

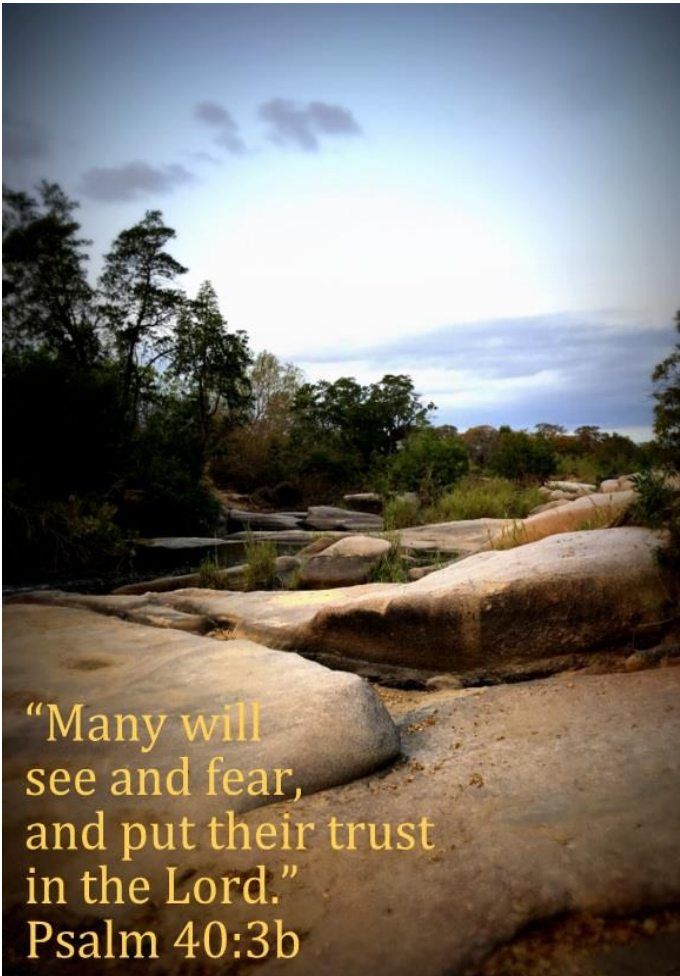


*An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada*

2023 January 15

Sacrament of Communion

Epiphany 2



**“Many will  
see and fear,  
and put their trust  
in the Lord.”  
Psalm 40:3b**

### **Welcome and Inclusion**

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

# *Welcome to Robertson-Wesley*

*Please know that in the eyes of God you already belong here and you are welcome to participate in any of the activities of the congregation.*

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is Treaty 6 territory, a traditional meeting ground for Indigenous peoples. We acknowledge the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 4, who are of mixed Indigenous & European heritage.

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## **ACCESSIBILITY**

There is an elevator located inside the building with the glass door entrance.

Access ramps can be found: inside leading from the lobby to the sanctuary and outside at the rear of the building, leading from the parking lot.

There are accessible washrooms located in the lobby near the elevator.

Hearing assistance devices are available from the ushers.

Large print worship bulletins, and hymn books are available from the ushers.

Service animals are welcome, except where food is prepared.

We commit to make R-W a comfortable space for people with cognitive impairment. If you require accommodations related to cognitive functioning please contact the office.

## **BABY/ CHILDREN'S AMENITIES**

People can breastfeed anywhere in the building, should you want more privacy there is designated nursing space in the Millson room, located by the grand piano. Baby changing tables are installed in all washrooms. If you wish to use it, a children's activity centre is set up in the Chapel. There are also activity books available for children. Please ask the usher.

## **INFORMATION**

The ushers located at the entrances are here to help should you have any questions. More information about the church and church activities can be found in the pamphlet racks outside Memorial Hall.

## **PERSONAL BELONGINGS**

Please do not leave valuables unattended anywhere in the church.

