

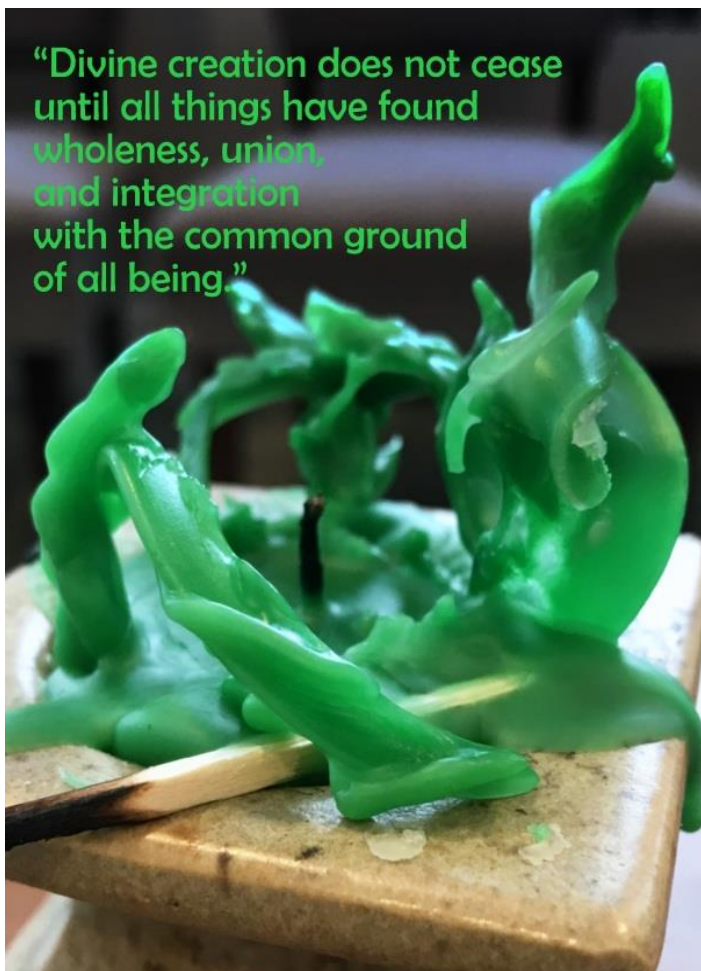


An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada

2023 January 22

Epiphany 3

“Divine creation does not cease until all things have found wholeness, union, and integration with the common ground of all being.”



Welcome and Inclusion

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



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

Friends in Christ

Prelude: *Chorale Prelude on "Richmond"*, arr. by Henry Coleman

Allan Bevan

Embracing Our Spirit

Introit: *Invocation*, by Margaret King

Belle Canto

Call to Worship:

We are one in this space, in this building, in this community of faith.

We are one through the generations,
through song and word, through worship.

We are one just as we are. All are welcome in this place.

Let us journey as one in the light of love.

Let us worship. Amen.¹

Hymn: *Jesus Came, a Child like Me*

Voices United 583

**Jesus came, a child like me,
so the face of God I'd see,
God is not left far away,
God is with us every day.**

**Live, Jesus, near us,
live, Jesus, with us,
live, Jesus, in us,
come, live in us today.**

**Jesus came to show us all
ways to answer our God's call
came to show us how to share,
came to live with God's own care.**

**Live, Jesus, near us,
live, Jesus, with us,
live, Jesus, in us,
come, live in us today.**

**Jesus came, God's work to do,
came to live in me and you,
came to turn the world around
till God's peace and love are found.**

**Live, Jesus, near us,
live, Jesus, with us,
live, Jesus, in us,
come, live in us today.**

**Jesus came to show God's face,
live God's love, and be God's grace.
God lives now in me, in you,
God's at work in what we do.**

¹ Written by Sandra Litt, **Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany, 2022/2023, p. 44. Used with permission.

**Live, Jesus, near us,
live, Jesus, with us,
live, Jesus, in us,
come, live in us today.**

Coming into God's Presence

Rev. Karen Bridges

Prayer of Commitment:

In life we connect with one another as mirror images of who we are, who we can be, and who we are afraid to be.

With eyes of heaven and earth help us to see one another spiritually, with discernment, and a nobility of genuine concern.

By God's grace we connect with ourselves and others in respectful ways, lovingly, so that we no longer "see through the glass darkly."

With eyes of heaven and earth help us make healthy connections that build true relationships that nurture us and help us grow.

As we see mirror images of ourselves in others help us love that which we dislike in ourselves and refrain from projecting our discomfort on others.

