



An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada

2018 Jan 28

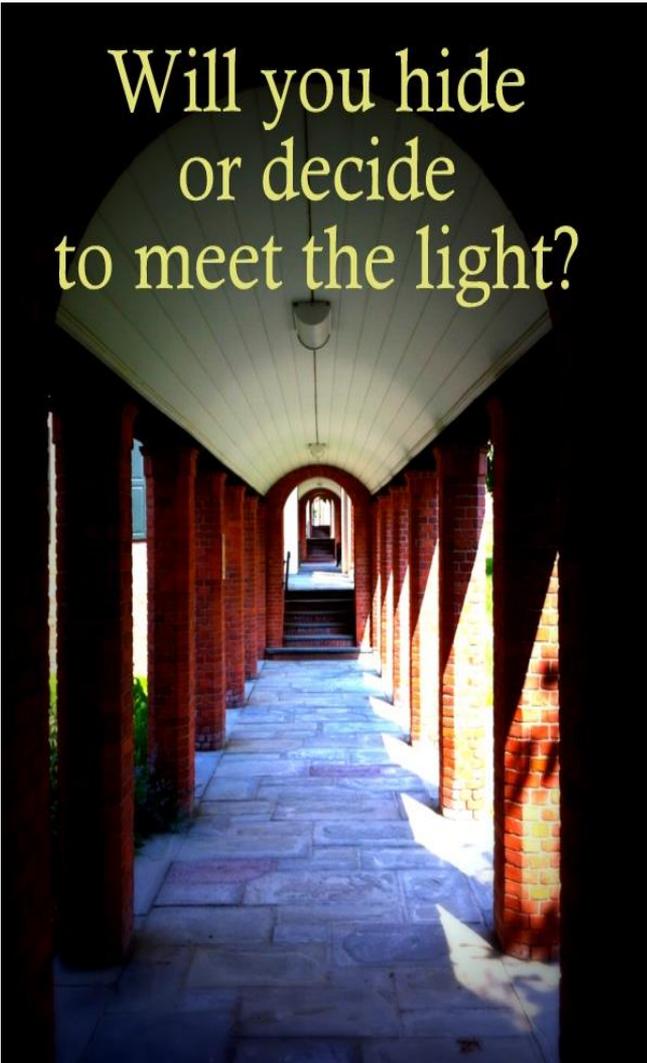
Epiphany 4

10:30 AM

Welcome and Inclusion

We open our hearts and our church family to all people in our community, regardless of ethnicity, economic circumstance, 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.



Will you hide
or decide
to meet the light?

Friends in *Christ*

Prelude: *Charity*, Paul A. McKlveen

Robertson-Wesley Ringers

Embracing Our Spirit

Call to Worship:

In this place of worship

We bow our heads, we fold our hands, and speak our prayers to God.

In this place of worship

We lift our heads, we open our hands, and sing our prayers to God.

In this place of worship,

We close our eyes, we rest our hands, and whisper our prayers to God.

In this place of worship,

There are many ways to pray, many ways to worship God.

Come, people of God, let us worship today!¹

Opening Hymn: *Take, O Take Me as I Am*

More Voices 85

Coming Into God's Presence

Rev. Karen Bridges

Introit: *Fall in Snow*, Ron Klusmeier

Cantlon Kindersingers

Moments of Openness and Honesty

Sung Response: *We'll Find a Way to Be Honest*

Insert

God's Holy Word

Scripture:

Lea Callebaut

John 3:1-21 • Nicodemus Visits Jesus

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him. "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?" "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we

¹ Written by Susan Lukey, **Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2015-16, p.38. Used with permission.

have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

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

Sermon: *What are you hiding from?*

Rev. Karen Bridges

Hymn: *Will You Come and See the Light*

Voices United 96

Pastoral Prayers

Rev. Leigh Sinclair

The Lord's Prayer

(*Voices United* p. 921)

Grateful Response

Seconds for Stewardship

Vicky Mah

When we get in the habit

we get more out than we put in, and for this we give God thanks.

Stewardship Response: *Rise Up Rise Up*

More Voices 130

Offering: *Wade in the Water*, Spiritual, arr. S. Eithun Robertson-Wesley Ringers

The work of the church relies on the generosity of your donations to maintain the beauty of this building and the ministry and mission that it provides. Donations over \$10, placed in the envelopes found in the pews, will receive a tax receipt at the end of the year. Thank you for your support.

