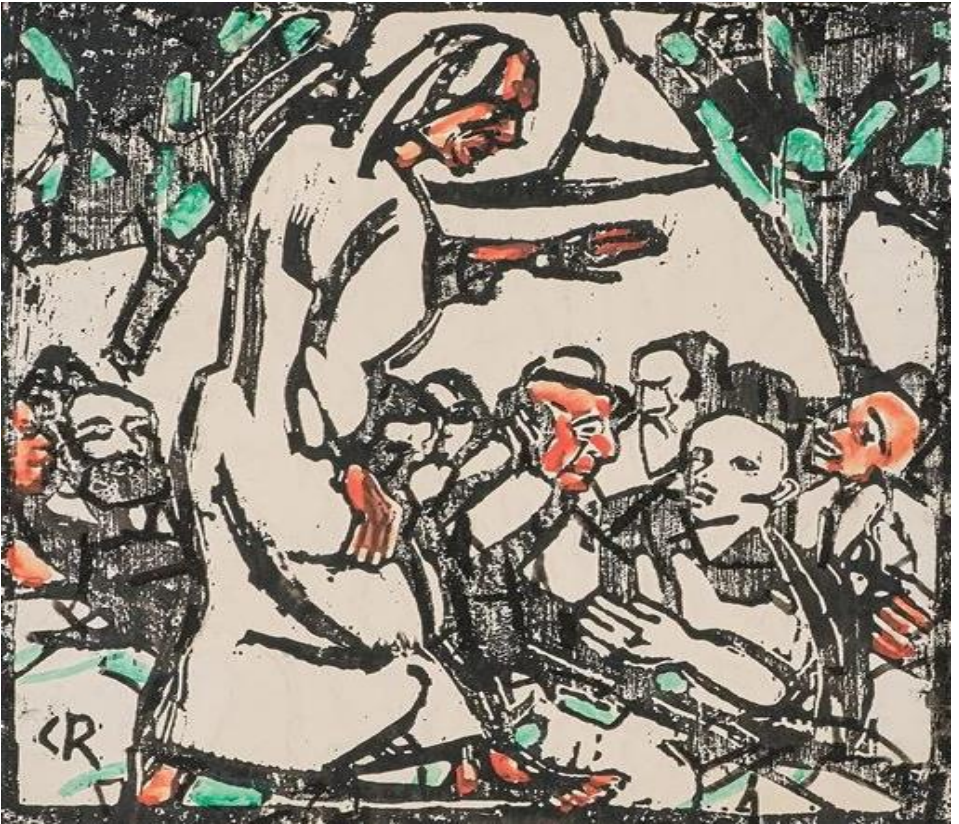




*An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada*

2023 February 5

Epiphany 5



### **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*

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*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

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## *Friends in Christ*

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Prelude: *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* arr. by Pamela Robertson  
Allan Bevan, piano

Embracing Our Spirit

Introit: *Put Peace into Each Other's Hands* by Ron Klusmeier  
Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Call to Worship:

**Jesus says: We are the salt of the earth,**  
seasoning to bring out the flavour of God's world.  
**Jesus says: We are the light of the world,**  
to shine as a candle in the darkness.  
**We come to be salt and light, giving glory to our loving God.<sup>1</sup>**

Hymn: *This Little Light of Mine*

**This little light of mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine,  
This little light of mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine,  
This little light of mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine,  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**Won't let anyone blow it out,  
I'm gonna let it shine,  
Won't let anyone blow it out,  
I'm gonna let it shine,  
Won't let anyone blow it out,  
I'm gonna let it shine,  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**All around the world,  
I'm gonna let it shine,  
All around the world,  
I'm gonna let it shine,  
All around the world,  
I'm gonna let it shine,  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

Coming into God's Presence

Rev. Dirk Jessen

Prayer of Commitment:

**You set choices before us, O God—life and death, justice and fear.  
May this time of worship be full of meaning and of light. May we  
keep company with each other, and with you. When we waver or  
make poor choices, forgive us. When we live as if our choices  
didn't matter, guide us into right paths again. When we ignore**

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<sup>1</sup> Written by Peter Kennedy, *Worship for all Seasons II*, page 68, Used with permission.

