



An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada

2018 Feb 4

Epiphany 5 & Sacrament of Communion

10:30 AM

In all honesty, I'm thirsting for...



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.

Friends in Christ

Prelude: *Prelude in G Major, Op. 37, No. 2*, Felix Mendelssohn

Tammy-Jo Mortensen, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Call to Worship:

Come you who are thirsty.

We'll drink from Jesus' cup.

Come you who are hungry.

We'll eat Jesus' bread.

Come you who are joyful and sad, weary and energetic.

We'll find what we need in Jesus.

Come you who need a fresh start, and you who have been journeying long.

We'll be refreshed with Jesus in baptism's waters.

Come everyone to Jesus' table.

We'll find love and hope to share with others.¹

Processional Hymn: *Long Ago and Far Away (Fill the Cup)*

More Voices 195

Coming Into God's Presence

Bob Klakowich & Karen Bridges

Moments of Openness and Honesty

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

Insert

God's Holy Word

Introit: *Water of Life*, Warren Mack

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Scripture:

Bob Klakowich

John 4: 27-42 • Jesus and the Woman of Samaria

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, 'Four

¹ Written by Susan Lukey **Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2010-11, p. 42. Used with permission.

months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.” Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.

This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

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

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

Rev. Karen Bridges

Hymn: *True Faith Needs No Defense*

More Voices 139

Pastoral Prayers

The Lord’s Prayer

(*Voices United* p. 921)

Grateful Response

Minute for Mission

Sylvia Duffus

Offering: *Vesper Voluntary, Op. 14, No. 6*, Edward Elgar

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

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.

Jesus said: “The bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

He said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,

And whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

And no one who comes to me will I ever drive away.”

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is good to give thanks and praise.

Holy God of light and love, by the light of your promise you guide your people across the desert and through the night. In the light of your presence we behold your glory and offer you our gifts. Through the light of your peace you claim us as your beloved, and joy is our banquet. We give you thanks that you make manifest your glory; lighting the way for every pilgrim, gifting the earth with the Prince of Peace, setting a table for all who hunger. And so it is that we sing your 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.”

By this bread and cup, we remember Christ and share in the mystery of your being, your bliss, your purpose.

Memorial Acclamation (*sung*):

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

Christ has died. Christ is risen.

Christ will come, come again.

Send, O God, your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that all who share in this bread and cup may be the body of Christ: light, life, and love in the world.

We praise you, eternal God, through Christ your Word made flesh, and in the power of your life-giving Spirit, now and forever.

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

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

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Communion Anthem: *Ave Verum*, Edward Elgar Choir of Robertson-Wesley
(Text: Jesus, word incarnate of the Virgin Mary, on the cross your body was torn for us. Cleanse us, by the blood and water streaming from your side. Feed us with your broken body, now and in death's agony. O Jesus, son of Mary, hear us.)

Prayer after Communion:

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world united in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Recessional Hymn: *As We Gather at Your Table* *Voices United* 457

Benediction

Question for Reflection:

If I were being honest, I would stop hiding my...

Postlude: *Fugue in G Major, Op. 37, No. 2*, Felix Mendelssohn

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

Music Notes

Some Romantic music this morning. Mendelssohn (1809-1847) wrote three preludes and fugues (1835-1937) and also six sonatas for the organ. Mendelssohn helped to revive the music of Bach, and he studied the music intensively. This prelude and fugue takes a Baroque form, but uses Romantic harmonies. Mendelssohn was an accomplished organist. Sir Edward Elgar's *Ave Verum* anthem for communion is a setting of a traditional (14th c.) Eucharistic text, Elgar's setting is from 1889. Some other famous settings are by Mozart and Byrd. Since we are singing Elgar, I thought I would play some Elgar (1857-1934) for the offering. This comes from a collection of *Vesper Voluntaries*.

The introit is by local composer Warren Mack, who is the Music Director at United on Whyte. This is a setting of some of the gospel we hear today. I love the word painting he uses when the text is about the spring of water "welling up"!

Our processional hymn this morning is by Canadian hymnwriter, singer/songwriter Pat Mayberry. She is a prolific writer and composer and her music is being featured in many hymnbooks and also in other print and on-line resources. Her songs have been inspired by her personal and spiritual journey, and weave together universal themes of love, justice and healing.

