



An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada

2018 March 18

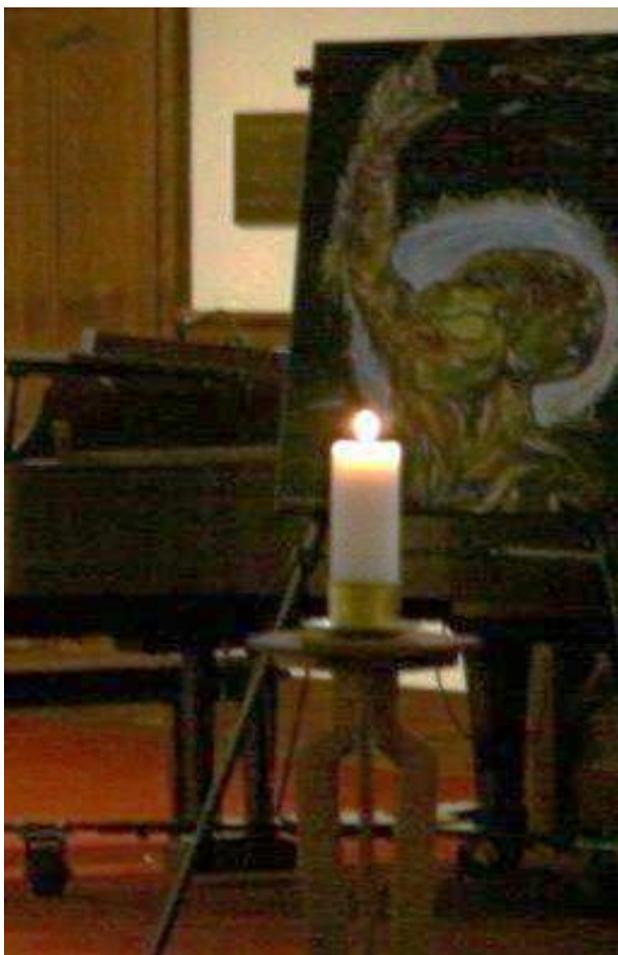
Life Passages

Lent 5

Welcome and
Inclusion

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

Many people's
lives continue to
be devastated by
hatred, prejudice,
and inequality,
therefore we
stand with those
who are
adversely
affected by



Friends in Christ

Prelude: *Passacaglia in c minor, BWV 582*, J. S. Bach Tammy-Jo Mortensen

Embracing Our Spirit

Opening Hymn: *Listen, God Is Calling*

More Voices 97

Call to Worship and Opening Prayer

Lent's journey has taken us through the aspects of grief.

We have pondered the tears, rituals and help we need.

We have prayed for resilience through bargaining, denial and shock.

As we turn to Jesus and the crowd's anger this day,

protect us O God, from seeking the easy ways of blame and fear.

Help us stay on the Holy Way of Jesus:

**honest prayers, deep relationships and service to others,
especially those who are oppressed.**

We ask this in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray these words,
and we sing them today:

The Lord's Prayer (*sung*)

Voices United 960

Coming Into God's Presence

Life Passages

Sacrament of Baptism and Blessing

Brenda Sheppard & Susan Hutson

Transfer of Membership

Prayer for the Holy Spirit (*in unison*)

Eternal God, whose Son the Servant-Lord Jesus Christ has

commissioned us to make disciples of people of all nations

baptizing them in your name. May your Spirit be upon us and

what we do, that this water may be a sign for all of new life in

Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Congregation's Promise (*standing*)

We will continue to support you, walk with you, and grow with

you. With God's help we will live out our baptism as a loving

community in Jesus Christ: nurturing one another in faith,

upholding one another in prayer, encouraging one another in

God's work.

Recommitment: *A New Creed*

Voices United 918

Please note that the last line of the creed (omitted in some of our hymn books) is:

Thanks be to God.

Blessing (*sung*)

(Voices United 454)

May God who creates you give you light;

May God who sustains you make you wise;

May God who protects you give you joy;

May God who surrounds you give you peace.

God's Holy Word

Introit: *Balladi* (Lauluja Mereltä, Op.33), Aulis Sallinen

Belle Canto Women's Ensemble

(*This text is about journey, death, love and renewal and rebirth.*)

Scripture:

Karen Hansen

John 19: 1-16a • Crucifixion of Jesus

This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

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

Sermon: *Will Anger Open You Up or Close You Down?* Rev. Leigh Sinclair

Hymn: *Jesus Christ Is Waiting*

Voices United 117

Pastoral Prayers

Choral Refrain (sung)

Voices United 952

Through our lives and by our prayers your Kingdom come.

