



An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada

2018 March 25

Palm Sunday

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



Friends in Christ

Prelude: *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*, C. Dobrinski

R-W Ringers

Embracing Our Spirit

Processional Hymn: *All Glory, Laud and Honour* **Voices United**

122

Call to Worship:

Come, let us follow Jesus, for Jerusalem is near.

Jesus and his friends are ready to enter the city.

In the air, there is a sense of wonder and mystery, of the Word being fulfilled. Jesus enters the city riding a colt and the crowds cry out,

“Hosanna, blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.”

A king is welcomed into Jerusalem, but did the crowds remember the cross at the edge of the city?¹ We pray that today we may be ready to see the cross and enter into our fear with courage. 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

Scripture:

Jessica Blake

John 12: 12-19 • Jesus enters Jerusalem

The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord – the King of Israel!” Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written: “Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!” His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him. So the crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to testify. It was also because they heard that he had performed this sign that the crowd went to meet him. The Pharisees then said to one another, “You see, you can do nothing. Look, the world has gone after him!”

Palm Parade using “*Triumphant Celebration*,” Paul McKlveen

R-W

Ringers

Coming Into God’s Presence

Rev. Karen Bridges

God’s Holy Word

Introit: *Hosanna filio David (6 Antiphons for Palm Sunday)*, F. Schubert

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

¹ Written by Sandy Ferguson, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2017, p. 33. Used with Permission.

(Text: Hosanna to the Son of David, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. O King of Israel: Hosanna in the highest.)

Scripture:

Jessica Blake

John 19: 16a-22 • Crucifixion of Jesus

Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, "The King of the Jews," but, "this man said, I am the King of the Jews." Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

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

Anthem: *Drop, Drop Slow Tears*, Eleanor Daley Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Sermon: *Pain makes things truly real!*

Rev. Karen Bridges

Hymn: *Come Touch Our Hearts*

More Voices 12

Pastoral Prayers

Choral Refrain (sung)

Voices United 952

**Through our lives and by our prayers your Kingdom
come.**

Grateful Response

Offering: *Meditation (Laudate Dominum Suite)*, Peter Hurford

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

Recessional Hymn: *O God beyond All Praising* **Voices United 256**

Commissioning

And now may God, who knows the secrets of our hearts,
Who loves us inside and out, through and through,
Be our source, guide, and destination as we enter Holy Week.

May we know ourselves to be so touched by God's love that we will share that love with all we meet and work for justice and for peace for all God's people. Amen.²

Postlude: *Elegy*, William A. Payn

Robertson-Wesley Ringers

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

Music Notes

Musically and liturgically, this is the service that moves us from the season of Lent to telling the whole story of Holy Week. We have a triumphant beginning – with the Hosannas, celebration and parade, and move into Jesus last days, and into the depth of emotions the disciples, the authorities, and the crowds of people must have felt. We begin with a prelude on a familiar hymn tune “Ellacombe” which is often used with the text “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”, and for the Palm Parade we are using a piece new to us, “Triumphant Celebration” by the American composer McKlveen. His entire compositional output is only for handbells! The choir echoes this triumphant praise with a short “Hosanna” by Schubert. Following the reading, we move quickly to a famous poem by Phineas Fletcher (1582-1650) which has been set by many, many composers, in this case by Toronto composer Eleanor Daley, written for her choir at Fairlawns Heights United Church. Her writing and wordpainting is poignant and concise.

The postlude is about six minutes long, so settle in for a range of emotions. The story behind this piece was told by the composer to one of our ringers. This piece “Elegy” the title of which means “a poem of serious reflection, typically a lament for the dead”, was written for one of the first victims of AIDS in the U.S., and it expresses the various parts of his life. It also could represent the stages of grief that has been our theme the last several weeks. There are moments of denial, shock, anger, pleading, sadness, acceptance and beauty in this piece. Let it move you into Jesus' last days.

Cover Image

Cover image is taken by Jim Triscott from Palm Sunday 2017.

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

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



² Written by Bob Root, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2017, page 33. Used with permission.

R-W REPORT March 25, 2018
Robertson-Wesley United Church

A WARM WELCOME TO EVERYONE

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. Th

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

April 1, 2018, 10:30 am

Easter Sunday

Children & Youth: Children and youth are encouraged to worship with the families.

Scripture: John 20:1-18 The Resurrection of Jesus

Sermon: *Tell our stories boldly!*

In the end is our beginning. When Mary found the tomb empty and encountered Jesus after his death, her life was turned upside down! Through her tears she found healing in the light of Christ. Like Mary may we be awakened to a new way of living, a new perspective and the possibility of a new world. All is not lost but just beginning. Let us find ways to share our stories of faith and transformation with all who will listen.

Music: Pergolesi Brass; Choir of Robertson-Wesley;
Tammy-Jo Mortensen, organ

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

Volunteer Opportunities

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 is 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.

Farewell to Tanya!- The Ministry and Personnel Committee would like to thank our outgoing Office Administrator, Tanya Eckenswiller, for her six plus years of service to our church. Tanya has been an integral member of our church family, and we wish her the very best in her next adventures. Tanya's last day at Robertson-Wesley will be Thursday, March 29.

R-W News & Notes

CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICES TONIGHT: Sunday, March 25, 2018

Are you seeking an escape from the world, 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 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.

