



*An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada*

2023 February 12

Epiphany 6



### **Welcome and Inclusion**

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

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## **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: *Prelude and Fugue in G*, by J. S. Bach

Allan Bevan, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Introit: *Cantate Domino*, by Hans Leo Hassler

Vox Choir

Call to Worship:

What do you seek?

**Life!**

Where do you seek it?

**Everywhere!**

Have you found it?

**Sometimes. In some places.**

Who are you, that you seek this life?

**We are beloved children of God, blessed by Jesus the Christ.**

Then, people of God, seek life in this place, seek life in this time, and know that no matter who you are - no matter where you come from - you are welcome here.

**We come seeking new life. We come seeking sanctuary.**

**We come to worship God.<sup>1</sup>**

Hymn: *Love Is the Touch*

*More Voices 89*

**Love is the touch of intangible joy;**

**love is the force that no fear can destroy;**

**love is the goodness we gladly applaud:**

**God is where love is, for love is of God.**

**Love is the lilt in a lingering voice;**

**love is the hope that can make us rejoice;**

**love is the cure for the frightened and flawed:**

**God is where love is, for love is of God.**

**Love is the light in the tunnel of pain;**

**love is the will to be whole once again;**

**love is the trust of a friend on the road:**

**God is where love is, for love is of God.**

**Love is the Maker and Spirit and Son;**

**love is the kingdom their will has begun;**

**love is the path which the saints all have trod:**

**God is where love is, for love is of God.**

Coming into God's Presence

Rev. Karen Bridges

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<sup>1</sup> Written by Richard Bott, **Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany, 2019/2020, p. 48.  
Used with permission.

Prayer of Commitment:

**We embrace our lives, ourselves - spirit, body, mind - as one, to be in community with others as we honour God and the gift of life. We release the pain of hopelessness, of being fractured and broken.**

Help us know the depths and desires of our heart toward joy. Help us to own up to the things we do not like about ourselves so that we can accept those things we cannot change. Help us realize destructive habits so that we can change them and honour our whole selves as sacred. Grant us the insight to see the differences between those things and habits in our lives that serve us well and those experiences that cause harm to ourselves and others. May we take courage to live life in a totally healthy manner. May we have the staying power to stay the course when it seems that our progress is too slow. Help us take small steps on a daily basis so that we may go the distance toward wholeness and being healthy. Help us remove ourselves from environments where people seek to hurt us.

**Deliver us from needing to make life difficult for ourselves when an easier, gentler path is available. Help us love ourselves and you so much, O God, as prayerful acts of worship. 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

Anthem: *O Love*, by Elaine Hagenberg

Vox Choir

Scriptures:

Brenda Sheppard

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

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God, walking in God's ways, and observing God's commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you

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<sup>2</sup> Written by Cheryl A. Kirk-Duggan, *The Undivided Soul: Helping Congregations Connect Body and Soul*, (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2001), p. 129-130.

are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying God, and holding fast to God, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Matthew 5:21-26 • Teaching on anger.

“You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, you shall not murder; and whoever murders shall be liable to judgement. But I say to you that if you are angry with a sibling, you will be liable to judgement; and if you insult a sibling, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your sibling has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your sibling and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with them, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.”

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

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon: *Living with honour and respect.*

Rev. Karen Bridges

Hymn: *Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive*

**Voices United 364**

**“Forgive our sins as we forgive,”  
you taught us, Christ, to pray;  
But you alone can grant us grace  
to live the words we say.**

**How can your pardon reach  
and bless the unforgiving heart  
that broods on wrongs,  
and will not let old bitterness depart?**

**In blazing light your cross reveals  
the truth we dimly knew:  
what trivial debts are owed to us,  
how great our debt to you!**

**O cleanse the depths within our souls  
and bid resentment cease;  
then, bound to all in bonds of love,  
our lives will spread your peace.**

**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:

**Our offering is a sign of our confidence in the ministry we share.  
It's a sign of our gratitude for the blessings we've received and  
our heartfelt intent to pay forward those blessings as we are able.  
Let's dedicate today's offering with our prayer. Amen.<sup>3</sup>**

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<sup>3</sup> Written by Susan Ivany, **Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany, 2022/23, p. 49. Used with permission.

**Praise with joy the world's Creator,  
God of justice, love and peace,  
source and end of human knowledge,  
God whose grace shall never cease.  
Celebrate the Maker's glory,  
power to rescue and release.**

**Praise to Christ who feeds the hungry,  
frees the captive, finds the lost,  
heals the sick, upsets religion,  
fearless both of fate and cost.  
Celebrate Christ's constant presence -  
friend and stranger, guest and host.**

**Praise the Spirit sent among us,  
liberating truth from pride,  
forging bonds where race or gender,  
age or nation dare divide.  
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure -  
foolishness none dare deride.**

**Praise the Maker, Christ, and Spirit,  
one God in community,  
calling Christians to embody  
oneness and diversity.  
This the world shall see reflected:  
God is One and One in Three.**

Commissioning:

We gather to absorb love  
**and we go forth to love;**  
we gather to be inspired  
**and leave to inspire;**  
we gather for a service  
**and we go forth to be of service.**  
we gather to connect with truth  
**and go forth to live our truth.<sup>4</sup>**

Postlude: *Chorale Prelude on "Praise My Soul,"* by John Goss arr. by  
Raymond Haan Allan Bevan, organ

Questions for Reflection:

How have you honoured others this past week?  
How have you included others in your faith journey?