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10209 123 St, Edmonton T5N 1N3 780-482-1587  
...mail@rwuc.org    www.rwuc.org

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## *Friends in Christ*

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Prelude: *Fuga Sul Nome B. A. C. H.*, by Robert Schumann     Allan Bevan, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Introit: *Arise, Shine for Your Light Has Come*, by Hal H. Hopson  
Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Opening Prayer:

In awe and in wonder, we pray:

**In our listening, may we receive your whispers to our hearts, encouraging us to live for one another. In our witnessing, may your good news be proclaimed. In our greeting, may we recognize you in the faces greeting us. In our praying, may we feel your touch of grace. In our singing this morning, may your harmony ring out with joy. Amen.**<sup>1</sup>

Hymn: *Don't Be Afraid*

*More Voices 90*

**Don't be afraid. My love is stronger,  
my love is stronger than your fear.**

**Don't be afraid. My love stronger and  
I have promised, promised to be always near. (3x)**

Coming into God's Presence

Rev. Karen Bridges

Prayer of Confession:

We come before you today, O God, thinking about healing. We all have some part of us in need of healing: in our bodies, in our minds, in our souls, from our past and in our present, in our hearts and in our thoughts. Some hurts we carry on our sleeve, some can be coaxed from us, others we show only to our nearest and dearest, and some we will need you to unearth for us.

**Help us to understand, trust, and be open to your many ways of healing as we open our hearts to your love:** (a time of silent prayer). Amen.<sup>2</sup>

Sung Prayer of Assurance: *How Deep the Peace*

*More Voices 95*

**How deep the peace, the confidence,  
of those whose wrongs are forgiven.  
How deep the peace, the confidence,  
of those whose hearts are healed.**

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<sup>1</sup> Written by Gord Dunbar, **Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany, 2019/2020, p. 49. Used with permission.

<sup>2</sup> Written by Karen Boivin, **Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany, 2022-2023, p. 47. Used with permission.

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## God's Holy Word

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### Prayer of Illumination

Duet: *I Waited for the Lord*, by Felix Mendelssohn

Claire Rolheiser, Raydene Koch, soloists

### Scriptures:

Trisha-Lee Wasmund

Psalm 40 • I waited patiently for God.

I waited patiently for the Lord; who inclined to me and heard my cry. The Lord drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. The Lord put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord. Happy are those who make the Lord their trust, who do not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after false gods. You have multiplied, O Lord my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you. Were I to proclaim and tell of them, they would be more than can be counted. Sacrifice and offering you do not desire, but you have given me an open ear. Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required. Then I said, "Here I am; in the scroll of the book it is written for me. I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart." I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation; see, I have not restrained my lips as you know, O Lord. I have not hidden your saving help within my heart, I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation. Do not, O Lord, withhold your mercy from me; let your steadfast love and your faithfulness keep me safe forever."

John 1:29-42 • Simon and Andrew become disciples.

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God." The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of

the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon, son of John. You are to be called Cephas" which is translated Peter.)

May we hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon: *Fears Released.*

Rev. Karen Bridges

Hymn: *Be Still, My Soul*

*Voices United 652*

**Be still, my soul, for God is on your side;  
bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.  
Trust in your God, your saviour and your guide,  
who through all changes faithful will remain.  
Be still, my soul, your best, your heavenly friend  
through stormy ways leads to a peaceful end.**

**Be still, my soul, your God will undertake  
to guide the future surely as the past.  
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake,  
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.  
Be still, my soul, life's tempests still obey  
the voice that once the waves' wild fury strayed.**

**Be still, my soul, the hour is hastening on  
when we shall be forever in God's peace;  
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,  
love's joys restored, our strivings shall cease.  
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,  
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.**

Pastoral Prayers

Rev. Dirk Jessen

Lord's Prayer:

*Voices United p. 921*

**Our Creator, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kin-dom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth, as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil:  
For thine is the kin-dom, the power, and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.**

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## Grateful Response

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Minute for Mission

Sylvia Duffus

Offering:

*Your donations today support R-W Church programs and operations, as well as outreach projects and programs in the city and around the world.*

*You can donate by e-transfer to [pay@rwuc.org](mailto:pay@rwuc.org), cheque, debit/credit at the terminal located at the Grocery Card table in Memorial Hall during fellowship after worship, pre-authorized remittance, or PayPal on the website. Tax receipts are issued at the end of the year for donations over \$20 if your name and address are provided.*

Hymn: *Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands*

**Voices United 537**

**Your work, O God, needs many hands  
to help you everywhere,  
and some there are who cannot serve  
unless our gifts we share.**

**Because we love you and your work,  
our offering now we make:  
be pleased to use it as your own,  
we ask for Jesus' sake.**

Prayer of Gratitude:

Our gifts are given freely.

