



*An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada*

2023 March 5

Lent 2



### **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

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## *Friends in Christ*

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Prelude: *The King of Love my Shepherd Is*, Trad. Irish melody arr. by Charles Callahan  
Allan Bevan, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Introit: *Welcome*, by John Krumm

Cantilon Kindersingers

Gathering Prayer:

**God of the Wilderness, God of the Journey,  
soften our hearts and open our ears  
that we might heed Wisdom's call.  
Stir us to vision and action,  
that we may extend your love  
wherever there is need for hope or healing. Amen.<sup>1</sup>**

Hymn: *You Are Holy*

*More Voices 45*

**You are holy, you show us the way,  
You are holy, you show us the way.  
You are holy, you show us the way,  
You are holy, you show us the way.**

**You show us, you show us, you show us the way,  
You show us, you show us, you show us the way.  
You show us, you show us, you show us the way,  
You show us, you show us, you show us the way.**

**You are freedom, you show us the way,  
You are freedom, you show us the way.  
You are freedom, you show us the way,  
You are freedom, you show us the way.**

**You show us, you show us, you show us the way,  
You show us, you show us, you show us the way.  
You show us, you show us, you show us the way,  
You show us, you show us, you show us the way.**

**You are justice, you show us the way,  
You are justice, you show us the way.  
You are justice, you show us the way,  
You are justice, you show us the way.**

**You show us, you show us, you show us the way,  
You show us, you show us, you show us the way.  
You show us, you show us, you show us the way,  
You show us, you show us, you show us the way.**

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<sup>1</sup> From; *Out of the fire: Worship and Liberation Theology*. Copyright Gertrude Leban, Artemis Enterprises. Found in *Coming into God's Presence: A Book of Services for The United Church of Canada*, 2000, United Church Publishing House, p. 152.

M&S Bucket (Dec/Jan/February)

*Let us celebrate the special events in our lives of the last 3 months with a special donation into the bucket for Mission and Service.*

Prayer of Lament and Thanksgiving:

Psalm 121 • I lift my eyes up to the hills. *Voices United p. 844*

**Sung Refrain: Our help is in the name of our God  
who made heaven and earth.**

I lift up my eyes to the hills.

From where will I look for help?

**My help comes from God, who has made heaven and earth.**

God will not let your foot stumble;

the One who protects Israel will not slumber

**The One who protects you will neither slumber nor sleep.**

**Sung Refrain: Our help is in the name of our God  
who made heaven and earth.**

It is God who protects you, your defence at your right hand.

**The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

God will protect you from all evil, God will protect your life.

**God will protect your going and coming, now and forever.**

**Sung Refrain: Our help is in the name of our God  
who made heaven and earth.**

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### *God's Holy Word*

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Prayer of Illumination

**God of the distant past, God of the far-reaching future, God of the here and now: we receive words from the ancient texts, we read the sayings of Jesus, and we listen to today's interpretation.**

**We pray that your word will continue to be as meaningful and challenging to us today and in the future as it was to Abraham and Nicodemus, our ancestors in faith.<sup>2</sup>**

Anthem: *The Rainbow*, by Cyril Hampshire

Cantilon Kindersingers

Scriptures:

Anne Rix

Genesis 12:1-4a • God sends Abram and Sarai forth.

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your Creator's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the

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<sup>2</sup> Written by Fern Gibbard, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter, 2019, p. 34. Used with permission.

one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

John 3:1-17 • Jesus and Nicodemus

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God. Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to Jesus, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘you must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sounds of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Human One. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Human One be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. “For God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

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

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon: *God So Loved*

Rev. Dirk Jessen

Hymn: *New Every Morning*

*Voices United 405*

**New every morning is the love  
our wakening and uprising prove;  
through sleep and darkness safely brought,  
restored to life, and power, and thought.**

**New mercies, each returning day,  
hover around us while we pray;  
new perils past, new sins forgiven,  
new thoughts of God, new hopes of heaven.**

**If on our daily course our mind  
be set to hallow all we find,  
new treasures still of countless price**

**God will provide for sacrifice.**

**The trivial round, the common task,  
will furnish all we ought to ask,  
room to deny ourselves, a road  
to bring us daily nearer God.**

**Only, O God, in your dear love,  
fit us for perfect rest above;  
and help us, this and every day,  
to live more nearly as we pray.**

Pastoral Prayers

Sung Lord's Prayer:

**Our Creator, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom 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 them that trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil:  
for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

Rev. Karen Bridges

*Voices United* p. 960

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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.*

Anthem: *Little Wheel*, Trad. Appalachian Folksong

Cantlon Kindersingers

Prayer of Gratitude:

**Gracious God, you are generous beyond understanding. You have given us everything good and we thank you. We ask that you accept our giving back to you of our money and our time, of our energy and our talents. We ask that you bless every situation where our gifts go to work in the generous spirit of Jesus.<sup>3</sup>**

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<sup>3</sup> Written by David Sparks, *Gathering*, Lent/Easter, 2019, p. 35. Used with permission.

