



An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada

2017 August 27

Pentecost 12

Welcome and Inclusion

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



Friends in Christ

Prelude: *The Lord's My Shepherd*, Gilbert M. Martin

Tammy-Jo Mortensen, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Call to Worship:

In a land far away, and long ago, there was a prophet named Ezekiel.

He had the biggest imagination and told the greatest stories!

He used it to teach about God's call and power.

In a land East of here, and not so long ago, there was an orphan named Anne! She was adopted into a loving family and stretched their imaginations.

She told the greatest stories!

She used it to teach love, courage and cheer!

Prayer of Approach:

God of heroes, Source of imagination, help us listen anew today to the stories of heroes. Infuse us with your creativity so we too may tell tales that inspire justice and teach love!

God of heroes, Source of imagination, thank you for your gifts of superpowers, the fruits of the Spirit! Amen.

Opening Hymn: *I Am the Dream*

More Voices 106

Coming Into God's Presence

M&S Bucket (June/July/August)

Let us celebrate the special events in our lives of the last 3 months (June, July and August birthdays, births, new homes, healing) with a special donation into the bucket for the Mission and Service Fund.

Hymn: *Alleluia, Praise to God*

More Voices 59

God's Holy Word

Scriptures:

Sarah Wiens

Ezekiel 37:1-14 • Ezekiel's vision

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD." So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath,

and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act,” says the LORD.

This is the witness of Israel.

Thanks be to God our loving Creator.

Sermon: *Imagination is a Superpower*

Rev. Leigh Sinclair

Hymn: *The Lord is My Shepherd (Psalm 23)*

Voices United page 747

Pastoral Prayers

The Lord’s Prayer

(*Voices United* p. 921)

Grateful Response

Minute for Mission

Sylvia Duffus

Offering: *Courante* (Cello Suite No. 1, G+, BWV 1007), J. S. Bach Joni Soans, violin

Offertory Hymn: *Spiderman* Theme, words adapted *Voices United* 540

**Grant us God, grace to give
with a spirit large and free
that ourselves and our lives,
may be offered faithfully
Praise be, thanks be to God, Amen.**

Prayer of Gratitude

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. Gluten-free bread is available on request and the “wine” is non-alcoholic grape juice.

Our Maker be with you!

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to our God.

Let us give thanks to the Maker of all,

It is great to give God thanks and praise.

It is indeed a joy to gather in community with friends and strangers to tell again our great, great story. God is the Source of all life, all stories and all voices. God made you and adores you.

Wherever you may be on your journey to claim this identity – beloved child of God – you are welcome at this table. It is not mine, nor Robertson-Wesley’s. It is God’s and Jesus is our host.

Thanks be to God!

We thank you God for how you have gifted us with imagination. This gift leads us to empathy, possibility, creativity and memory. It allows us to have a faith story and ancestors and rituals such as this. We thank you for the imagination of Jesus Christ, in whom you came to share stories, signs and symbols with all on earth. Thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit, which allows for these stories to continue to form and re-form, create and re-create. And so with all you have created, and all you are going to create, along with all the voices in heaven and earth we join to sing your praise:

Holy, Holy, Holy (*sung*): (*More Voices*, p. 203, Kingsfold)

O holy, holy holy God, O God of time and space. All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace. Hosanna in the highest heav'n, creation sings your praise. And blessed is the One who comes and bears your name always.

Jesus used parables to show us the mysterious depth of your love. Jesus taught to turn our expectations upside down and awaken our imaginations to the possibility of a better world for all. On the last night he had with his community he retold the great story of your freeing the Hebrew people during the Passover and included each disciple and follower in that great unfolding story. Help us realize that we too are a part of that story – your Holy Providence of making all things new! Let us hear him again.

It was during supper he took bread, giving thanks to you God, and he broke it saying: “This is my body, broken for you. Take and eat all of you and when you do this, remember me.” It was later that night that he took the cup, and after giving thanks to you, he poured it out saying: “This is my blood, poured out for all in the making of a new covenant: one for the forgiveness of all sins. Take and drink all of you. And when you do this remember me.” And so we come to break bread and have our thirst quenched by the Divine Mystery. Let us sing the story of our faith:

Memorial Acclamation (*sung*): (*More Voices*, p. 204, Kingsfold)

**Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,
Christ will come again!
Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,
Christ will come again!**

Holy Spirit, breath of God, come now and transform these gifts and these people, so that we may be united with Christ and united as one Body, one which is ready to serve your world. May these elements sustain our faith and strengthen our imagination!