Grateful Response

Offering: *Down By The Riverside*, Spiritual arr. Kirby Shaw

Belle Canto Women's Ensemble

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 Gratitude¹

Candle of Expressing Emotions

Closing Hymn: *Out of the Depths, O God, We Call to You*

Voices United 611

Commissioning

Placing our trust in God's guidance,
we go to where there is need of hope and healing.

We do this with the love of Christ in our hearts.

The journey of Lent is longer than 5 weeks. It will take our lifetime.

Yet God is the same:

sustaining Spirit, redeeming Christ and creating Parent.

Go in peace, ready to follow Jesus!

¹ Written by Gord Dunbar. *Gathering*, Lent/Easter 2018, page 34. Used with permission.

We go to love and serve our God, Amen.²

Choral Blessing: *Irish Blessing*, Eleanor Daley Belle Canto Women's Ensemble

Postlude: *Fugue in c minor, BWV 582*, J. S. Bach

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

Music Notes

Thanks to the Belle Canto Women's Ensemble and their conductor Heather Johnson. Our worship lives are enriched by your leadership and contributions!

The organ music this morning is one of Bach's great works – the Passacaglia in c minor. Bach takes a theme – stated in the pedal and proceeds to write many, many variations on the theme. Sometimes the theme is laid out in different voices, and sometimes it is just the harmony that the variations are based on. After all the variations, Bach uses the same motive and composes an intricate fugue. While the Passacaglia and the Fugue are normally played all together, it works to break the fugue off on its own, so I've used it for the postlude today.

The choir shares some wonderful music – a beautiful hymnlike piece by Finnish composer Aulis Sallinen from a four-movement work called “Sea Songs”. This ballad is contemplative, thankful, uses the theme of a journey, and is sung in Finnish.

A likely familiar tune to most, is their piece at the offering, a Spiritual which is arranged by the American composer Kirby Shaw. Shaw has taught at all levels from public school to university and is the composer or arranger of over 3000 works! And, an Irish Blessing for St. Patrick's weekend, by Canada's own, Eleanor Daley.

Cover Image

Cover image is taken from Easter Vigil 2015.

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² Inspired by Jeff Werner's prayer in *Gathering*, Lent/Easter 2018, page 35. Used with permission.

R-W REPORT March 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

March 25, 2018, 10:30 am

Palm Sunday

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 12: 12-19 Jesus enters Jerusalem

John 19: 16a-22 Crucifixion of Jesus

Sermon: *Pain makes things truly real.*

The great poet Rumi write, "The grief you cry out from draws you toward union." This service begins with the cries of Hosanna, and ends with the cries of Crucifixion. Barbara Brown Taylor, a theologian, has come to realize that world religions have grown out of suffering. Christianity rises out of the suffering of Jesus at the hands of his own people. How will we find a way to practice the feeling of pain, to walk toward the pain rather than masking it, or turning away from it? Pain is what makes things real, and in the moments of pain we can't help but reach out and encounter the Holy. How will you choose to enter Holy Week?

Music: Robertson-Wesley Ringers; Choir of Robertson-Wesley

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

Volunteer Opportunities

Ushers/greeters needed for the upcoming Easter Vigil service. 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.

Staff News

Rev. Leigh will be away from March 21 to April 3 having a simple but needed surgery. She has lots of books to read for her upcoming study leave during her recuperation period.

R-W News & Notes

R-W LEADERSHIP ORIENTATION

Today! 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.

LENT NOON HOUR CONCERTS

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 last concert is this week - **March 22 Christine Hanson, cello & Keri Lynn Zwicker, harp.**

Admission is by freewill offering.

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.

LET'S TALK ABOUT GENDER: Creative Inquiry!

Monday Mar 26, 2018: 7-9pm with Brooke Leifso

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

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? 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.

Community Events

CANTERBURY HYMN SING

Hymn Sign **this afternoon 3:00 pm** at Canterbury Court (8403 142 Strett). You are all welcome to join us in the Canterbury Chapel.

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. Guest Speaker: Harold Robinson, who adjudicated Indian Residential School claims for many years.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun Mar 18	Leadership Orientation – Room 11	12:00 pm
	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	Yoga– Memorial Hall	10:00 am
	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
	R-W Choir rehearsal– Lower Hall	7:30 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

ON THE HORIZON

Sun Mar 25	Contemplative Practices– Memorial Hall	7:00 pm
Mon Mar 26	Let’s Talk about Gender– Room 11	7:00 pm
	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
Wed Mar 21	Messy Wednesday– Memorial Hall	5:00 pm
Thu Mar 29	Maundy Thursday– Sanctuary	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.