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

Closing Hymn: *There's a Spirit in the Air* **Voices United 582 v. 1,2,4&6**

Anthem: *He's Got the Whole World*, Trad. arr. Raffi Cantlon Kindersingers

Commissioning:

Run into the world, not in fear, but in anticipation.

We go trusting in God's grace to sustain us.

Run into the world, not timidly, but with gusto.

We go filled with the Spirit's inspiration.

Run into the world, not protected, but vulnerable.

We go to show Christ in us and to see Christ in others.²

Question for Reflection:

If I were being honest, I really want to know...?

Postlude: *Go Out in Joy! (Trilogy)*, Lee J. Afdahl Robertson-Wesley Ringers

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

Music Notes

Thanks to the Cantlon Kindersingers, their conductors Amy Bautista and Sally McIntosh and pianist Lauren Chalaturnyk for their participation today. They share a traditional favourite and also a lovely song "Fall in Snow" composed by Ron Klusmeier with words by Walter Farquharson, written in 1984.

The Robertson-Wesley Ringers play two pieces that include a scripture reference. "Let all that you do be done in charity." 1 Cor. 16:14. "Charity" features both our bells and chimes and "For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace." Isaiah 55:12 They also are playing a terrific spiritual arranged for handbells, which features some extra "percussion" at the beginning!

Cover Image

Cover image: Taken by Rev. Karen Bridges June 2013 at Yale University. The words come from the hymn "Will You Come and See the Light" VU 96. Words - Brian Wren.

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² Written by Gord Dunbar, **Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2006-7, p. 39. Used with permission.

R-W REPORT JANUARY 28, 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

February 4, 2018, 10:30 am

Epiphany 5

R-W Communion, Minute for Mission

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 4: 1-42 Jesus and the Woman of Samaria

Sermon: *Be yourself no matter what they say!*

Sometimes it is just as important to recognize that which is not said as well as that which is said. Sometimes it is hard to accept our failures and frailties, the truth is that God knows them already, and God is still with us, still listening to us, still walking with us, and still loving us.

Sometimes we don't immediately recognize truth spoken, but through discernment we come to a deeper understanding. What truths will be revealed to you?

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

Community Dinner- We are in need of a few more volunteers for February's dinner. There are a variety of shifts and tasks and we love seeing new faces join our loyal regulars to help out. **All ages are**

welcome. It's a wonderful way to give back to our community and it's a lot of fun! Sign up sheets are on the board in Memorial Hall.

Nominations for Key Leadership Positions- We are seeking people for two board positions this year. Please take time to discern if you or someone you know has the gifts and passions to fulfill these roles. If you have suggestions or are interested please talk to one of the members of the nominations committee, John Fleming, Ted Blezard, Ron Soans or Rev. Karen Bridges (staff support). We are seeking a person for to be the **Secretary to the Board**, who 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: www.rwuc.org under volunteers.

R-W News & Notes

WELCOME TO KOINONIA

Join us tonight for "Sacred Meals and Sacred Stories." Starting with potluck at 5:30 pm in Memorial Hall (if you are able, please bring something for the main meal, salad or dessert to share) we visit with each other over the meal and reflect on the Last Supper Jesus shared with his friends. During worship time we will talk about a few lesser known Biblical characters and how their "ordinary" lives may have messages for us "ordinary" people! An interactive communion service will follow with lots of singing! Hope to see you!

PANCAKE SUPPER

The annual Shrove Tuesday pancake supper is Feb. 13, 5:30-7:00. Come, eat and prepare for Lent! Tickets available after church today.

CHOIR CABARET

Let us entertain you! Wine and cheese, music and story. Oscar-winning songs, and surprise guests! Sat. evening Feb. 24. Tickets on sale today!

CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICES

Are you seeking an escape from the world, an oasis of some quiet, a time for yourself or inspiration? Then we invite you to engage in contemplative practices at Robertson-Wesley in Memorial Hall. When you enter the 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. 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 7-8:30 PM on the designated Sundays. 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 this oasis and emerge inspired, enlightened, grounded and feeling nourished.

Feb 4, 2018 Broken relationships, broken dreams – a path to healing

Mar 25, 2018 Caring for the care givers – a night to recharge, to fill up your cup

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**.

