2018, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm
Cost: \$20.00
Questions/reserve: lornaber@telus.net; clarkwinchesters@shaw.ca

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun Jan 07	Contemplative Practices– Memorial Hall	7:00 pm
Mon Jan 08	Spirited Art Studio– Art studio	7:00 pm
Tue Jan 09	Yoga– Memorial Hall	10:00 am
	Scripture Reflection Group– Club Room	12:10 pm
	United Church Women– Memorial Hall	1:15 pm
	Spirited Art Studio– Art Studio	1:30 pm
	DEAP Pod– Club Room	5:00 pm
	Property ctte– Room 11	7:00 pm
Wed Jan 10	Men's Group– Memorial Hall	9:30 am
	Messy Wednesday– Memorial Hall	5:00 pm
	R-W Choir rehearsal– Lower Hall	7:30 pm
Thu Jan 11	Nova Bells– Lower Hall	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers– Lower Hall	6:45 pm
Sat Jan 13	Choral Morphosis– Lower Hall	10:30 am
	Spirited Art Studio– Art Studio	5:00 pm
	Community Dinner– Memorial Hall	5:00 pm
	R-W Youth Group– offsite	6:00 pm

ON THE HORIZON

Sun Jan 14	Soul OUTing– Chapel	7:00 pm
Mon Jan 15	Spirited Art Studio– Art studio	7:00 pm
Tue Jan 16	Scripture Reflection Group– Club Room	12:10 pm
	Spirited Art Studio– Art Studio	1:30 pm
	R-W Board meeting– Room 11	7:00 pm
Wed Jan 17	Gendered? Just Human Spirited Arts series	7:00 pm
Sat Jan 20	Spirited Saturday– Club Room	9:30 am

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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.