



An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada

2024 March 28

Mauudy 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 on each floor located near the elevator.



For hearing assistance download the Listen Everywhere app on your cell phone and connect to the R-W network by scanning this QR code. Please bring your own headphones to listen on. Classic hearing assists headsets 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: *What Wondrous Love Is This?* arr. by Andrew Duncan

Robertson-Wesley Ringers and Nova Bells

Call to Worship:

This evening brings with it joy and celebration, uncertainty and anticipation.

This evening brings us to a new place of discernment and preparation.

This evening leads us into the realities of Holy Week and the truth of living the promise of faith and hope.

This evening leads us beyond the past and into a future that is yet to be revealed.

This evening, gathered in caring community, let us worship.¹

Prayer of Confession:

Eternal God, open us to your presence this evening.

Melt the hardness within us.

Take any cynicism, grudge or negativity and replace it as only you can.

Replace it with hope, with forgiveness, with possibilities that only you can understand.

Guide us, O God. Shape us. Empower us.

Renew our spirits to receive your wisdom and be changed by it.

Soften us so that your image might be revealed in us.

Guide us, O God. Shape us. Empower us. Transform us.

(A time of silent prayer)

Words of Assurance:

Because God's love is great, we are forgiven. Because God's love is firm, we are free. As God's creations, healed, forgiven and loved, let us be at peace. Let us live gratefully. Glory to God! Glory to God!

Amen.²

To Serve in Love

Scriptures:

John 13:1-5, 12-17, 34-35 • 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

¹ Written by **Bill Steadman and Catherine Somerville**, St. Andrew's U.C., Sudbury Ont., **Gathering**, Lent/Easter/Pentecost 2024, p. 38. Used with permission.

² Written by **Elaine Bidgood Sweet**, First Lutheran, Rugby and Leeds, North Dakota., **Gathering**, Lent/Easter/Pentecost 2024, p. 38. Used with permission.

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. 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. I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

Hymn: *O Love, How Deep*

Voices United 348 vv. 1-5

**O love, how deep, how broad, how high!
It fills the heart with ecstasy,
that God, in Jesus Christ, should take
our mortal form for mortals' sake.**

**God sent no angel to our race
of higher or of lower place,
but wore the robe of human frame,
and freely to this lost world came.**

**For us he was baptized, and bore
a holy fast, and hungered sore;
for us temptations sharply knew;
for us the tempter overthrew.**

**For us he prayed; for us he taught,
for us great daily works were wrought,
by words, and signs, and actions, thus
still seeking not himself, but us.**

**For us to wicked foes betrayed,
scourged, mocked, in purple robe arrayed,
he bore the shameful cross and death;
for us at length gave up his breath.**

Handwashing Ritual

Reflection: Poised

Rev. Dirk Jessen

Gathered By A Meal

Anthem: *Ubi Caritas*, by Michael John Trotta

Claire Rolheiser, soloist; Choir of Robertson-Wesley

*Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.
Exsulemus, et in ipso jucundemur.
Timeamus, et amemus Deum vivum.
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.*

*Where charity and love are, God is there.
Christ's love has gathered us into one.
Let us rejoice and be pleased in Him.
Let us fear, and let us love the living God.
And may we love each other with a sincere heart.*

Scripture: Luke 22:14-20 • Lords Suffering

When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks, he said, "Take this and divide among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."

Anthem: *How Beautiful*, by Twila Paris arr. Mary McDonald

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Invitation to Communion:

To the table he prepared in the Upper Room,
Jesus welcomed Judas, who would betray him with a kiss.
Jesus welcomed Peter, who would deny him three times.
Jesus welcomed all his disciples, who would abandon him out of fear.
Jesus welcomed each one with no hesitation and welcomes us with the same expansive love.

We gather at this table, individuals yet one body, to be fed by the living Christ.³

³ Written by **Gord Dunbar**, Kincardine P.C., Kincardine, Ont. **Gathering**, Lent/Easter/Pentecost 2024, p. 38. Used with permission.

**God is here! As we your people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.**

**Here are symbols to remind us
of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font and pulpit;
here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching,
here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.**

**God of all, of church and kingdom,
in an age of change and doubt
keep us faithful to the gospel;
help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication,
all we have to give, receive;
we, who cannot live without you,
we adore you! We believe!**

Communion 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. Amen.⁴**

Bread is broken, Wine is poured
Communion is shared

Music for Communion: *O Sacrum Convivium* (*O Sacred Banquet*,) Trad.

Plainsong arr. by Gerald Near

Allan Bevan, organ

⁴ Written by Elaine Bidgood Sweet, First Lutheran, Rugby and Leeds, North Dakota., **Gathering**, Lent/Easter/Pentecost 2019, p. 39. Used with permission.

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.⁵

Entering the Night to Come

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.”**

**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:

United by this holy meal,
we go out in thankfulness for all God has given us.

We go out,
**committed to forever growing in our faith and
grateful for God’s gifts. Amen.**

Closing Meditation: *Were You There*, arr. by Andrew Duncan

Robertson-Wesley Ringers and Nova Bells

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

⁵ Written by **Richard Bott**, Pacific Spirit P.C., Vancouver, B.C., **Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany, 2018-2019, p. 46, Used with permission.



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 by speaking to an usher, pre-authorized remittance, or PayPal by scanning the QR code. 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., Ilona Bevan and the Choir of Robertson-Wesley for their gift of music.

Cover Image

Cover image from wallpapers.com

Minister of Faith Development and Intergenerational Ministry: Vacant

Minister of Social Justice and Outreach: Vacant

Lead 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