



*An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada*

2018 March 11

Lent 4



### Welcome and Inclusion

We open our hearts and our church family to all people in our community regardless of differing abilities, ethnicity, economic circumstance, sexual orientation, age, or gender. 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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Prelude: *Allegro (Concerto II in a minor after Vivaldi), BWV 593, J. S. Bach*

Embracing Our Spirit

Processional Hymn: *Jesus, We Are Here*

*More Voices 189*

Call to Worship and Opening Prayer:

God who is found in both wilderness and at home,

**We welcome you into our hearts!**

God who is found in solitude and in community,

**We welcome all into this circle of Love!**

Let us pray:

Through your Word and in your world, you invite us into many relationships and conversations, into action and rest.

When the invitation is difficult to accept,

**give us strength, and wonder, and hope.**

When the invitation might be easy to decline,

**help us to accept it and walk on!**

In Christ's name, we ask and sing his song to you:<sup>1</sup>

The Lord's Prayer (*sung*)

*Voices United 960*

Board Commissioning

*(a making of a covenant with God, our congregation  
and our elected Board members)*

Let us commit to this together:

**We commission you to serve on our behalf in the leadership of the Church. We pledge to you our active support, our commitment to the life of the Church, and our prayers. May God bless your work in the coming year.**

Let us pray together:

**Spirit of Wisdom, dwell in us. It is your will we seek to find.**

**Grant us loving strength and divine wisdom. Take our lives and shape us. Unleash your Spirit so we may truly be "Spirited."**

**Make of this Church your Love made known in this time and place. For Jesus, Amen.**

Coming Into God's Presence

Rev. Karen Bridges

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God's Holy Word

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Introit: *O Most Merciful*, Charles Wood

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Scripture:

John Fleming

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<sup>1</sup> Prayer of Approach by Richard Bott, *Gatherings*, Lent/Easter 2018, page 34. Used with permission.

John 18:28-40 • Jesus before Pilate and sentenced

This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

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

Anthem: *Christus Factus Est*, Felice Anerio                      Choir of Robertson-Wesley  
(Text: Christ was made obedient even to death, death on the cross.  
God therefore exalted him and gave him a name excelling all others.)

Sermon: *Awaken from your shock in time!*                      Rev. Leigh Sinclair

Hymn: *Because Jesus Felt*                      **More Voices 186**

Pastoral Prayers                      Rev. Karen Bridges  
Choral Refrain (sung)                      **Voices United 952**  
**Through our lives and by our prayers your Kingdom come.**

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*Grateful Response*

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Offering: *Adagio (Concerto II in a minor after Vivaldi)*, BWV 593, J. S. Bach

Offertory Hymn *God Give Us Life* (verse 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 Gratitude<sup>2</sup>

Candle of Awakening

Recessional Hymn: *Giver of the Perfect Gift*                      **Voices United 116**

Commissioning

The season of Lent continues, we go now following Jesus.

**We follow him by having compassion for ourselves and others.**

We follow him by being willing to experience the passion and pain  
of grief because we love others and ourselves.

**May we awaken and open to God's love!**

May we help others awaken and know that love!

**Thanks be to God and Amen.**

Prelude: *Allegro (Concerto II in a minor after Vivaldi)*, BWV 593, J. S. Bach

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

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<sup>2</sup> Kate Crawford, *Gatherings*, Lent/Easter 2018, page 34. Used with permission.

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## Music Notes

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The music this morning is from all over the world and a large passage of time. The organ music is all from Bach's arrangement of a Vivaldi 2 violin concerto. Bach was much influenced by the composers around him, and before him. We also have another Italian composer today, Anerio (1560-1614). This was an amazing time for music during the Renaissance in Italy, and there were many famous composers creating wonderful music for churches which were architectural and acoustical wonders, like St. Mark's in Venice where the Gabrieli's and Monteverdi worked. Anerio composed much in the style of Palestrina, and eventually took over for Palestrina as the official composer to the papal choir. This anthem comes from a set of books of Baroque music which were purchased and donated by Betty and Hal Barker. What a lovely remembrance of them when we use these books!

The hymn after the sermon this morning was written by the English hymn writer, Brian Wren. Many of Wren's texts are challenging. This one is no exception, pointing out all the "wrongs" that Jesus did (according to the customs of the day) to make the world right. It is set to music by the American composer Dan Damon. The first hymn is from Zimbabwe. Composer Patrick Matsikenyiri is an active contributor to the United Methodist Church in Zimbabwe.

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## Cover Image

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Cover image is from [www.pixabay.com](http://www.pixabay.com); photo by 'gerald', used with permission.