Here are the gifts of God for the people of God!

Thanks be to God.

Great Amen (*sung*):

(*More Voices*, p. 205, Kingsfold)

Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!

Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Music During Communion: *Versions of Psalm 23*, Gilbert M. Martin

Prayer after Communion:

For the bread we have eaten, for the wine we have tasted,
for the life we have received, we thank you God.

**As stewards of the story, as walkers on Christ's Way,
we are gifted and called to share.**

We have learned together, we have feasted together and now
we go united by God's Spirit to live this amazing story:

Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Light!

Closing Hymn: *It Only Takes a Spark*

Voices United 289

Commissioning:

Followers of Jesus are we ready to strive to be heroes?

Jesus said: I am the Bread of Life!

Use your imagination and proclaim this amazingly Good news!

God goes with us!

Thanks be to God!

Amen.

Postlude: *Courante*, (Concerto Grosso in F+, Op. 6 No. 9), Arcangelo Corelli

Joni Soans, violin, Tammy-Jo Mortensen, organ

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

Music Notes

Thanks to Joni and Ron Soans for sharing their gifts with us this morning. Ron is playing on some hymns that work really well with lots of bass and Joni has found some wonderful violin repertoire of two Baroque composers - Bach and Corelli. The organ music this morning is focused on Psalm 23. As such a beloved psalm, it's no wonder that there are also so many musical versions. There are many tunes you may know for Psalm 23, probably the most used one is the one we sing this morning, the tune "Crimond". This tune was written in the late 1800's. There are several other tunes you might know, including "Brother James Air", which I play during communion, and "St. Columba" for the text "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" as well as "Resignation" for the text "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need".

Cover Image

Cover images: This picture is from an imaginative Stewardship Carnival.

Minister of Spiritual and Pastoral Care Development: Rev. Leigh Sinclair
Minister of Congregation and Community Development: Rev. Karen Bridges (on
sabbatical)

Director of Music: Tammy-Jo Mortensen

Office Administrator: Tanya Eckenswiler
Facilities Manager: Brad Campbell

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



R-W REPORT August 27, 2017
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

September 3, 2017, 10:30 am

Communion Sunday

Children & Youth: Children and youth are encouraged to worship with their families today. Activity books are available.

Scripture:

Ephesians 4: 7-16 and Psalm 37: 1-16

Sermon: *Who is tying your Shoes?*

(a.k.a who is Batman without Alfred?)

Coming into one's superpower, gifts of the Spirit as they are called in the Bible, means taking risks. We must risk showing weakness so we can find teachers and helpers along the way. We also must take the risk of showing maturity and standing up for what we believe in on our own. Who encourages (puts courage in) you? How can you practice courage as a follower of Christ?

Music: Matthew McGuigan, flute; Tammy-Jo Mortensen, organ

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

Volunteer Opportunities:

Community Dinner Cook: We are looking for a volunteer cook to prepare the community dinners. A group of volunteers get together to plan and prepare a nutritious meal for the needy in the community. This meal is prepared once a month on the second Saturday of every month of the year. If you are interested, you may contact Robertson-Wesley at mail@rwuc.org.

Garden Patch & Kids' Church- Grandparents, parents, youth and adults are encouraged to volunteer Sunday mornings on a regular rotational basis. More details are on the sign-up sheet in Memorial Hall. Sign up today!

Staff

Brad Campbell will be on vacation and returns Sept 5.
Rev. Karen Bridges is on sabbatical Aug 1 to Oct 31.

R-W News & Notes

MISSION AND SERVICE CELEBRATION – TODAY!



We will have our Mission and Service (M & S) Celebration in worship, when we invite those who have had a special event in their lives in the last 3 months (June, July and August birthdays, births, new homes, healing) to put a special donation into the bucket for the Mission and Service Fund.



Blessing
of the Backpacks

GET BLESSED- September 10, 2017

Blessing of the backpacks, briefcases and purses!

Robertson-Wesley United Church invites the Oliver and surrounding community to join us for worship at 10:30 AM to have your backpacks blessed for the coming school/program year.

KIDS' CHURCH AND YOUTH GROUP; Begins September 10

Fall start up begins with registration on Sept 10 with programming for Children ages 2 – Grade 6 and youth Grade 7-12. The first youth group event of the year is Sept 16, 2017 with our season opener, games and sundaes from 7-10 pm. Your friends are welcome to join us.

R-W MEN'S GROUP: a reminder of the first R-W Men's Group

Meeting will be held **September 13, 2017**, in Memorial Hall at 9:30 am. The agenda will be to review the Groups schedule of activities for the coming year. Looking forward to some 'creative' ideas.