**To Abraham and Sarah  
the call of God was clear:  
“Go forth and I will show you  
a country rich and fair.  
You need not fear the journey  
for I have pledged my word:  
that you shall be my people  
and I will be your God.”**

**From Abraham and Sarah  
arose a pilgrim race,  
dependent for their journey  
on God’s abundant grace;  
and in their heart was written  
by God this saving word:  
that you shall be my people  
and I will be your God.”**

**We of this generation  
on whom God’s hand is laid,  
can journey to the future  
secure and unafraid,  
rejoicing in God’s goodness  
and trusting in this word:  
“that you shall be my people  
and I will be your God.”**

Commissioning:

**Like Abraham and Sarah faithfully leaving their homeland, like  
Jesus setting out on the road to Jerusalem, you call us,  
adventuring God, to take the way that cannot be fully known.  
Like them, we will accept the difficulties, we will face the fear, we  
will welcome the unknown because in every faithful venture, you  
are with us. We also go believing that your vision has inspired us.  
We go trusting in the strengths of those who accompany us. We  
go certain that you are with us. Amen.<sup>4</sup>**

Postlude: *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*, by Lowell Mason arr. by Patricia  
Sanders Cota Nova Bells

Questions for Reflection:

Have you ever been at a point in your life where you had to take a leap of faith? What conversations did you have to help you decide what to do? How did your relationship with God change in the process?

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<sup>4</sup> Written by David Sparks, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter, 2020, p. 39. Used with permission.

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## *R-W Report*

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### Next Sunday

**Sunday, March 12, 2023**

#### **Lent 3**

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

**Psalm 95** • Let us shout to the rock of our salvation.

**Romans 5:1-5** • Hope in God.

**John 4:5-42** • Jesus and the Samaritan woman.

**Sermon:** *A Daring Request.*

Lent is a season of accountability, of trust in God, and learning to use our best judgement. Jesus is a living example of discerning how to live as God intended. How do we learn, and grow in order to strive to be better human beings? We are all touched by the brokenness in this world, and we know how the rise of selfish individualism can erode human solidarity, and so we dare like Jesus to challenge rules that no longer fit, or that could potentially harm others. Jesus shows us a different way when he daringly crosses the boards of cultural expectations, norms and rules.

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

#### **WEEK AT A GLANCE**

Sun Mar 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
	ACM - <b>Sanctuary &amp; Zoom</b>	12:00 pm
	Book Study - <b>Club Room &amp; Zoom</b>	3:00 pm
Mon Mar 6	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	7:00 pm
Tues Mar 7	Scripture Reflections - <b>Club Room &amp; Zoom</b>	12:00 pm
	DEAP - <b>Club Room</b>	7:00 pm
	Spirited Arts Movement Workshop – <b>Room 11</b>	7:00 pm
Wed Mar 8	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	1:30 pm
	R-W Choir - <b>Lower Hall &amp; Sanctuary</b>	7:30 pm
Thur Mar 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
	Book Study - <b>Club Room &amp; Zoom</b>	7:00 pm
Sat Mar 11	Community Dinner - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	5:00 pm
	Youth Group - <b>Youth Room</b>	7:00 pm



## **ON THE HORIZON**

Sun Mar 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
	Book Study - <b>Room 11 &amp; Zoom</b>	3:00 pm
Mon Mar 13	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	7:00 pm
Tues Mar 14	Scripture Reflections - <b>Club Room &amp; Zoom</b>	12:00 pm
	Property Committee - <b>Room 11</b>	1:00 pm
	UCW - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	1:30 pm
	Finance Meeting - <b>Club Room</b>	7:00 pm
Wed Mar 15	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	1:30 pm
	R-W Choir - <b>Lower Hall &amp; Sanctuary</b>	7:30 pm
Thur Mar 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

## **Volunteer Opportunities**

### **COMMUNITY DINNER**

Volunteers are needed for a variety of roles at the Community Dinner on **March 11**. Please sign up in Memorial Hall.

### **ROBERTSON-WESLEY RINGERS**

Do you read music and would like to try your hand at bells (sorry for the pun!). The R-W Ringers have 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. If you are interested please speak with Dr. Allan Bevan after service, email [music@rwuc.org](mailto:music@rwuc.org) or call (780) 482-1587 ext. 230.

## **R-W News & Notes**

### **THANK YOU**

The bake sale last Sunday raised \$563.45 for the Anniversary Legacy Fund. Thank you for your support and generosity.