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

Every one is welcome to join us for the Easter sunrise service on Sunday April 1 at 7:30 am. We meet on the Promenade (100 Ave and 121 Street). This is a moving service overlooking our beautiful river valley. Following the service please come back to the church for a pancake breakfast provided by Koinonia members. Hope to see you there!

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.

ROBERTSON-WESLEY 2018 WOMEN'S WEEKEND

This year will be our 15th annual R-W Women's Weekend. How wonderful that we continue to celebrate our women and to continue to bring R-W women together to create this women's community of faith. This year our Women's Weekend will be **Friday, September 14 to Sunday, September 16, 2018** at Strawberry Creek Lodge.

Before we can have our Weekend we do need a group of R-W women to share their ideas, talents, creativity to plan our program for our Women's Weekend. If you are interested or have any questions please contact Jill Lambie after worship on Sundays or by emailing jilllambie@shaw.ca before **April 10, 2017**.

SPIRITUAL POD FORMATION

Discussion: Living Gods hospitality through sharing flowers blessed by being used in Sunday worship.

Sunday, April 15 at 12:30 pm in the Club Room

MISSION AND OUTREACH POD GATHERING

A gathering of the Mission and Outreach Pod is called for **April 9 at 7:00 pm** in the Club Room.

The M & O Pod is a gathering of members of the congregation to engage in conversation about our current and future directions for Mission and Outreach.

This gathering will focus on the question of how we will live out the spirit of justice and belonging (noted in our Anthem) in our community. In exploring this question we will consider needs that have not been met and discern where God is calling us to focus our energy *now*.

Everyone who is interested is invited to be a part of this conversation.

Your real relationships in your neighbourhood are the crucible for mutual flourishing. It is in the everyday stuff of life that love moves from the realm of spiritual ideas and becomes a costly gift, giving back more than it takes.

Paul Sparks, Tim Soerens, and Dwight J. Friesen
The New Parish (2014)

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

ARTFUL RESPONSES: Assorted Box of Artful Responses Friday April 20, 2018 7-9pm with Brooke Leifso

Artful responses has used voice, drumming, dancing and poetry to process and discuss our modern human condition. Facilitated by Brooke Leifso, April 20th will be an experiment of the last few sessions could combine together, creating a multi-disciplinary, collective creation (or how we can drum, dance and speak together!) No Cost. Please register at www.rwuc.org/sacregister.html or contact Rev. Karen Bridges.

Community Events

North American Interfaith Network (NAIN)

NAIN Connect 2018 – July 31-Aug 3, 2018 in Edmonton, AB

Robertson-Wesley would like to send 3 young adults (age 18-35) and 2 adults to the upcoming North American Interfaith conference. If you would like to attend please send a letter of interest to Nancy Heule nshwwc@shaw.ca.

In your letter of intent please answer the following 2 questions:

- 1) Why are you interested in attending this conference? What do you hope to learn?
- 2) After the conference is over how do you imagine sharing what you have learned with the congregation?

Please have your letter of intent to Nancy by **March 28, 2018**.

Theme: Pilgrimage: Journeys of Discovery

Many faith traditions have the concept of pilgrimage, a journey toward insight, understanding and the holy. It can also be said that we are all pilgrims on a journey. This interfaith network brings over 90 organizations together whose purposes are to promote dialogue, understanding and cooperation between people of diverse faith traditions within their local communities. <https://nain2018edmonton.ca>

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun Mar 25	Contemplative Practices– Memorial Hall	7:00 pm
Mon Mar 26	Moms and Dads’ Group– Club Room	9:00 am
	Let’s Talk about Gender– Room 11	7:00 pm
	Spirited Art Studio– Art studio	7:00 pm
	Scripture Reflection Group– Club Room	12:10 pm
Tue Mar 27	Spirited Art Studio– Art Studio	1:30 pm
	Messy Wednesday– Memorial Hall	5:00 pm
Wed Mar 28	R-W Choir rehearsal– Lower Hall	7:30 pm
	Nova Bells– Lower Hall	5:15 pm
Thu Mar 29	R-W Ringers– Lower Hall	6:45 pm
	Maundy Thursday– Sanctuary	7:00 pm
	Good Friday service– Sanctuary	10:30 am
Fri Mar 30	Easter Vigil– Sanctuary	7:00 pm
	A Wake for Jesus– Kitchen	8:00 pm

ON THE HORIZON

Sun Apr 1	Easter Sunrise Service– Promenade	7:30 am
	Easter Breakfast– Memorial Hall	8:00 am
	Easter Sunday Service	10:30 am
Mon Apr 2	Church closed	
Tue Apr 3	Yoga– Memorial Hall	10:00 am
	Scripture Reflection Group– Club Room	12:10 pm
	DEAP– Club Room	5:00 pm
Sat Apr 7	Stewardship Breakfast with Casey– Mem. Hall	10:00 am
	Choral Morphosis– Lower Hall	10:30 am

10209 – 123 Street, Edmonton AB T5N 1N3

Phone: 780-482-1587 . Fax: 780-482-1580 . mail@rwuc.org . 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.

Let us *gather* to celebrate Lent and Easter

Contemplative Practices

Sunday, March 25 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Maundy Thursday Service

Thursday, March 29 7:00 pm

Recalling the Last Supper

Music: Córdet

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