



An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada

2018 February 18

Lent 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.

Friends in Christ

*The flowers in the sanctuary are in loving memory of **Evan and Vida Buckley** and are the gift of their daughter, **Dorothy**.*

Prelude: *On Eagle's Wings*, Joncas, arr. Jeffrey Honoré Robertson-Wesley Ringers
Embracing Our Spirit

Processional Hymn: *Open Our Hearts* (English or French) **More Voices 21**

Opening Prayer:

As this season of Lent begins, God of the ages,
we come seeking strength and guidance for our journey.

Lent is a time of seeking change.

Lent is a time of transition and transformation.

Lent is a vulnerable time.

Lent is a time of questions and doubt.

Give us the courage to look at the things we need to examine.

Give us the rites and rituals to remind us that no matter our changes,
transitions or questions: you are our Center.

**Open us to your presence in every moment of every step of this
journey.**

**We ask this in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray these
words:** ¹

The Lord's Prayer (*sung*)

Voices United 960

Coming Into God's Presence

Rev. Karen Bridges

God's Holy Word

Introit: *I to the Hills Lift Up Mine Eyes*, Jean Berger Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Scripture:

Susan Wirtanen

John 11:1-44 • Jesus Weeps

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.

He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said,

¹ Inspired by Beth W. Johnston's prayer in *Gathering*, Lent/Easter 2018, page 31. Used with permission.

“Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

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

Anthem: *God So Loved the World*, Stephanie Martin

Choir of Robertson-Wesley, Matthew McGuigan, flute & Andy Melson, violin

Sermon: *Rites and Rituals*

Rev. Leigh Sinclair

Hymn: *God, Help Us to Treasure*

More Voices 147

Pastoral Prayers

Rev. Karen Bridges

Sung Response

Voices United 952

Through our lives and by our prayers your Kingdom come.

Grateful Response

Offering: *Solace*, Betty B. Radford

Robertson-Wesley Ringers & Andy Melson

Offertory Hymn: *God Give Us Life* (verses 2-3)

Voices United 704

God give us love in heart and hand

To hold the hurting one, to free the anger,

Meet the need and wait till waiting's done.

God give us skill, insight and will to find,

where none are sure, new threads to mend the web of life,

new means to heal and cure.

Prayer of Gratitude²

Candle of Weeping

Recessional Hymn: *To the Desert Jesus Came*

Voices United 113

Commissioning

As this season of Lent begins, God of the ages,
we go stronger having worshipped you together.

Lent is a time of seeking change and in its vulnerability.

We are held by our Loving God!

² Written by Kate Crawford, *Gathering*, Lent/Easter 2018, page 34. Used with permission.

We are lead by the Guiding Christ!

We are filled by the Holy Spirit!

We go in peace to serve God!

Thanks be to God,

Amen.

Postlude: *The Prayer*, Sager & Foster, arr. Sandra Eithun Robertson-Wesley Ringers

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

Music Notes

We now enter into the liturgical season of Lent, where we find some new music responses and a different overall tone to the music – more meditative, reflective, or displaying several contrasting moods, and often in modes or minor keys.

We are singing and ringing a couple of well-loved psalms this morning – Ps. 91 affectionately known as “Eagle’s Wings” and a setting of Ps. 121, which starts, “I lift up my eyes to the hills.” These are both psalms of comfort.

For the offering, we play a beautiful piece by our own ringer, Betty Radford. It is based on the harmonies of Bach’s keyboard prelude in C#. She has written it so that the obbligato (additional) instrument could be flute, cello, clarinet or violin, or just played by handbells alone. So today, we’re adding violin – thanks Andy!

The anthem is based on the famous text of John 3:16 “For God So Loved the World”. It is by Canadian composer Stephanie Martin. This is a unique setting, because it is accompanied by two treble instruments (Matthew & Andy) and no keyboard.

Cover Image

Cover image: This picture was taken by Hal Thiessen, March 2017, and adapted.

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R-W REPORT FEBRUARY 18, 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 25, 2018, 10:30 am

Lent Two

Whole Family Worship

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

Scripture: John 13:1-17

Sermon: *Cocoons, colours and cleaning -oh my!*

Jesus often used key moments in his community's life to show them old and new ways to experience God's love. A broken loaf of bread. A jar of water transformed into wine. Come join us today as we experience together some different, hands on, activities that help us touch and feel God's love made tangible in art, words and song.