**your truth or turn away from your light, remind us of our call to live in love. 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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*God's Holy Word*

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Prayer of Illumination:

**God of the ages, we come to the scriptures looking for you and seeking to discover your will for us. Encourage and challenge us with a message that we are loved and we are called to be disciples, to be witnesses, and to spread your love to all people. Give us the grace and wisdom we need to do these things as we hear and reflect on these words. Amen<sup>3</sup>**

Anthem: *Light and Salt* by Roger Holland II

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Scriptures:

Iiona Bevan

Isaiah 58:1-9 • True Worship

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. “Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicket fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly, your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and the Lord will say, here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of the evil.

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<sup>2</sup> Written by Robin Wardlaw, **Gathering**, A/C/E, 2016/17, p.46. Used with permission.

<sup>3</sup> Written by Beth W. Johnston, **Gathering**, A/C/E, 2016/17, p.46. Used with permission.

Matthew 5:13-20 • Salt, light, God's purpose fulfilled.

“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to the Creator in heaven. Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

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

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon: *Fulfilling*

Rev. Dirk Jessen

Hymn: *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

*Voices United 651*

**Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,  
pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but thou art mighty;  
hold me with thy powerful hand;  
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,  
feed me till I want no more,  
feed me till I want no more.**

**Open now the crystal fountain  
whence the healing stream doth flow;  
let the fire and cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through.  
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,  
be thou still my strength and shield,  
be thou still my strength and shield.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death, and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side:  
songs of praises, songs of praises  
I will ever give to thee,  
I will ever give to thee.**

**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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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:

**Take these gifts we offer today, O God. Sprinkle them with the salt of your love. Infuse them with the light of your presence. May they be used to promote your will in our community and in the world around us. Amen.<sup>4</sup>**

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<sup>4</sup> Written by Cheryl Hutchcroft, *Gathering*, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany, 2019/20, p. 52. Used with permission.

**Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours.**

**Here on this earth, yours is the work,**

**To serve with the joy of compassion.**

**No hands but yours to heal the wounded world,**

**No hands but yours to soothe all its suffering,**

**No touch but yours to bind the broken hope**

**Of the people of God.**

**Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours.**

**Here on this earth, yours is the work,**

**To serve with the joy of compassion.**

**No eyes but yours to see as Christ would see,**

**To find the lost, to gaze with compassion;**

**No eyes but yours to glimpse the holy joy of the city of God.**

**Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours.**

**Here on this earth, yours is the work,**

**To serve with the joy of compassion.**

**No feet but yours to journey with the poor,**

**To walk this world with mercy and justice.**

**Yours are the steps to build a lasting peace for the children of God.**

**Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours.**

**Here on this earth, yours is the work,**

**To serve with the joy of compassion.**

**Through ev'ry gift, give back to those in need:**

**As Christ has blessed, so now be his blessing,**

**With ev'ry gift a benediction, be to the people of God.**

**Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours.**

**Here on this earth, yours is the work,**

**To serve with the joy of compassion.**

Commissioning:

We are called, each of us, all of us, ready or not, to proclaim on God's behalf: a word of hope, a word of challenge, a word of warning, a word of healing. We are called not because we are especially intelligent or brave, but because the world needs to know that there is life beyond hope and despair, justice beyond injustice and love—always love—beyond hatred and fear.<sup>5</sup>

Postlude: *This Little Light of Mine* by Harry Dixon Loes arr. Randall Hartsell

Allan Bevan, piano

Questions for Reflection:

How have you received “salt” and “light” from people of faith? What difference has it made to you and your faith to be a source of “salt” and “light” to other people?

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<sup>5</sup> Written by Juanita Austin, *Worship for all Seasons II*, page 68, Used with permission.

