



*An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada*

2023 March 12

Lent 3

**A daring request...  
...a faithfilled  
response.**



**Welcome and  
Inclusion**

We open our hearts and our church family to all people in our community regardless of ethnicity, economic circumstances, sexual orientation, age, gender identity, or differing abilities. 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: *Fugue in D*, by Johann Krieger

Allan Bevan, organ

### Embracing Our Spirit

Introit: *Domine Deus*, by Antonio Vivaldi

Jacqueline Hernandez, soloist

*Domine Deus, Rex coelestis,*

Lord God, Heavenly King,

*Deus Pater omnipotens.*

God the Father Almighty.

### 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: *My Love Colours Outside the Lines*

*More Voices* 138

**My love colours outside the lines,**

**exploring paths that few could ever find,**

**and takes me into places where I've never been before,**

**and opens doors to worlds outside the lines.**

**My Lord colours outside the lines,**

**turns wounds into blessings, water into wine;**

**and takes me into places where I've never been before**

**and opens doors to worlds outside the lines**

**We'll never walk on water if were not prepared to drown,**

**body and soul need a soaking from time to time,**

**and we'll never move gravestones; if we're not prepared to die**

**and realize there are worlds outside the lines.**

**My soul longs to colour outside the lines,**

**tear back the curtains, sun, come in and shine;**

**I want to walk beyond the boundaries**

**where I've never been before**

**throw open doors to worlds outside the lines.**

**We'll never walk on water if were not prepared to drown,**

**body and soul need a soaking from time to time,**

**and we'll never move gravestones; if we're not prepared to die**

**and realize there are worlds outside the lines.**

**My soul longs to colour outside the lines,**

**tear back the curtains, sun, come in and shine;**

**I want to walk beyond the boundaries**

**where I've never been before,**

**throw open doors to worlds outside the lines.**

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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.

Prayer of Lament and Thanksgiving:

Psalm 95 • Shout to the rock of our salvation *Voices United* p. 814  
Part 1

**Sung Refrain: Come, let us bow down and worship,  
let us kneel before God our maker.**

O come, let us sing to God,  
**let us shout with joy to the rock of our salvation.**  
Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving;  
**let us joyously shout to God with songs of praise.**

**Sung Refrain: Come, let us bow down and worship,  
let us kneel before God our maker.**

For you are a great God,  
**high sovereign above all gods.**  
In your hand are the depths of the earth;  
**to you belong the heights of the mountains.**  
The sea is yours, for you made it;  
**your hands also formed the dry land.**  
You are indeed our God;  
**we are your people, the flock that you shepherd.**

**Sung Refrain: Come, let us bow down and worship,  
let us kneel before God our maker.**

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*God's Holy Word*

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Prayer of Illumination:

Living Word, your revelations are inspiring, unsettling, and sometimes beyond our comprehension. We give thanks for your word, which continues to be an everlasting source of wisdom.<sup>2</sup>

Anthem: *Wondrous Love*, American Folk Hymn arr. by Larry Shackley  
Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Scriptures: Marilee Stephens

Romans 5:1-5 • Hope in God.

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces

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<sup>2</sup> Written by Anne Matthewson, *Gathering*, Lent/Easter, 2023, p. 36. Used with permission.

character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

John 4:27-42 • Jesus and the Samaritan woman.

Just then the disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." But Jesus said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of God who sent me and to complete God's work. Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour." Many Samaritans from the city believed in Jesus because of the woman's testimony." He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to Jesus, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world."

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

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon: *A daring request.*

Rev. Karen Bridges

Hymn: *By the Well, a Thirsty Woman*

**More Voices 117**

**Tune: Ebenezer VU 198**

**By the well, a thirsty woman  
found the life that you could give,  
we, too, thirst like empty vessels -  
fill us full that we may live.  
Jesus, source of living water,  
Well-spring bubbling deep within,  
By the waters of our baptism  
wisdom purpose life begin.**

**Plant us firm, like trees by water,  
send our roots down deep in you,  
quench our parched and thirsty spirits  
with your water, pure and true.**

**Jesus, source of living water,  
Nourisher of all on earth,  
By the waters of our baptism  
quicken growth and give new birth.**

**May we be your streams of justice,  
as the water, may we move  
through your people- by your Spirit  
showing mercy, sharing love.**

**Jesus, source of living water,  
Ground-swell forcing truth to view,  
By the waters of our baptism  
set us free to live for you.**

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. Dirk Jessen

*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.*

Bell Anthem: *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*, by Sebastian Temple arr.