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<sup>4</sup> Written by David Lander, **Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany, 2015/16, p. 44.  
Used with permission.

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# R-W Report

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## Next Sunday

Sunday, Feb 19, 2023

### Transfiguration Sunday & Life Passages

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

**2 Peter 1:16-21** • Faith and true community are rooted in eyewitness accounts of Jesus.

**Matthew 17:1-9** • The Transfiguration.

**Sermon:** Transcendence

When it comes to the "Transfiguration" of Jesus, his being transformed in appearance, chatting with Moses and Elijah on a mountain and the very voice of God heard in a "bright cloud", this story is simply beyond us. That may be just the point that God's presence is significantly in and of another realm, with occasional, brief glimpses of God's "beyond." We are reminded by this vivid, even mysterious story that God indeed transcends time, physical form, place, culture, religion and any other way we try to describe and understand our existence, and God's. Yet, this story is part of our scriptures, considered as important as Jesus' birth, teaching, miracle-working, death and resurrection. With rational explanation elusive, what feeling or feelings does this story evoke for you?

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

### WEEK AT A GLANCE

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
	Rummage Sale Planning Meeting - <b>Room 11</b>	12:00 pm
Mon Feb 13	Book Study - <b>Club Room &amp; Zoom</b>	3:00 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>	1:30 pm
	R-W Choir - <b>Lower Hall &amp; Sanctuary</b>	7:30 pm
Thur Feb 16	Nova Bells - <b>Lower Hall</b>	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers - <b>Lower Hall</b>	6:45 pm
	Book Study - <b>Club Room &amp; Zoom</b>	7:00 pm
Sat Feb 18	Gratitude Team Meeting - <b>Room 11</b>	9:00 am



## **ON THE HORIZON**

Sun Feb 19	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
	Wild Church - <b>Emily Murphy Park</b>	1:00 pm
	Book Study - <b>Club Room &amp; Zoom</b>	3:00 pm
Mon Feb 20	Church Closed	
Tues Feb 21	Scripture Reflections - <b>Club Room &amp; Zoom</b>	12:00 pm
	R-W Board Meeting - <b>Room 11</b>	7:00 pm
Wed Feb 22	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	1:30 pm
	Ash Wednesday - <b>Sanctuary</b>	7:00 pm
	R-W Choir - <b>Lower Hall &amp; Sanctuary</b>	7:30 pm
Thur Feb 23	Nova Bells - <b>Lower Hall</b>	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers - <b>Lower Hall</b>	6:45 pm
	Book Study - <b>Club Room &amp; Zoom</b>	7:00 pm

## **Volunteer Opportunities**

### **ROBERTSON-WESLEY RINGERS**

Do you read music and would like to try your hand at bells (sorry for the pun!). The R.-W Ringers has room for a new member. Do you know that ringing is good for both the brain and the soul! Consider bringing your talents to our group. 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**

### **CHURCH CLOSED**

The Church will be closed on Monday, **February 20** in observance of Family Day.

## **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 **Today**.

## **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 **Today** in Room 11, 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 to arrange transportation.

## **UNITED CHURCH WOMEN & FRIENDS**

R-W UCW and Friends will be meeting on Tuesday, **February 14**, at 1:30 p.m. in Memorial Hall. For this meeting, bring your favourite poem or short readings to share. It is Valentine's Day, but if you'd rather share something unrelated to the day, that is very welcome. As usual, we will have coffee, tea and some goodies to share. All are welcome.

## **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.

## **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**.

## **HONOURING FRANK HENDERSON**

We have learned that Frank Henderson has passed away. Frank and his late wife Ruth have left a lasting legacy in the large collection of hymnals that were donated to R-W in 2014, now known as the Ruth & Frank Henderson Hymnal Collection which is housed in the R-W Library. Franks obituary can be found by visiting: [edmontonjournal.com/remembering.ca/obituary/joseph-henderson-1087106932](http://edmontonjournal.com/remembering.ca/obituary/joseph-henderson-1087106932)

## **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 Sanctuary after the service.

## **GREEN BITES**

We have all done it. We have found ourselves down a rabbit hole when we are on our computers. How about checking out Waste Wise Edmonton and go down a rabbit hole on that site. You will be amazed and impressed at the amount of meaningful information available to Edmontonians about the city's waste management program. Why not check out waste wise Edmonton and learn much more about recycling and garbage disposal? You will be entertained, and enlightened, for sure!  
-the Environmental Stewardship Group.

## **In the Community**

### **EARTHQUAKES IN TURKEY AND SYRIA**

On Monday, February 6, a massive earthquake hit southern Turkey and neighbouring Syria. The United Church of Canada is deeply concerned for all those affected, particularly the thousands who have lost their homes and their lives. The United Church is in contact with partners in the region to learn more about the impact and understand how best to offer our support. Please include the people of Turkey, Syria, and other countries affected in your prayers, and consider making a donation to the emergency relief fund by visiting: [united-church.ca/social-action/act-now/global-emergency-response](http://united-church.ca/social-action/act-now/global-emergency-response)

## 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.

## 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 homelessness 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!

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### *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 Vox Choir, Elaine Myhre, conductor for their gift of music today.

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### *Cover Image*

Cover image taken by Rev. Karen Bridges on the lawn of R-W in May of 2019.

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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