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Minister of Spiritual and Pastoral Care Development: Rev. Leigh Sinclair  
Minister of Congregation and Community Development: Rev. Karen Bridges  
Director of Music: Tammy-Jo Mortensen  
Office Administrator: Tanya Eckenswiller  
Facilities Manager: Brad Campbell  
Financial Manager: Garth van Herwaarden

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10209 – 123 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5N 1N3  
Phone (780) 482-1587 · Fax (780) 482-1580  
[mail@rwuc.org](mailto:mail@rwuc.org) · [www.rwuc.org](http://www.rwuc.org)

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**R-W REPORT March 11, 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**

**March 18, 2018, 10:30 am**

**Lent Five**

**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 19: 1-16a Jesus sentenced to death

**Sermon:** *Will anger at injustice open you up or close you down?*

One of the most challenging aspects of grief is the anger that arises. Where are you God? How can people be so mean? Why are our structures so unfair? The crowds turned on Jesus to express their anger against injustice. Jesus turned to the Psalms. On who do we throw our anger? How else could we express and transform its energy into change and healing?

**Music:** Cantilon's Belle Canto Choir; Tammy-Jo Mortensen, organ

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

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**Volunteer Opportunities**

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

**Communion Servers:** Our next Communion, by Intinction, is **Sunday, April 15**. Servers are needed for this Communion. If you are able to serve please sign up on the sheet in Memorial Hall.

***Magic Pantry-*** Responding to the need in our own neighbourhood, R-W provides a free bag lunch on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays. This outreach program relies on volunteers to be available at the door from 12 pm to 1pm with a bag lunch ready for people that come to the door. This program is a great way to connect and provide outreach in the community.

### **R-W News & Notes**

**UNITED CHURCH WOMEN- Tuesday, March 13 at 1:15 pm.**

All are welcome to join us for a DVD showing by Tom Axworthy: *Trends and Visions in Public Policy and Global Perspective*.

### **LENT NOON HOUR CONCERTS**

**Thursdays, 12:10 pm to 12:50 pm.** Admission is by freewill offering.

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 **March 15 Vaughan String Quartet and March 22 Christine Hanson, cello & Keri Lynn Zwicker, harp.**

### **EASTER HYDRANGEAS**

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. You must order them March 11 or 18th! Easter hydrangeas. The cost is \$25.00.

### **ARTFUL RESPONSES: Dance to Your Own Rhythm**

**Friday March 16 7-9 pm with Brooke Leifso**

The world continually asks us to speed up, or slow down to a standstill: A traffic jam, a deadline, too early, too late.... Brooke will lead you through authentic movement and dance to a variety of music to get your body moving, and your blood gently pumping. Together, we will explore healing ways of dancing finding our natural rhythms. No experience necessary, all genders and bodies welcome. No Cost. Please register at [www.rwuc.org/sacregister.html](http://www.rwuc.org/sacregister.html) or contact Rev. Karen Bridges.

### **R-W LEADERSHIP ORIENTATION**

**Sunday March 18 at noon in Room 11**

You are invited to learn how we lead! We have lots of committees, teams, groups here at Robertson-Wesley. We have some formal structures like UCW, others are events or programs that only happen once a year (Rummage Sale) and yet others are committees represented at the Board. Each one has a leader who **connects** to wider church via at meetings but each one also works **independently** to book events, promote them and communicate about

the work we are doing. **Learn how to do this - whether you are in a leadership role now or considering one in the future.** This afternoon includes a tour of the building and where to find things. This is a great opportunity to learn about how we work and ask any questions you might have. Everyone is welcome even if you are not presently in a leadership role.

### **R-W MEN'S GROUP**

**Wednesday, March 14 at 9:30 am.** Tony Jansen will be presenting a film of one of his trips; Discovering Singapore and Indonesia. Drinks and snacks provided. All are welcome to attend!

### **KOINONIA WORSHIP, Next Sunday, March 18**

You are invited to join the group of 30 or so, for potluck and worship in an evening of lively conversation around the dinner table, followed by a service of **SCRIPTURES, SONGS AND MUSIC.**

The potluck begins at 5:30 in Memorial Hall (please, if you are able, bring something to share such as a casserole, a salad, or a dessert...or rolls, pickles, etc!). The service will begin around 7:00 pm or a little earlier and lasts approximately 1 hour. Each month (usually the 4th Sunday evening) you will be welcomed to be part of an interesting, thought-provoking and sometimes challenging worship service, which most often includes lots of singing, some discussion in small groups, and closing circle prayer, all planned by members of the group. Hope to see you!