With ears of yesterday and today help us appreciate spiritual traditions, yet have the courage and willingness to grow and change.

As we see growth and healing in others help us acknowledge their wellness with goodwill, honouring God's beloved community.

With ears of today and tomorrow help us embrace this day, plan smartly for the future, and have no regrets about the past.²

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.**

God's Holy Word

Prayer of Illumination:

May we listen with our hearts, Holy God, to the teaching of Jesus, the guidance of your Spirit, and the law of love.

May we be prepared to turn away from those things that keep us from your way and turn instead to those things that bring your kin-dom closer, looking not for personal recognition, but rather to recognize your presence in all people and creation around us. Amen.³

² Cheryl A. Kirk-Duggan, *The Undivided Soul; Helping Congregations Connect Body and Spirit*, (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2001), p. 185-186.

³ Written by Gill Le Fevre, **Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany, 2022/2023, p. 48. Used with permission.

Anthem: *Wie lieblich, sind deine Wohnungen*, by Josef Rheinberger

Belle Canto

Wie lieblich sind deine Wohnungen, Herr Zebaoth!

Meine Seele verlangt und sehnet sich

Nach den Vorhöfen des Herrn;

Mein Leib und Seele freuen sich

In dem lebendigen Gott

Wie lieblich sind deine Wohnungen, Herr Zebaoth!

Wohl denen, die in deinem Hause wohnen

Die loben dich immerdar

Wie lieblich sind deine Wohnungen!

How amiable are thy tabernacles,

O Lord of hosts!

My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth

for the courts of the Lord:

my heart and my flesh crieth out

for the living God.

Blessed are they that dwell in thy house:

they will be still praising thee.

Scriptures:

Donna Krucik

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

Now I appeal to you sblings, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my sblings. What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to those who are being saved it is the power of God.

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

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. Jesus left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles - the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kin-dom of heaven has come near." As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew, his brother, casting a net into the sea - for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from

there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kin-dom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: *Something has come to light.*

Rev. Karen Bridges

Hymn: *Jesus, United by Your Grace*

Voices United 591

**Jesus, united by your grace,
and each to each endeared,
with confidence we seek your face,
and know our prayer is heard.**

**Help us to see in each a friend,
each other's cross to bear;
let all their friendly aid extend,
and feel the other's care.**

**Up unto you, our living head,
let us in all things grow,
till you have made us free indeed
and faithful here below.**

**Drawn by the lodestone of your love,
let all our hearts unite;
let us toward each other move,
and move toward your light.**

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.**

Grateful Response

Anthem: *Sing, my child*, by Sarah Quartel

Belle Canto

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, 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:

We do offer our whole lives to you, O God.
Like Simon Peter and Andrew, like Philp and Nathanael,
we want to go to Jesus and discover what you are doing through him.
**Accept these gifts today that they might support the discipleship and
discovery of this congregation.**
We pray in the name of the one we follow, Jesus, the Messiah.
Amen.⁴

Hymn: *Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore*

Voices United 563

**Jesus, you have come to the lakeshore,
looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;
you only asked me to follow humbly.**

**O Jesus, with your eyes you have searched me;
and while smiling, have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
by your side, I will seek other seas.**

**You know so well my possessions;
my boat carries no gold and no weapon;
you will find there, my nets and labour.**

⁴ Written by Kate Gregory, **Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany, 2022-2023, p. 49. Used with permission.

**O Jesus, with your eyes you have searched me;
and while smiling, have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
by your side, I will seek other seas.**

**You need my hands full of caring
through my labours to give others rest,
and constant-love that keeps on loving.**

**O Jesus, with your eyes you have searched me;
and while smiling, have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
by your side, I will seek other seas.**

**You, who have fished other oceans,
ever longed for by souls who are waiting,
my loving-friend, as thus you call me.**

**O Jesus, with your eyes you have searched me;
and while smiling, have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
by your side, I will seek other seas.**

Commissioning:

In worship today, we have affirmed that
we are blessed by the presence of God.

While at work, may God strengthen us with
the blessing of gifts to fulfill our purpose.

In the world, may God nourish us with
the abundant and diverse blessings of creation.

In times of quiet, may God comfort us with the blessing of peace.

**Each and every day, may we affirm that we are sustained by the
loving presence of God.⁵**

Postlude: *Monologue #1*, by Josef Rheinberger

Allan Bevan, organ

Questions for Reflection:

What is the light of God showing us?

What compels you to follow Jesus?

R-W Report

⁵ Written by Gill Le Fevre, **Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany, 2022-2023, p. 50. Used with permission.

Next Sunday
Sunday, Jan 29, 2023
Epiphany 4

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 1:18, 22-31 • God's Wisdom.