Music: Cantilon Primary Choir; Tammy-Jo Mortensen, organ

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

Thank you

The Choir of Robertson-Wesley, R-W Ringers and Nova Bells would like to thank members of the congregation for their support in attending the recent Pancake Supper. It was our pleasure to serve you.

Volunteer Opportunities

Ushers/greeters and scripture readers needed for the upcoming **Easter services**. Sign up sheet is posted in Memorial Hall. Greeting is a great way to meet the community!

R-W News & Notes

INCOME TAX RECEIPTS

Tax receipts are ready for pick up in Memorial Hall. Please pick your up so the church saves on mailing costs.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION POD

Our first conversation in 2018 will happen **today! Sunday, February 18**, in the Club Room after church.

Come and let us explore together: Relationship deepening...what questions arise when we seek to deepen our relationships with God and with one another (we will create a list of topics and questions for future Bible studies and activities).

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!

KOINONIA

Please join us **next Sunday** evening, **Feb 25** (we're a happy group of 30 or so!) for supper and worship. This month's theme is "PEACE". Of course, we like to welcome visitors and enjoy each other's company around the tables at Potluck supper. If you are able, please bring something to share: a main dish, a salad or a dessert. Tea, coffee and water round out the delicious meal! Potluck begins at 5:30 sharp, followed by a hour-long service, which often includes discussion, reading of Scripture, lots of singing and a circle prayer. We would love to see you!

LET'S TALK ABOUT GENDER: CREATIVE INQUIRY!

Feb 26, 2018: 7-9pm with Brooke Leifso

Every other month you are invited to come and meet other people to create art together as a n instrument to talk about share our thoughts and feelings, and questions and gender.

PHOTO DIRECTORY

There are a lot of new faces around the church (as well as familiar faces who missed previous photo sessions). If you'd like to have your photo included in the updated edition, please drop into the Club Room before or after the Sunday service **on Sunday, March 4**. The photo directory is produced right here at R-W – no cost to you, no photos to purchase.

CHOIR CABARET

Let us entertain you! Wine and cheese, music and story. Oscar-winning songs, and surprise guests! **Sat. evening Feb. 24**. See the choir in a whole new way! Tickets on sale today, just \$15 – they're going fast!!!

LENT NOON HOUR CONCERTS

Thursdays, 12:10 pm to 12:50 pm

The R-W Music Society is hosting a noon-hour concert series again this Lent, Thursdays from 12:10-12:50. Come and enjoy some tranquil, reflective music for the season and find an oasis in the middle of your busy day. The concerts will be **February 22 Andrew Sims, piano, March 1 Tammy-Jo, March 8 Mingmei Xu, violin & Jim Findlay, guitar, March 15 Vaughan String Quartet and March 22 Christine Hanson, cello & Keri Lynn Zwicker, harp.**

Admission is by freewill offering.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

On the first Friday in March, Christians of different denominations and from 170 different countries gather for World Day of Prayer. The World Day of Prayer service this year was written by the women of Suriname, with the theme "All Creation is Very Good". Robertson-Wesley is hosting the service for the central part of Edmonton. It will be held on **Friday, March 2, at 1:00 pm in the chapel**, with a coffee time to follow. All are welcome (and encouraged) to attend.

CREATIVE SELF-CARE WORKSHOP: FINDING BALANCE

Saturday, March 3, 10:00 am -2:30 pm with Laura David Foster

In this workshop we will find ways to integrate mindfulness and creative arts, as we shift the focus to daily intentions. As we continue to be conscious of the importance of self-care, how do we find balance and room for these practices in daily life? Thought there are differences weaving through our life circumstances, a common thread is the challenge to find work/life balance and maintain self-compassion and wellness. No Cost. Please register at www.rwuc.org/sacregister.html or contact Rev. Karen Bridges.

R-W FUNDRAISING PLANNING MEETING

Sunday, March 4 at 11:30 am, Room 11

The Board of R-W would like to invite you to a Fundraising Planning meeting on March 4 which will be held immediately following the worship service in Room 11. We invite everyone in our congregation to come and be part of the fundraising initiatives, and help us with the plans we have for 2018 and 2019. Anyone who has an idea for an event, or is planning a future event or has planned a fundraising event for the 2017-2018 program year is requested to be present at this session. We gather each year so that we can coordinate the various events and not compete with each other. We look forward to having you fill room 11 on this day with the energy R-W is well known for....thank you.