### **BRUEGGEMANN WEBINAR**

Dr. Walter Brueggemann is one of North America's leading theologians. His name is known to members of Robertson-Wesley because of last year's Book Study on the Sabbath. Join other Brueggemann fans on **March 21 at 11:30 am** for introduction, followed by an hour-long **webinar** in Room 11. This Webinar is made available through the EDGE Ministry of the United Church of Canada.

### **CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICES**

**Sunday, March 25, 2018**

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. 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.

**Theme:** Caring for each other and the care giver.

**A WAKE FOR JESUS**  
**March 31, 8:00 pm-9:30 pm**

A wake is defined as, “A **wake** is a social gathering associated with death, usually held before a funeral. Traditionally, a **wake** takes place in the house of the deceased with the body present; however, modern **wakes** are often performed at a funeral home or another convenient location.” After the Easter Vigil service, adults are invited to come to the kitchen to participate in a time honoured tradition of a wake for Jesus. We will honour Jesus through remembering who he is and what he has done, while we decorate eggs, and do some other activities we once did as children to celebrate Easter . Bring a snack and a beverage to share, and let’s toast Jesus together.

**BREAKFAST WITH CASEY – Between Passion & Obligation**  
**Sat. April 7 at 10AM 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 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.

**BOOK BUDDIES!**

Gregory Boyle is a Jesuit priest who works with gang members in Los Angeles. His book *Tattoos of the Heart* will bring readers to tears. Join the discussion on Monday, April 16,\* at 7 pm in Room 11. Copies of the book are available in Memorial Hall after church on Sundays beginning March 25. \*Note change of date from April 14 to April 16

**Community Events**

Inner City Pastoral Ministry invites everyone to the 40th Anniversary Celebrations Kick-Off Dessert & Coffee Evening and Annual General Meeting. **Wednesday March 21 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm** here at Robertson-Wesley United Church (10209-123 St NW)



Guest Speaker: Harold Robinson, who adjudicated Indian Residential School claims for many years. Harold will speak on reconciliation issues and the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation.

### WEEK AT A GLANCE

|            |                                       |          |
|------------|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Sun Mar 11 | Soul OUTing– Chapel                   | 7:00 pm  |
| Mon Mar 12 | Spirited Art Studio– Art studio       | 7:00 pm  |
| Tue Mar 13 | Yoga– Memorial Hall                   | 10:00 am |
|            | Scripture Reflection Group– Club Room | 12:10 pm |
|            | Property ctte– Room 11                | 1:00 pm  |
|            | Spirited Art Studio– Art Studio       | 1:30 pm  |
|            | United Church Women– Memorial Hall    | 1:30 pm  |
| Wed Mar 14 | Men’s Group– Memorial Hall            | 9:30 am  |
|            | Messy Wednesday– Memorial Hall        | 5:00 pm  |
|            | Membership Class– Club Room           | 7:00 pm  |
|            | Community Dinner meeting– Library     | 7:00 pm  |
|            | R-W Choir rehearsal– Lower Hall       | 7:30 pm  |
| Thu Mar 15 | Lenten Concert Series– Sanctuary      | 12:10 pm |
|            | Nova Bells– Lower Hall                | 5:15 pm  |
|            | R-W Ringers– Lower Hall               | 6:45 pm  |
| Fri Mar 16 | Artful Responses– Memorial Hall       | 5:00 pm  |
| Sat Mar 17 | Choral Morphosis– Lower Hall          | 10:00 am |
|            | St. Patrick’s Dinner– Memorial Hall   | 5:30 pm  |

### ON THE HORIZON

|            |                                       |          |
|------------|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Sun Mar 18 | Koinonia– Memorial Hall               | 5:30 pm  |
| Mon Mar 19 | Mom and Dad’s Group– Club Room        | 9:30 am  |
|            | Spirited Art Studio– Art studio       | 7:00 pm  |
| Tue Mar 20 | 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 Mar 21 | Brueggemann webinar– Room 11          | 11:30 am |
|            | Membership Class– Club Room           | 7:00 pm  |
| Thu Mar 22 | Lenten Concert Series– Sanctuary      | 12:10 pm |
|            | Nova Bells– Lower Hall                | 5:15 pm  |
|            | R-W Ringers– Lower Hall               | 6:45 pm  |
| Sat Mar 24 | Choral Morphosis– Lower Hall          | 10:30 am |
|            | R-W Youth Group– Lower Hall           | 7:00 pm  |

10209 – 123 Street, Edmonton AB T5N 1N3

Phone: 780-482-1587 . Fax: 780-482-1580 . [mail@rwuc.org](mailto:mail@rwuc.org) . [www.rwuc.org](http://www.rwuc.org)

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.