**Thank you, God.**

Our gifts connect us to suffering and need,  
our own and that of others.

**Thank you, God.**

Our gifts are for healing.

**Thank you, God.**

Our gifts help those known to us.

**Thank you, God.**

Our gifts help those whose names we will never know.

**Thank you, God.**

Our gifts are given in love.

**Bless all through these gifts, O God. Amen<sup>3</sup>**

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. For people who worship online, please prepare whatever is available in your house, a cracker, bread, muffin, and juice, wine, or water.*

*People in the sanctuary will be offered bread and grape juice. There is a gluten free option available.*

Rejoice before God you and your children.

**Rejoice with the stranger, the widowed, the orphan.**

Rejoice, you who were once enslaved.

**Break the bread of freedom. Drink deep from laughter's cup.**

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<sup>3</sup> Written by David Sparks, **Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany, 2019-2020, p. 52.  
Used with permission.

Rejoice, for God has blessed us in all produce, in all we undertake.  
**Together, let us celebrate.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our 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.<sup>4</sup>

Holy, Holy, Holy (*sung*):

*Voices United p. 942*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might;**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.**

**Heav'n and earth are full, full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

**Bless'd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

Remembering Jesus at Table:

Let us remember together the vision of God's reign shown to us in Jesus at table:

**He shared food with followers and friends, with saints and sinners with crowds of thousands on the hillside, and a few friends in an upper room.**

On the night before he died, he had supper with his companions. He took a loaf of bread, and after giving thanks, he broke it, and gave it to them, saying:

**"Take, eat. Do this in remembrance of me."**

Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks, he passed it among them, saying:

**"Drink this. Do this in remembrance of me."**

Through this loaf and cup, Jesus lives within us.

In word and deed, Jesus lives among us.<sup>5</sup>

Remembering your boundless love for us in Jesus Christ, we offer you our praise, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Memorial Acclamation (*sung*):

*Voices United p. 943*

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

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<sup>4</sup> Celebrating God's Presence, 3O001.

<sup>5</sup> Celebrating God's Presence, 14D006.

Prayer for Transformation:

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.

**Praise be to God, the source of love!  
Praise be to Christ, Love incarnate!  
Praise be to the Spirit, Love's power!  
Praise be to God!**

Great Amen (*sung*):

**Amen, amen, amen, amen.**

*Voices United p. 943*

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Meditation: *Chorale Prelude on a Melody* by Orlando Gibbons arr. Healey

Willan

Allan Bevan, organ

Prayer after Communion:

**Gracious God, may your gifts of love transform and enliven us that we may live lives of thanksgiving. May your presence among us provoke such longing for your realm, that we will never be satisfied until the whole earth knows your justice, your peace, and your love. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.<sup>6</sup>**

Hymn: *You Call Us Out*

*Voices United 569*

**You call us out to praise you,  
the God who gave us birth,  
to gather in communion  
and treasure your whole earth;  
we are your living story,  
to hear and to be heard;  
we praise your name, who writes us,  
the author and the word.**

**For varied hues and textures,  
new patterns, still you search,  
to weave your seamless garments,  
the fabric of your church;  
our tattered faith you cherish,  
reclaim from wear and moth;  
we praise your name, who twine us,  
the weaver and the cloth.**

**The church that speaks forgiveness,  
confesses its own need,  
the church that feels its hunger  
finds grace to care and feed;  
our famished world is crying,  
its future filled with dread;  
we praise your name, who fill us,  
the baker and the bread.**

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<sup>6</sup> Celebrating God's Presence, 16V001.



**The church that offers healing,  
discerns its wounds and loss;  
the church that faces dying  
shares life beyond the cross;  
to people torn and broken  
your mercy is revealed;  
we praise your name, who loves us,  
the healer and the healed.**

**Our feeble voices struggle,  
to sing your justice clear;  
the world has sunk in silence,  
each discord echoes fear;  
one voice alone is ragged,  
together we are strong;  
we praise your name, who breathes us,  
the singer and the song.**

Commissioning:

Go from this place filled by the Holy Spirit.

**We go inspired and ready to breathe out God's grace.**

Go from this place filled by Jesus' call to service.

**We go strengthened and receptive in humility.**

Go from this place filled by God's grace.