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## R-W Report

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### Next Sunday

Sunday, Feb 12, 2023

### Epiphany 6

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

**Deuteronomy 30:15-20** • Choose the fullness of life.

**Matthew 5:21-26** • Teaching on anger.

**Sermon:** Living with honour and respect.

We belong to God. This is God's promise to us. We belong, we have purpose. Through Jesus we learn about healthy relationships and how to treat one another. Often religious institutions refer to God's commandments as restrictions. What if we see them as prescriptions that lead to living a faith filled life? If we are to change the culture of suspicion, fear, and need for control into respect, trust and empowerment we choose the fullness of life that God offers.

**Music:** Dr. Allan Bevan, organist; Cantilon Vox Choir

### WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun Feb 5	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 Feb 6	Book Study - <b>Club Room &amp; Zoom</b>	2:30 pm
	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	7:00 pm
Tues Feb 7	Scripture Reflections - <b>Club Room &amp; Zoom</b>	12:00 pm
	DEAP - <b>Club Room</b>	5:30 pm
Wed Feb 8	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	1:30 pm
	R-W Choir - <b>Lower Hall &amp; Sanctuary</b>	7:30 pm
Thur Feb 9	Men's Group - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	9:00 am
	Nova Bells - <b>Lower Hall</b>	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers - <b>Lower Hall</b>	6:45 pm
Sat Feb 11	Book Study - <b>Club Room &amp; Zoom</b>	6:30 pm
	Community Dinner - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	5:00 pm

### ON THE HORIZON

Sun Feb 12	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 Feb 13	Book Study - <b>Club Room &amp; Zoom</b>	2:30 pm
	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	7:00 pm
Tues Feb 14	Scripture Reflections - <b>Club Room &amp; Zoom</b>	12:00 pm
	UCW - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	1:30 pm
	Finance Meeting - <b>Club Room</b>	7:00 pm



Wed Feb 15	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b> R-W Choir - <b>Lower Hall &amp; Sanctuary</b>	1:30 pm 7:30 pm
Thur Feb 16	Nova Bells - <b>Lower Hall</b> R-W Ringers - <b>Lower Hall</b> Book Study - <b>Club Room &amp; Zoom</b>	5:15 pm 6:45 pm 6:30 pm
Sat Feb 18	Gratitude Team Meeting - <b>Room 11</b>	9:00 am

### Volunteer Opportunities

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

We are continuing our search for two additional ringers who can read music to begin ringing this winter. 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.

#### **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), who is being called for the role of Member at Large, and who is being called for Northern Spirit Regional Representative 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.

### R-W News & Notes

#### **ANNUAL REPORT**

The deadline for reports from the committees, pods and groups of the church is **Today**. Send your information to [mail@rwuc.org](mailto:mail@rwuc.org) with “2022 Annual Report Submission” in the subject line.

#### **R-W MEN'S GROUP**

The Robertson Wesley Men's Group has arranged for a guided tour of the Loyal Edmonton Regiment Military Museum on Thursday, **February 9th**, starting at 10:30 am. The museum is located in the Prince of Wales Armouries at 10440-108 Avenue (west of Victoria High School). Cost of tour is \$2.00 per person. All in the congregation are invited. Participants will meet at the Church at 10:00 am, where those with automobiles can help organise car pooling before leaving for the Museum. Any questions may be directed to Louis Berlinguette (ph: 780-910-4486) or Jim Triscott (780-991-8837)

## **INCOME TAX RECEIPTS**

Income tax receipts for 2022 are ready. Save R-W postage and pick them up in Memorial Hall after worship. Statements not picked up will be mailed **February 24**.

## **FUNDRAISING PLANNING: MINI RUMMAGE SALES**

Would you like a small dose of the usual church Rummage Sale? The fundraising committee is hoping to launch very specific sales in the future, perhaps one that is only kitchen gadgets, another gardening supplies, perhaps children's toys, etc. Anyone interested in working on these mini-rummage sales are invited to meet after church on Sunday **February 12** in the Club Room, to discuss them. Looking forward to seeing anyone who is interested in turning Trash into Treasure!