HYDRANGEAS- Honour Those we Love

On Easter Sunday, we love to celebrate the resurrection of Christ with flowers in the sanctuary that honour those we love. You can give in memory of loved one who has died, or like many, give to honour of an amazing friend or spouse - order a beautiful hydrangea and have your chosen loved one's name in a special bulletin on Sunday April 1!

Following the service on Sunday **March 11** and **March 18** we will be taking orders for Easter hydrangeas. The cost is \$25.00.

ST. PATRICK'S DINNER

Save the date in your calendar for a night out at R-W.

Saturday, March 17. Tickets and more details coming soon!

BREAKFAST WITH CASEY – BETWEEN PASSION & OBLIGATION

Saturday, April 7 at 10:00 am at Robertson-Wesley United

Come for breakfast and be inspired by Casey Edmunds, an active community member in and around Edmonton. He will explore What is the purpose of volunteerism and community engagement? What are the reasons YOU decide to get involved and do something in your community? Casey will draw on his personal experiences with volunteerism to make ties with why he continues to be involved. He is an active person in many communities and will offer insight to the various passions and obligations he takes part in! Tickets \$20 – buy online at [EVENT BRITE.COM](http://EVENTBRITE.COM) or through the church office. This is open to the community at large, bring a friend, bring a neighbor, all are welcome. Proceeds from this event will go to General Revenue at R-W, and is hosted by the Stewardship Committee.

Community Events

CANTERBURY COURT/MANOR HYMN SING

On the 3rd Sunday of the month, beginning **today! February 18, 3:00 pm**, we welcome your support & voices to join with the residents when you are available. Canterbury has arranged for Mitch Spratt to play the piano for this monthly event, so our musical gifts will enhance the Hymn Sing when you are available. We hope to see you this afternoon in the Canterbury Chapel. Canterbury Court is at 8403 142 St NW, Edmonton.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun Feb 18	Spiritual Formation Pod– Mem. Hall	11:30 am
Mon Feb 19	Family day– closed	
Tue Feb 20	Yoga– Memorial Hall	10:00 am
	Scripture Reflection Group– Club Room	12:10 pm
	R-W Board meeting– Room 11	7:00 pm
Wed Feb 21	Membership Class– Club Room	7:00 pm
	R-W Choir rehearsal– Lower Hall	7:30 pm
Thu Feb 22	Lenten Concert Series– Sanctuary	12:10 pm
	Nova Bells– Lower Hall	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers– Lower Hall	6:45 pm
Sat Feb 24	Choral Morphosis– Lower Hall	10:30 am
	Choir Cabaret– Memorial Hall	7:00 pm

ON THE HORIZON

Sun Feb 25	Koinonia– Memorial Hall	5:30 pm
Mon Feb 26	Spirited Art Studio– Art studio	7:00 pm
	Spirited Arts, Gendered?–Room 11	7:00 pm
Tue Feb 27	Yoga– Memorial Hall	10:00 am
	Scripture Reflection Group– Club Room	12:10 pm
	Spirited Art Studio– Art Studio	1:30 pm
Wed Feb 28	Messy Wednesday– Memorial Hall	5:00 pm
	Membership Class– Club Room	7:00 pm
Thu Mar 01	Lenten Concert Series– Sanctuary	12:10 pm
Fri Mar 02	World Day of Prayer– Chapel	1:00 pm
Sat Mar 03	Spirited Art Movement- Finding Balance	10:00 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.

Let us *gather to celebrate* Lent and Easter

Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 25 10:30 am

Choir of Robertson-Wesley &
Robertson-Wesley Ringers

Maundy Thursday Service

Thursday, March 29 7:00 pm

Recalling the Last Supper
Music: Córtaet

Good Friday Service

Friday, March 30 10:30 am

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Easter Vigil

Saturday, March 31 7:00 pm

Wake for Jesus

Saturday, March 31 8:00 pm

Easter Sunrise Service

Sunday, April 1 7:30 am

Outdoors on the promenade at
100 Avenue and 121 Street

Easter Sunday Service

Sunday, April 1 10:30 am

Choir of Robertson-Wesley
Pergolesi Brass