### **ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**Today** after church. The Annual Congregational Meeting of R-W will take place in the Sanctuary and on Zoom after the service. To join the Zoom visit <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89903114499> after 11:45 am. Annual Reports are available in Memorial Hall.

## **SPIRITED ARTS MOVEMENT WORKSHOP: MOVING LIKE THE ANIMALS**

**March 7** at 7:00 pm in Room 11. This acting workshop will explore how we can use animals to inspire us in performance. Animal influences can change how we move, how we speak, how we feel. This will be exploration-only. No performance experience required or expected. Our exploration of animals will be focused on exploring our own states as we wake up out of our own hibernations. Are we like a bear? A bird? A rabbit? What can we learn from animals we are naturally like or unlike? Through moving like animals, we hope to learn more about ourselves. No animals will be present - we'll use our imaginations!

## **GREEN BITES**

Here we are, in the early part of Lent, when ritual and restraint are practised. We experienced the wonderful ritual of Ash Wednesday, one of the most meaningful practices of Christianity. Now we are well- into Restraint. How will each one of us practise restraint each day? Will we resist purchasing fresh raspberries that have travelled thousands of miles to rest on a shelf in a supermarket? Will we walk each day in one of Edmonton's many parks, taking note of the birds and the appearance of each tree's bark? Will we resist complaining about the weather and, instead, spend the day browsing in the library? How about sitting quietly and watching the wind blow through the stalks of plants in our gardens? Lent is truly a time of rest and quiet anticipation of spring, and the resurrection to come.

## **FOOD BANK**

The Food Bank is in need of donations of plastic or reusable bags. If you can help with a donation of bags you can drop them off anytime during office hours 8:30-4:30 Monday to Friday or on Sundays. Thank you to everyone who donated toilet paper and menstrual products! We are well stocked now.

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

The Robertson-Wesley Men's Group will be meeting in Memorial Hall, on Thursday, **March 9th** from 9:30 am to 11:00 am. The agenda will consist of Grant Harlton presenting and chairing a discussion regarding residential downsizing based on his recent experience. Coffee will be served, bring snacks, everybody is welcome. Any questions call Jim Triscott at 780-991-8837.

## **WILD CHURCH**

Wild Church will gather at Emily Murphy Park at 1pm on **March 19**. We will explore WIND as the first in the series, “Praying with the Elements”. All are welcome! Dress for the weather, meet at the east parking lot, and bring an empty mug if you’d like to stay for a hot drink after worship. Cancelled below -15°C with windchill.

## **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)

### **AFFORDABLE HOUSING RALLY**

Today, we are seeing a surge of people out on the street or struggling to pay rent or buy groceries. On **March 24** at 2 pm you are invited to stand with tens of thousands of people in communities all across the province in support of a solid, long-term plan to address these issues. In the Edmonton area, we will rally together at the main steps of the provincial legislature. To sign the petition or to learn how you can join the effort, please visit <http://www.interfaithhousing.ca>. Please help spread this message! To connect with rally organizers in Edmonton or in other participating cities, please visit: <http://www.interfaithhousing.ca>.

### **BEVAN AND THE BARDS**

R-W Music Director, Allan Bevan is guest conducting the Edmonton Metropolitan Chorus in a program of his award-winning choral works entitled “Bevan and the Bards”. The concert will feature selected pieces composed by Dr. Bevan over the past 20 years. Guest musicians include, Marnie Giesbrecht, organ, Keri Zwicker, harp, and Frank Ho, violin. The concert will be at First Presbyterian Church, on Sunday, **March 19**, 3pm. Tickets online, from Ilona Bevan, or at the door.

## CANTILON CHOIRS: WANTING MEMORIES

Cantilon's ensemble for low voices, Vox Hominis is collaborating with their Chamber Choir to present *Wanting Memories*. This program of diverse music is unified in its ability to evoke nostalgia and joy. Featuring Cantilon alumni, baritone Daniel Thielmann, this concert will bring warmth and light to your journey through winter. Robertson-Wesley United Church on Saturday **March 11** at 7:00pm. Tickets are available online and at the door.

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### *Worship Notes*

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As we enter the season of Lent which lasts for 40 days and nights we follow Jesus into the wilderness and into a time of reflection and turning toward God. For this season, we will engage in more silence and reflection, thus we will not be singing after the offering. We will sing the Lord's prayer to hear these words anew. We will refrain from saying Hallelujah, until Palm Sunday. This is a time to explore new ways of prayer and contemplation while renewing our commitment to God and to living out our faith in the world.

Thank you to Choir Director Amy Bautista and the Cantilon Kindersingers for their gift of music today.

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### *Cover Image*

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Bridging Minister: Rev. Dirk Jessen

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