**We go blessed and commissioned in faith.<sup>7</sup>**

Postlude: *O Worship the King*, arr. by Raymond Haan

Allan Bevan, organ

Questions for Reflection:

What new song has God placed in your heart?

God has offered an open ear, what do you need to say to God?

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## *R-W Report*

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**Next Sunday  
Sunday, Jan 22, 2023  
Epiphany 3**

**Children & Youth:** Children begin in the sanctuary, then go to Kids' Church. Youth meet in the youth room at the beginning of the service.

**1 Corinthians 1:10-18** • Overcome divisions and find unity.

**Matthew 4:12-23** • Jesus begins his ministry.

**Sermon:** Something has come to light.

Joseph Campbell who is known for his work in archetypal stories has noted that cultures around the world speak of the beginnings of something as a call to adventure. What if we look at this moment in time, in our history as we move from a liminal time into something new, as a

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<sup>7</sup> Written by Gord Dunbar, **Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany, 2019-2020, p.53. Used with permission.

call to adventure? How could things change if we saw the call of discipleship as an adventure? And how will we respond to this call faithfully? What will come to light when we follow Jesus?

**Music:** Dr. Allan Bevan, organist; Belle Canto

### **WEEK AT A GLANCE**

Sun Jan 15	Sunday Worship - <b>Sanctuary &amp; Online</b>	10:30 am
	Kids' Church - <b>Garden Patch and Air Room</b>	10:30 am
	Youth Discussion - <b>Youth Room</b>	10:30 am
	Fellowship - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	11:45 am
	Fundraiser Meeting - <b>Room 11</b>	12:15 pm
Mon Jan 16	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	7:00 pm
Tues Jan 17	Scripture Reflections - <b>Club Room &amp; Zoom</b>	12:00 pm
	R-W Board Meeting - <b>Room 11 &amp; Zoom</b>	7:00 pm
Wed Jan 18	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	1:30 pm
	R-W Choir - <b>Lower Hall &amp; Sanctuary</b>	7:30 pm
Thur Jan 19	Nova Bells - <b>Lower Hall</b>	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers - <b>Lower Hall</b>	6:45 pm

### **ON THE HORIZON**

Sun Jan 22	Sunday Worship - <b>Sanctuary &amp; Online</b>	10:30 am
	Kids' Church - <b>Garden Patch and Air Room</b>	10:30 am
	Youth Discussion - <b>Youth Room</b>	10:30 am
	Fellowship - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	11:45 am
Mon Jan 23	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	7:00 pm
	M&P Meeting - <b>Zoom</b>	7:00 pm
Tues Jan 24	Scripture Reflections - <b>Club Room &amp; Zoom</b>	12:00 pm
Wed Jan 25	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	1:30 pm
	R-W Choir - <b>Lower Hall &amp; Sanctuary</b>	7:30 pm
Thur Jan 26	Nova Bells - <b>Lower Hall</b>	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers - <b>Lower Hall</b>	6:45 pm

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

#### **NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE**

The nominations committee is asking you to help discern who is being called to serve as the incoming Chair of the Board (3 year term), who is being called to for role of Board Secretary (2 year term), and who is being called for the role of Member at Large starting in March of 2023. More detailed outlines of the job descriptions can be found on our website ([rwuc.org/volunteer](http://rwuc.org/volunteer)) or through the nominations committee. Please speak with Ron Soans, Garnet Thomas, or John Fleming or contact the church office for more information, or if you know someone that you think might have the skills and passion for these roles.

#### **ROBERTSON-WESLEY RINGERS**

We are continuing our search for two additional ringers to begin in January, 2023! Please speak with Dr. Allan Bevan after service if you are interested. Email [music@rwuc.org](mailto:music@rwuc.org) or call (780) 482-1587 ext. 230

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

## **WILD CHURCH**

You are invited to join the first Wild Church worship of 2023! January's theme is "Wintering." We will gather at Emily Murphy Park at 1 pm **Today** (look for the sign in the first parking lot). We will have a fire; bundle up and bring along friends of any age (or species)! Temperature cut-off for cancellation is -15°C with windchill. Contact for questions or transportation arrangements: email (wildchurch@rwuc.org), website (wildchurchyeg.org), or Instagram (@wildchurchyeg).

## **FUNDRAISING MEETING**

**Today** at 12:15 pm in Room 11. We invite everyone to come and be part of the fundraising meeting. Anyone who has an idea for a fundraising event for 2023 is requested to be present at this gathering.