Martha Lynn Thompson

Robertson-Wesley Ringers

Prayer of Gratitude:

Compassionate God, you offer us wisdom and spiritual guidance.  
May we take time in silence to listen to what you offer, so that we in  
turn may offer all that we are and all that we bring to you...

*silence*

Gracious God,

**bles and transform all that we offer:**

**our faltering steps, our brokenness, our hope, our risking, our  
hearts, that your covenant may be written on our hearts and we  
may be a blessed and transformed covenant people.**

**In Jesus' name. Amen.<sup>3</sup>**

Hymn: *Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery*

*Voices United 121*  
vv. 1-3 and 3rd Sunday

**Tree of Life and awesome mystery,  
in your death we are reborn,  
though you die in all of history,  
still you rise with every morn,  
still you rise with every morn.**

**Seed that dies to rise in glory,  
may we see ourselves in you,  
if we learn to live your story  
we may die to rise anew,  
we may die to rise anew.**

**We remember truth once spoken,  
love passed on through act and word,  
every person lost and broken  
wears the body of our Lord,  
wears the body of our Lord.**

**Living Water of salvation,  
be the fountain of each soul,  
springing up in new creation,  
flow in us and make us whole,  
flow in us and make us whole.**

Commissioning:

Let us go from here seeking to proclaim the Good News.

**We will seek to show one another where to find life-giving water  
and abundant love.**

Let us go as disciples and servants.

**Amen.<sup>4</sup>**

Postlude: *Here I Am, Lord*, arr. by Martha Lynn Thompson

R-W Ringers

Questions for Reflection:

How has your faith challenged the expectations of cultural norms?  
What are you thirsting for? How might your faith fulfil this thirst?

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<sup>3</sup> Celebrating God's Presence, 5R001.

<sup>4</sup> Written by Beth W Johnston, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter, 2023, p. 37. Used with permission.

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# R-W Report

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## Next Sunday

Sunday, March 19, 2023

### Lent 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 Samuel 15:35-1 Samuel 16:1, 10-12** • God chooses a new king.

**Psalms 23** • God is my shepherd.

**John 9:1-41 excerpted** • A Man Born Blind.

**Sermon:** Now I See!

The final sentence of 1 Samuel 15 is "And God was sorry to have made Saul king over Israel." It may come as a surprise that the Old Testament portrays God as fallible, as expressing regret over something as important as having made a wrong choice in a matter as consequential as who was made king. What matters is that God doesn't stop trying and in doing so makes a surprising choice for the next king. Both this week's Psalm and story about Jesus remind us that God works in very personal and direct ways that profoundly challenge everything we think we know. When have you experienced a situation that in retrospect could only have been God at work? How did this affect your relationship with God and with other people?

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

### WEEK AT A GLANCE

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
Wed Mar 15	Finance Meeting - <b>Club Room</b>	7:00 pm
	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

### ON THE HORIZON

Sun Mar 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
	Book Study - <b>Club Room &amp; Zoom</b>	3:00 pm
Mon Mar 20	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	7:00 pm
Tues Mar 21	Scripture Reflections - <b>Club Room &amp; Zoom</b>	12:00 pm
	R-W Board Meeting - <b>Room 11 &amp; Zoom</b>	7:00 pm
Wed Mar 22	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	1:30 pm
	Gratitude Team Meeting - <b>Club Room</b>	5:00 pm
	R-W Choir - <b>Lower Hall &amp; Sanctuary</b>	7:30 pm
Thur Mar 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
Sat Mar 25	Youth Group - <b>Away</b>	7:00 pm

### Volunteer Opportunities

#### **HYDRANGEA HELPERS**

Volunteers are needed to help with the Easter Sunday Hydrangeas. Volunteers are needed for: taking orders on Sundays after worship on **March 19, 26**, and **April 2**. Wrapping and handing out on **April 9**, and delivering. If you are interested 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

#### **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.

#### **BETWEEN THE AISLES**

Hot off the presses, a new issue of *Between the Aisles* featuring musings, an interview, and recipes, plus church activity listings for Holy Week and Easter, grab your copy today from the racks near the entrances.