Matthew 5:1-12 • God's Surprising Blessings.

Sermon: Living As If...

It may come as a surprise that there were tensions within even the earliest communities that gathered around the life and teachings of Jesus. Which teacher and leader had the most authority and what was this authority based on? Was authority based on a person's social standing? On miraculous signs? On being persuasive? Paul undercuts these conventional sources of authority, saying instead that God acts in ways that defy human custom, convention and logic. Similarly, in the "beatitudes" (blessings), Jesus articulates what we pray every week—"... your [God's] will be done on earth as it is in heaven." In human history, kingdoms and empires have been built on power and control enforced by violence. On the other hand, characteristics of God's realm are rooted in humility and openness toward God and are reflected in being merciful, peaceable and gentle, in longing for and working toward what is just and right. How do we rely on and benefit from the human status quo? What prevents us from relying more fully on God? What would our lives and the lives of others look like if we lived out the blessings of God that Jesus teaches about?

Music: Dr. Allan Bevan, organist; Robertson-Wesley Choir

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

ON THE HORIZON

Sun Jan 29	Sunday Worship - Sanctuary & Online	10:30 am
	Kids' Church - Garden Patch and Air Room	10:30 am
	Youth Discussion - Youth Room	10:30 am
	Fellowship - Memorial Hall	11:45 am
	Koinonia - Memorial Hall	5:30 pm
Mon Jan 30	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	7:00 pm
Tues Jan 31	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm

Wed Feb 1	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	1:30 pm
	Spirited Arts Writing Workshop - Club Room	7:00 pm
	R-W Choir - Lower Hall & Sanctuary	7:30 pm
Thur Feb 2	Nova Bells - Lower Hall	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers - Lower Hall	6:45 pm

Volunteer Opportunities

ROBERTSON-WESLEY RINGERS

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

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) 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.

R-W News & Notes

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 Boucher, 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, which 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!

SPIRITED ARTS WRITING WORKSHOP: RHYME VALENTINE

February 1 from 7:00-9:00 pm in the Club Room. This writing workshop will celebrate rhyme with a playful approach. Whether in poems or songs, rhyming sounds create harmony and satisfaction. Is there someone or something in your life that needs a love song or poem? We'll explore creative ways to spark ideas and create writing to make your heart sing.

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 everyone in the community.

GROCERY CARD FUNDRAISER

Robertson-Wesley has gift cards in denominations of \$25, \$50, and \$100 for sale for Safeway/Sobeys/Freshco; Superstore/Loblaws/No Frills/City Market; or SaveOn Foods. Grocery Gift Cards are sold at face value and Robertson-Wesley receives 3% to 6% of the proceeds in support of its expenses and programs. Cards are available for sale after Sunday worship in Memorial Hall. Cash, personal cheques, Electronic Funds Transfer (grocerycards@rwuc.org), or Debit Card are accepted forms of payment.

PHOTO DIRECTORIES

If you have not picked up a copy, photo directories are still available in the church office.

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.

GREEN BITES

WHAT IS THE ANTHROPOCENE? Anthropocene is the name given to the era that we have been living in for the past two hundred years. The word itself became popular in the year 2000 when two scientists (Paul Crutzen and Eugene Stoermer) used the term to describe the tremendous effect we humans have on Mother Earth. Humans have significantly altered earth's habitat so much that global warming, habitat destruction, carbon emissions, extinction of species, and ocean acidification are negatively affecting life for everything on earth, and not just humans. Who knows what lies ahead if we don't make deep changes to the way we live. – Environmental Stewardship Group

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, this evening will be a tribute to one of the most tender and powerful aspects of the human experience.

BISELL CENTRE: COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR

On **February 25** Edmontonians will brave the February cold, joining thousands in 150+ locations across Canada and the US for a 2 or 5 km winter walk to support people facing poverty and houselessness in their cities. Funds raised will support Bissell's Community Space, which gives folks a place to come in out of the cold, access basic needs and connect with life-changing supports to help empower them to move from poverty to prosperity. The Bissell Centres goal for CNOY 2023 is to raise \$120,000 with the support of 60+ teams and 400+ walkers. If you're interested, head to the Edmonton Downtown event page here: <https://cnoy.org/edmontondowntown>. Click on "register to walk + fundraise", come up with a fun team name, and recruit some friends to join you!

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.

Thank you to Belle Canto, Heather Johnson, conductor and Shannon Hiebert, pianist for their gift of music today.

Cover Image

Cover image taken by Rev. Karen Bridges, words from *A Song of Faith*, 2006.

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