CONFIRMATION AND REAFFIRMATION CIRCLES

2018 dates: Wednesdays, Feb 21 through March 21 from 7–8:30pm

This five-week course is a brief survey of the foundational elements of church membership. This year we will have an exciting program with *two parallel circles*.

The CONFIRMATION circle will be for people who seek to affirm their faith for the first time as adults (as they prepare for baptism and/or confirmation of membership). If you are new to Christian faith or to the United Church of Canada this is for you!

The REAFFIRMATION circle will be for people who have been active in a church family, Robertson-Wesley or another, who seek to explore their faith and publicly re-affirm their faith.

To register, please contact the Church office or contact Rev. Leigh. If you would be interested in being part of a circle of faith exploration but need a day-time or weekend course please let Rev. Leigh know!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

World Day of Prayer is an ecumenical worship open to everyone and on **Friday, March 2nd 1:00 p.m. on March 2**, we will host Edmonton's service, followed by a coffee time. **This year's writers** are the women of Suriname. The service will be held at **1:00 p.m. on March 2**, followed by a coffee time. A planning meeting for the service will be held **Wednesday, February 7 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 11** and we invite you, the women of RWUC to join women from other churches in

Edmonton to help us in preparing the service. **Come and participate**, through being a reader in the service or helping with the coffee time.

Community Events

DELTA KAPPA GAMMA AUTHOR'S BREAKFAST

You are invited to an Author's Breakfast to hear Laurel Deedrick-Mayne, Edmonton author and winner of the Alberta Readers' Choice Award. She will speak about her first book *A Wake At The Dreamland* and the ten-year process of researching and writing the book which takes place in Edmonton, Peace River and Europe. Memorial Hall, Saturday, February 3, 2018, 10 am to noon Cost: \$20.00 Questions/reserve: lornaber@telus.net; clarkwinchesters@shaw.ca

CANTERBURY COURT/MANOR HYMN SING

February 18, 3:00 pm in the Canterbury Chapel (8403 142 St NW)

Thanks in part to the strong support from R-W for the Christmas Hymn Sing, the Sunday Hymn Sing on the 3rd Sunday of the month has been renewed!. We welcome your support & voices to join with the residents when you are available. Canterbury has arranged for Mitch Spratt to play the piano and our musical gifts will enhance the Hymn Sing when you are available. Hope to see you there!

WEEK AT A GLANCE

| | | |
|------------|---|----------|
| Sun Jan 28 | Worship ctte– Club Room | 11:30 am |
| | Koinonia– Memorial Hall | 5:30 pm |
| Mon Jan 29 | Spirited Art Studio– Art studio | 7:00 pm |
| Tue Jan 30 | Yoga– Memorial Hall | 10:00 am |
| | Scripture Reflection Group– Club Room | 12:10 pm |
| | Spirited Art Studio– Art Studio | 1:30 pm |
| Wed Jan 31 | R-W Choir rehearsal– Lower Hall | 7:30 pm |
| | Gendered? Just Human Spirited Arts series | 7:00 pm |
| Thu Feb 01 | Nova Bells– Lower Hall | 5:15 pm |
| | R-W Ringers– Lower Hall | 6:45 pm |
| Sat Feb 03 | Choral Morphosis– Lower Hall | 10:30 am |

ON THE HORIZON

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|------------|--|----------|
| Sun Feb 04 | Budget Information Session– Memorial Hall | 11:30 am |
| | Contemplative Practices– Memorial Hall | 7:00 pm |
| Mon Feb 05 | Spirited Art Studio– Art studio | 7:00 pm |
| | Ministry & Personnel meeting– Club Room | 7:00 pm |
| Tue Feb 06 | Scripture Reflection Group– Club Room | 12:10 pm |
| | Spirited Art Studio– Art Studio | 1:30 pm |
| | Stewardship meeting– Room 11 | 1:30 pm |
| | DEAP Pod– Club Room | 5:00 pm |
| Fri Feb 09 | Artful Responses: Drum Circle– Memorial Hall | 7:00 pm |

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| Sat Feb 10 | Community Dinner– Memorial Hall | 5:00 pm |
| | Spirited Art Studio– Art Studio | 5:00 pm |
| | R-W Youth Group– Youth Room | 7:00 pm |

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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.