## **GREEN BITES**

Human life, and the life of everything on Mother Earth, depends on water. Unfortunately, many of our rivers such as the Ganges, Amazon, Rhine, and the Nile, not to mention many of the rivers in here in North America, are full of toxic chemicals, plastic, sewage, and trash. In fact, the rivers are dying. Where will we get water, especially clean water, in the future? But there is hope. The UN Water Conference will take place on March 22 to 24 in New York. Let us hope that world leaders will implement a plan to preserve and protect earth's water, and not simply agree to do so. After all, water experts throughout the world warn us that within two years, about two-thirds of the world's population could face shortages of clean water. And if you have a prayer list, consider adding the UN Water Conference to that list. - The Environmental Stewardship Group.

## **EMAIL SAFETY TIPS**

Recently people from the church have been experiencing scam emails, using a method called spoofing. Email spoofing is when a scammer forges (spoofs) the email's from address, so the sent message appears to have been sent from someone you know with the intention of infecting your computer with malware, asking for money or stealing information. These addresses can either be created by using alternative numbers or letters to look slightly different than the original, or by disguising the 'from' field to be the exact email address of someone in your network. If you receive an email that looks like it is from someone you know, requesting gift cards or help and asking for secrecy, please feel free to call Elyse in the church office or the person who sent it to confirm legitimacy, do not reply to the email because the reply will get sent to the scammer.

### **What to do if your email has been spoofed:**

Don't panic, spoofing does not mean that the scammer has access to your account, they are only making it appear as though they do. You have not been hacked. Spoofing is a temporary issue that will often be resolved in a few weeks when the scammer will move on.

1. Email everyone in your contacts to let them know to disregard any suspicious emails from you.
2. Just to be safe, run a full virus scan on your computer. This ensures that you have not experienced a malware or virus infection and helps eliminate the possibility that you have a compromised account.
3. Update your email password, making sure that you have a robust and secure password.

## UNITED CHURCH WOMEN & FRIENDS

Robertson-Wesley UCW and Friends will be meeting on Tuesday, **March 14** at 1:30 p.m. in Memorial Hall. All are welcome to come to view a video of the 2023 World Day of Prayer service and to share tea, coffee and discussion. The video has been prepared by Women's Interchurch Council of Canada, using material prepared by the women of Taiwan on the theme, "I Have Heard About Your Faith" (Ephesians 1:15-19). World Day of Prayer is part of an ecumenical movement which has been active for almost 100 years and has participants from 170 countries.

## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Learn the story of Jesus' life and death through a variety of hour long worshipful experiences. All services will be in person and livestreamed with the exception of the Easter Sunrise service which will be in person only.



### ***Palm Parade***

Sunday, April 2 10:30 am  
*Palm Sunday*



### ***A Wake for Jesus***

Saturday, April 8 7:00 pm  
*Easter Vigil*



### ***Last Supper***

Thursday, April 6 7:00 pm  
*Maundy Thursday*



### **The Resurrection**

Sunday, April 9 7:30 am  
*Easter Sunrise Service*  
Paul Kane Park

Sunday, April 9 10:30 am  
*Easter Sunday Service*



### ***At the Cross***

Friday, April 7 10:30 am  
*Good Friday*

## In the Community

### 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 thru Tix-on-the-Square, Eventbrite, or from Ilona Bevan.

## WOMEN'S INTERFAITH SYMPOSIUM

**April 26** at 6:30 pm hosted by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Association. This annual multi-faith event brings together scholars from the world's religions to speak on a common topic from the point of view of their respective religious traditions. In addition, it aims to explore the teachings and practices of different faiths and philosophical traditions, hoping that such mutual explorations will encourage better understanding and promote harmonious coexistence among the community members. This year's symposium's theme is 'The Empowerment of Women Through their Faith'. Rev. Karen Bridges will speak at this event along with a other women from different faith traditions. For more information and tickets visit: [eventbrite.ca/e/interfaith-symposium-empowerment-of-women-through-their-faith-tickets-568964256407](https://eventbrite.ca/e/interfaith-symposium-empowerment-of-women-through-their-faith-tickets-568964256407)

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### *Worship Notes*

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.

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### *Cover Image*

Cover image was taken by Rev. Karen Bridges in March 2023 in the Simien Mountains of Ethiopia. While hiking, we were invited to this woman's hut for coffee.

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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