RIBBON CUTTING AND FREE BBQ AT NOON

On Sunday September 24, 2017, MLA David Shepherd will be joining us for the ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of our new elevator at Robertson-Wesley United Church which was made possible because of the Provincial CFEP (Community Facility Enhancement Program) Grant that we received.

Join us for a free BBQ in celebration where we will be serving smokies and lemonade to the community.

SUMMER MUSICIANS

R-W welcomes many solo musicians over the summer months when our choristers and ringers are taking a break. Thanks to our musical volunteers!

MESSY WEDNESDAYS

Starting on **September 27, 2017**, in Memorial Hall on the **2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from 5pm – 7pm**, families with children gather for dinner, activities and discussion. The families gather to eat a meal together at no cost to the family, which is served around 5:45pm. We have a couple of volunteers who do the cooking for us, so it is night off for parents! This is part of our outreach ministry and a way to welcome all families to gather together for a time of fellowship. There are activities for the children before and after dinner and adults take the opportunity engage in conversation during the evening. Don't worry if you can't make it right at 5pm. Families are invited to help with clean up and children's activities. Grandparents are welcome to join us! This is a wonderful way to get to know other families in the church and the neighbourhood. It is a messy and fun time for all!

FREE YOGA CLASSES AT ROBERTSON-WESLEY

Everyone is invited to join the gentle hatha yoga class in Memorial Hall on Tuesday mornings from 10:00 to 11:05, **beginning September 5**. No previous yoga experience is necessary – this class will help you to gradually stretch and strengthen your body, still your mind, and open your heart. Yoga mats are available if you don't have your own. **Please come early to the first class to register.**

NEEDED: USED LAPTOPS

Laptops dead or alive for Missions in Mali, West Africa. David Begin is booked with Ethiopian Airways leaving October 19th. Repairing laptops is cheap in Mali, so even broken screens can be replaced for next to nothing. Hard Drive will be erased. Please give to David Begin or Rev. Leigh to pass along to him.

FLOWER DONATION DURING THE SUMMER

We invite you to take part in offering flowers to our sanctuary. Anyone can donate flowers to be displayed for Sunday morning worship. Flowers can be donated to celebrate any season or to mark an important day, anniversary or in memory of someone. **To donate:** just bring your bouquet on Sunday morning and give it to an usher!

Remember: take it home with you or gift it to someone to take home with them.

At this time: the Church office *can* mark the occasion in the bulletin if you let them know by Wednesday at noon, before the Sunday you choose. The Church office *cannot* receive donations of flowers on your behalf. With deep gratitude for the ministry of the Flower Group over the years, this is how we will receive flowers during the transition as we explore new ways to continue this ministry.

R-W IS ACCEPTING ARTWORK!

Art Sale: November 18, 2017, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

R-W will be holding its annual Art Sale in November and we are accepting art donations.

Art is "in the eyes of the beholder" - so we accept art of everything kind - oils, drawings, wood working, pottery, and jewelry, etc.. .

You will receive a tax receipt for the actual cost of the article at the sale.

If you have any art or wish information, please contact Sheila or Pat at 780-481-0056 or leave a message at the Church Office.

All the money from the Art Sale stays within the church for future community projects and activities.

REV. KAREN BRIDGES GOES ON SABBATICAL

August 1 – October 31, 2017

In The United Church of Canada ministers are eligible to go on a three-month Sabbatical after working in a congregation for 5 years. As this is my 7th year here at Robertson-Wesley, it is time to engage a spiritual practice of Sabbath. The term sabbatical actually is derived from the biblical word Sabbath ... periods of rest and rejuvenation in a lifetime. A sabbatical is simply getting an extended leave from work to pursue a break from one's regular duties.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun Aug 27	Morning Communion in Chapel	9:00 am
Tue Aug 29	Scripture Reflection Group– Club Room	12:10 pm
	Stewardship ctte– Room 11	1:30 pm

ON THE HORIZON

Tue Sep 05	Yoga– Memorial Hall	10:00 am
	Scripture Reflection Group– Club Room	12:10 pm
	DEAP Pod– Club Room	5:00 pm
Wed Sep 06	Choir of R-W– Off site	7:30 pm
Thu Sep 07	R-W Ringers– Club Room	7:00 pm
Sat Sep 09	Choral Morphosis– Lower Hall	10:00 am
	Community Dinner– Memorial Hall	5:00 pm

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.