## **WILD CHURCH**

This February, Wild Church is shining bright! We will gather around a fire at 1:00 pm on **Feb 19** at Emily Murphy Park (meet at the parking lot) to worship with the theme, "Light: Everything Else Follows". You are welcome to linger for a hot drink and conversation after worship (please bring a cup). Wild Church meets outdoors on the third Sunday afternoon each month and welcomes non-human and human creatures of all ages. Cancelled below -15°C with windchill. Contact [wildchurch@rwuc.org](mailto:wildchurch@rwuc.org) to arrange transportation.

## **GREEN BITES**

A few years ago I was on a walking tour of the city of Milan, Italy. Our guide took us to a well that was equipped with a pump, although the pump itself was no longer functional. The well at one time had supplied all the water for the citizens of Milan. A guard had stood watch to make sure than nobody took more than five litres of water for each member of each household. We don't often think of reducing our water consumption significantly. Perhaps we shorten our showers, or turn the tap off when brushing our teeth, but beyond that we don't pay much attention to how much water our households use. Let's start reducing our water consumption by thinking of the city of Milan and the many other places in the world that have lived for centuries with a water shortage. Or, to bring this story about water closer to home, when the first Northwest Mounted Police crossed Canada in 1874 on the March West, often the only source of water were the buffalo wallows. In order to have water for tea, the men would strain water through their dirty socks, then boil it, and make tea for the evening meal. Hard to imagine in this age of plumbing and clean tap water.

## **BETWEEN THE AISLES**

The theme for the next edition of *Between the Aisles* is Winter. Do you have a favourite memory about winter? We're looking for memories, stories, poems, and pictures about Winter. Please send your submissions to news@rwuc.org, the deadline for submissions is **February 12**.

## **FOOD BANK**

Quite often we are asked by Food Bank clients if we have toilet paper or menstrual supplies, while these items are available by request from the Food Bank, people don't always remember to request them in advance. We also need donations of plastic or reusable bags. If you can help with donations of menstrual products, toilet paper, or bags you can drop them off anytime during office hours 8:30-4:30 Monday to Friday or on Sundays. Thanks so much.

## **BUDGET INFORMATION SESSION**

Sunday, **February 26** after church. This will include time to look at the proposed budget for 2023 and ask questions about the 2022 finances. Printed copies of the Annual Report will be available.

## **ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

Sunday, **March 5** after church. The Annual Congregational Meeting of Robertson-Wesley will take place in Memorial Hall after the service.

## **In the Community**

### **BISSELL 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!

### **DREAMWORK CANADA WORKSHOPS**

Dreamwork Canada is an ecumenical group (Anglican, Mennonite, United Churches) that tries to reconnect, develop and help carry on the vital Judeo-Christian dreamwork tradition which functioned in the

Church from the time of the Old Testament. They hope to create a basis for Christians doing dreamwork today that will become an integral resource for the Christian community in understanding itself and seeking its divine purpose. They will have two workshops in February:

**February 21** - Symbols of Transformation in Dreams and

**February 28** -Exploring Dreams through Six Magic Questions. Visit [dreamworkcanada.squarespace.com](http://dreamworkcanada.squarespace.com) for more information or to register.

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### *Worship Notes*

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“This Little Light of Mine” has a complex and rich history for a simple hymn. It has a blues-styled structure that makes it look and sound like a traditional African-American spiritual, but it isn’t included in any collection of this genre. It appears that it was written as a poem in a 1925 collection by Edward G. Ivins from Helena, Montana. In 1933, there was a written report that it was sung as a chorus at an African Methodist Episcopal conference in Helena. There is also evidence that churches around the United States sang the song that year. Folklorists John and Alan Lomax made the earliest known recording of "This Little Light of Mine." In June 1934, they recorded Jim Boyd of Jacksonville, Texas, singing it while serving time in the State Penitentiary in Huntsville, Texas. “This Little Light of Mine” has been performed by numerous musicians over the years, but perhaps had its biggest impact as an anthem of the civil rights movement in the United States in the 1950s and 1960s. YouTube has a selection recordings of the song including (Rev. Dirk endorsed) live performances by Sister Rosetta Tharpe in 1960 and Bruce Springsteen in Dublin just a couple of years ago.

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### *Cover Image*

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Cover image is Bergpredict by Christian Rohlf (1849–1938).

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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