Cover Image

Cover image was taken by Rev. Karen Bridges in Botswana Sept 2018. It shows elephants trying to get water from a hose. Water in pumped in so that the animals have water.

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R-W REPORT FEBRUARY 4, 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 11, 2018, 10:30 am

Transfiguration

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 9: 1-41 A man born blind receives sight

Sermon: *The Truth shall set you free!*

They say that seeing is believing, yet for many of us, we have never seen Jesus, or God and still believe. As we hear the story of Jesus healing the blind man, we need to resist the urge to base our faith on miracles seen. We don't need to SEE Jesus to have a relationship with Jesus. When we trust in God, we can be open and honest. When we tell the truth we are no longer blinded and can see each other and the world as God does. Come and see, as if for the first time!

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.

Thank you- **Lea Callebaut** for the making of the cover for the Memorial Hall piano and **Sarah Wiens** for her support and assistance

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. R-W also need one more **Presbytery Representative**. More detailed descriptions: www.rwuc.org under volunteers.

R-W News & Notes

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A **Budget Information Session** will be held **today**, February 4, 2018. **The Annual Congregational 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 are now available.

COMMUNITY DINNER REQUEST

If you have ice cream buckets or extra large containers *with lids* that you are not using we would be grateful to have them to store and freeze food left after our community dinners.

There is a place to put the containers in the coat room. Thank 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

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

Tuesday, Feb 13 at 1:30 pm- We will watch a DVD of Tom Axworthy's talk "Trends & Visions in Public Policy & Global Perspective" which he gave at Epiphany Exploration in 2017. Members, guests and newcomers are welcome to share food, friendship and inspiration.

CONFIRMATION AND REAFFIRMATION CLASSES

2018 dates: Wednesdays, February 21 - March 21 from 7:00 - 8:30 pm. 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 pm**, we will host Edmonton's service, followed by a coffee time. This year's writers are the women of Suriname. 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 R-W UC to join women from other churches in Edmonton to help us in preparing the service.

Community Events

CANTERBURY COURT/MANOR HYMN SING

February 18, 3:00 pm in 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 voices to join with the residents. Join Mitch Spratt (who will play the piano)!

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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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 | Mom and Dad’s Group– Club Room | 9:30 am |
| | Spirited Art Studio– Art studio | 7:00 pm |
| | Ministry & Personnel meeting– Club Room | 7:00 pm |
| Tue Feb 06 | Yoga– Memorial Hall | 10:00 am |
| | 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 |
| Wed Feb 07 | Canterbury Service– offsite | 10:30 am |
| | R-W Choir rehearsal– Lower Hall | 7:30 pm |
| Thu Feb 08 | Nova Bells– Lower Hall | 5:15 pm |
| | R-W Ringers– Lower Hall | 6:45 pm |
| Fri Feb 09 | Artful Responses: Drum Circle– Memorial Hall | 7:00 pm |
| Sat Feb 10 | Choral Morphosis– Lower Hall | 10:30 am |
| | Community Dinner– Memorial Hall | 5:00 pm |
| | Spirited Art Studio– Art Studio | 5:00 pm |
| | R-W Youth Group– Youth Room | 7:00 pm |

ON THE HORIZON

| | | |
|------------|--|----------|
| Sun Feb 11 | Annual Congregational Meeting– Mem. Hall | 11:30 am |
| | Soul OUTing– Chapel | 7:00 pm |
| Mon Feb 12 | Spirited Art Studio– Art studio | 7:00 pm |
| Tue Feb 13 | Scripture Reflection Group– Club Room | 12:10 pm |
| | Spirited Art Studio– Art Studio | 1:30 pm |
| | United Church Women meeting– Mem. Hall | 1:15 pm |
| | Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper– Mem. Hall | 5:30 pm |
| | Property ctte– Room 11 | 7:00 pm |
| | Community Dinner meeting– Club Room | 7:00 pm |
| Wed Feb 14 | Men’s Group– Memorial Hall | 9:30 am |
| | Messy Wednesday– Memorial Hall | 5:00 pm |
| | Ash Wednesday– Sanctuary | 7:00 pm |
| Thu Feb 15 | Lenten Concert Series– Sanctuary | 12:10 pm |
| Sat Feb 17 | 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.