



An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada

2023 April 6

Maundy Thursday



Welcome and Inclusion

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

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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Friends in Christ

Prelude: *Arioso*, by J. S. Bach

Allan Bevan, piano; J.S., violin

Call to Worship:

Tonight we gather together - remembering Jesus' last hours.

We remember a meal shared together among friends.

We remember those friends betraying, denying, abandoning.

We remember Jesus' enemies plotting against him.

We remember how those enemies gained the upper hand.

We remember the love Jesus had for all.

We remember that love dying for each of us.

Tonight, we gather together - let us remember.¹

Prayer of Confession:

Examine me, O God, and know my heart;

test and judge my thoughts.

Find any deceit in me and guide me in the way of life.

(Silence)

Create in me a new heart, O God,

and strengthen me with a constant spirit!

Words of Assurance:

All God asks of us is a humble spirit.

God accepts a contrite heart.

God has delivered us from death, our eyes from tears,
our feet from stumbling.

We walk with God in the land of the living.

To Serve in Love

Scriptures:

Andrew Hopkyns

John 13:1-17, 31b-25 • A New Commandment.

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Creator. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas, son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Creator had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him,

¹ Written by Francis Flook, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter/Pentecost 2012, p. 32. Used with permission.

“You will never wash my feet.” Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.” Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not only my feet but also my hands and my head!” Jesus said to him, “One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.” For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, “Not all of you are clean.” After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord - and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

Hymn: *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*

Voices United 593

**Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve
the neighbours we have from you.**

**Kneels at the feet of his friends,
silently washes their feet,
master who acts as a slave to them.**

**Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve
the neighbours we have from you.**

**Neighbours are rich and poor,
varied in colour and race,
neighbours are near and far away.**

**Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve
the neighbours we have from you.**

**These are the ones we should serve,
these are the ones we should love,
all - are neighbours to us and you.**

**Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve
the neighbours we have from you.**

**Kneel at the feet of our friends,
silently washing their feet,
this is the way we should live with you.**

**Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve
the neighbours we have from you.**

Ritual Hand Washing

Nourishment & Act of Remembrance

Anthem: *God So Loved the World*, by John Horman

Choir of Robertson-Wesley, J. S., violin

Prayer of Illumination:

Nurturing God, we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from your mouth. Make us hungry for this heavenly food, that it may nourish us today in the ways of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven. Amen.²

Scriptures:

Brian Webb

Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14 • Instructions for the first Passover.

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: “This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbour in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgements: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

Anthem: *Ave Verum Corpus*, by W. A. Mozart

Choir of Robertson-Wesley, J. S., violin

The Last Supper

A Moment of Shared Honesty:

The Litany of Response:

Without you, the body of Christ is incomplete.

Without me, some gifts are lost.

We are not all the same.

But we are all needed.

Wanted. Loved.

In this time and place, in all times and places.

God, help us offer ourselves to this community.

² Celebrating God’s Presence, 5M001.

**Let us break bread together on our knees,
let us break bread together on our knees.
When I fall down on my knees
with my face to the rising sun,
Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.**

**Let us drink wine together on our knees,
let us drink wine together on our knees.
When I fall down on my knees
with my face to the rising sun,
Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.**

**Let us praise God together on our knees,
let us praise God together on our knees,
When I fall down on my knees
with my face to the rising sun,
Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.**

Prayer:

Jesus offered his friends bread in his name. He broke it and told them that we will find him in sharing brokenness with each other. He will feed us and be for us the Bread of Life. Jesus offered his friends wine in his name. He poured it and told them that they would find him as they poured out their lives with and for each other and for the world.
**He will flow through us and be for us the Cup of Blessing.
Bread and Cup - the life of Jesus in us.³**

Music for Communion: *Largo*, by J. C. Pepusch

Iona Bevan, recorder; Allan Bevan, organ

Prayer for Strength and Courage

Prayers in the Garden

Hymn: *Shadows Gather, Deep and Cold*

Voices United 134

**Shadows gather, deep and cold;
lamplight flickers, fades and fails.
Lord, you know what day-break holds:
thorns and beatings, cross and nails.
You will be denied, betrayed
when the rooster wakes the sun.
Yet you kneel alone and pray,
“Not my will, but thine be done.”**

³ Written by Bob Root, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2019, p. 39. Used with permission.

**In the watches of the night,
in the hour when darkness reigns,
in the grief that has no light,
in the time of fear and pain,
then we hold fast to your way,
to the victory you have won.
Jesus, teach us how to pray,
“Not my will, but thine be done.”**

Commissioning:

Whatever the next hours hold, remember that you are blessed by God, supported by God, and strengthened by God. When the wilderness looms, take comfort in God’s love, that your life may affirm the good news of Jesus Christ. You are beloved. Amen.⁴

Postlude: *Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended*, by Johannes Brahms
Allan Bevan, organ

If you wish to leave a donation after the service, offering plates will be near the doors as you leave the sanctuary.

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, 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.

Worship Notes

The Maundy Thursday Service teaches us about the last supper and the beginning of the ritual that we have come to know as Communion. In this ritual and act we remember and we are connected to Jesus and God through the Spirit found in the healing nature of the bread and wine. We proclaim in *A Song of Faith* that “In the communion meal, wine poured out and bread broken, we remember Jesus. We remember not only the promise but also the price that he paid for who he was, for what he did and said, and for the world’s brokenness. We taste the mystery of God’s great love for us, and are renewed in faith and hope.”

Thank you to J.S. and Ilona Bevan and the Choir of Robertson-Wesley for their gift of music.

⁴ Written by Gill Le Fevre, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter, 2022, p. 40. Used with permission.

Cover Image

Cover image was taken by Albert deVos Holy Week 2019.

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

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Learn the story of Jesus' life and death through a variety of hour long worshipful experiences. All services will be in person and livestreamed with the exception of the Easter Sunrise service which will be in person only.



At the Cross

Friday, April 7 10:30 am
Good Friday



A Wake for Jesus

Saturday, April 8 7:00 pm
Easter Vigil



The Resurrection

Sunday, April 9 7:30 am
Easter Sunrise Service
Paul Kane Park

Sunday, April 9 10:30 am
Easter Sunday Service