## **COMMUNION SUNDAY**

**Today** we offer Communion. There will also be a collection of special offerings for Mission & Service. R-W is committed to financially supporting the Mission and Service of The United Church of Canada. On each Sunday when communion is served we highlight some aspect of the work and mission of the National Church. At this time we also take up a special collection designated for M&S. Blue envelopes are provided for this purpose in the bulletin.

## **NEW STAFF POSITION:**

### **Director of the 2SLGBTQIA+ Advocacy Conference**

Hello, my name is Angela Glasel and I'm happy to share that I am the Director of the Community & Connection - 2SLGBTQIA+ Advocacy Conference that will be held here and hosted by RWUC. I have been a part of RWUC for over 5 years now and have volunteered in different capacities such as, youth group, community dinners and the DEAP group. Professionally, I have spent nearly 20 years as an Early Childhood Educator, working with children and families. Over the years I have had the opportunity to work in different types of programs and in diverse settings. My work has included program creation and implementation, management of teams and most importantly relationship building. As a member of the 2SLGBTQIA+ and RWUC communities, I am excited to bring this conference to life and to share it with the community.

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

The deadline for reports from the committees, pods and groups of the church is **February 5**. Send your information to mail@rwuc.org with "2022 Annual Report Submission" in the subject line.

## **FINDING INNER PEACE BOOK STUDY WITH REV. DIRK**

The copies of Finding Inner Peace –Easing Stress and Anxiety Through Prayer by Deacon Eddie Ensley have arrived. If you signed up for this book study please contact Rev. Dirk (email: dirk.jessen@rwuc.org) to pick up your copy of the book. The study will be scheduled soon.

## KOINONIA

Welcome to Koinonia's first potluck and service of 2023. On **January 29** we will meet in the Memorial Hall for a potluck dinner followed by a video presentation by Sandi Bouchard, a successful broadcaster and writer who speaks of ways to eliminate systemic racism. She is an indigenous woman who has lived for many years in Thunderbay, whom some consider to be the center of racism against indigenous people. Bring a salad, main course, or dessert to share if you can. The meal starts at 5:30 pm in the Memorial Hall followed by a service at 6:45 pm. Please come early and help set up and stay till the last dish is washed!

## GREEN BITES

The Doomsday Clock was first “developed” in 1947, as a metaphor for how close the earth is to self-annihilation. At that time it was set at 7 minutes to midnight. Since then the hands have been moved more than twenty times, depending on the threat of nuclear annihilation. In 2007, Climate Change was added as a threat to life on earth. Since 2020 the hands of the clock have been at 100 seconds to midnight. Where will the clock’s hands be in 2023? Tune in to the website or the Facebook page of The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists ([www.thebulletin.org](http://www.thebulletin.org)) at 8 am, January 24, for the announcement. The clock was established not to raise fear but instead to inspire people to action.

## In the Community

### CANTILON CONCERT: CLARA’S LULLABY

**January 28** at 7:00 pm at Robertson-Wesley. Belle Canto will brighten the midwinter with gentleness and joy in Cantilon's first concert of the year, Clara's Lullaby. This whimsical programme includes lullabies, children's folk songs, nursery rhymes and more. A musical exploration of the beautiful continuum between childhood and parenthood.

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## *Worship Notes*

The season of Epiphany is a time of revelation, light and new understandings. The word “Epiphany” comes from a Greek term meaning “manifestation” or “showing forth.” This is the season where we begin to learn about Jesus’ ministry, when Jesus calls people to follow him and spread the Good News. Jesus, the word made flesh, shows God’s love to all people. How will we, like Jesus, embody God’s love? How will this love be found within and shared with others in the world? We will do it with respect. Disciples are called to live and teach, speak and treat others with kindness, respect and love.

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## *Cover Image*

Cover image taken by Rev. Karen Bridges, South Africa Sept. 2017

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Minister of Spiritual and Pastoral Care Development: Vacant  
Minister of Congregation and Community Development: Rev. Karen Bridges  
Bridging Minister: Rev. Dirk Jessen  
Music Director: Dr. Allan Bevan  
Office Administrator: Elyse Munro  
Facilities Manager: Brad Campbell  
Financial Manager: Garth van Herwaarden