



An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada

2023 March 19

Lent 4



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

Please know that in the eyes of God you already belong here and you are welcome to participate in any of the activities of the congregation.

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is Treaty 6 territory, a traditional meeting ground for Indigenous peoples. We acknowledge the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 4, who are of mixed Indigenous & European heritage.

ACCESSIBILITY

There is an elevator located inside the building with the glass door entrance.

Access ramps can be found: inside leading from the lobby to the sanctuary and outside at the rear of the building, leading from the parking lot.

There are accessible washrooms located in the lobby near the elevator.

Hearing assistance devices are available from the ushers.

Large print worship bulletins, and hymn books are available from the ushers.

Service animals are welcome, except where food is prepared.

We commit to make R-W a comfortable space for people with cognitive impairment. If you require accommodations related to cognitive functioning please contact the office.

BABY/ CHILDREN'S AMENITIES

People can breastfeed anywhere in the building, should you want more privacy there is designated nursing space in the Millson room, located by the grand piano. Baby changing tables are installed in all washrooms. If you wish to use it, a children's activity centre is set up in the Chapel. There are also activity books available for children. Please ask the usher.

INFORMATION

The ushers located at the entrances are here to help should you have any questions. More information about the church and church activities can be found in the pamphlet racks outside Memorial Hall.

PERSONAL BELONGINGS

Please do not leave valuables unattended anywhere in the church.



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

Friends in Christ

Prelude: *Sonatina*, by J. S. Bach arr. by Alexandre Guilmant Allan Bevan, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Introit: *I Heard the Voice of Jesus*, arr. by Russell Shulz-Widmar

Choir of Robertson-Wesley, Nova Bells

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.¹**

Hymn: *I Have Called You by Your Name*

More Voices 161

**I have called you by your name, you are mine;
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.
I will not abandon you;
all my promises are true.
You are gifted, called, and chosen; you are mine.**

**I will help you learn my name as you go;
read it written in my people, help them grow.
Pour the water in my name,
speak the word your soul can claim,
offer Jesus' body, given long ago.**

**I know you will need my touch as you go;
feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.
Like the woman reaching out,
choosing faith in spite of doubt,
hold the hem of Jesus' robe, then let it go.**

**I have given you a name, it is mine;
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.
With my wonder in your soul,
make my wounded children whole;
go and tell my precious people they are mine.**

Coming into God's Presence

Rev. Dirk Jessen

¹ 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 23 • The Lord is my Shepherd

Voices United p. 749

**Sung Refrain: My shepherd is the Lord,
nothing indeed shall I want.**

God is my shepherd,

there is nothing I shall lack.

You, God, make me lie down in green pastures,

you lead me beside peaceful waters;

you revive my spirit,

you guide me in right pathways for your name’s sake.

**Sung Refrain: My shepherd is the Lord,
nothing indeed shall I want.**

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
you are with me,

your rod and your staff are my comfort.

You spread a table for me in the sight of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil; my cup is overflowing.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in God’s house my whole life long.

**Sung Refrain: My shepherd is the Lord,
nothing indeed shall I want.**

God’s Holy Word

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.²

Anthem: *The Lord Is My Shepherd (Brother James’ Air)*, by James McBain
arr. by Gordon Jacob Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Scriptures: 1 Samuel 16:1-13a • God chooses a new king Renee Englot

The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the Lord said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall

² Written by **Roxanne Williams**, Gaetz Memorial U.C., Red Deer, Alta., **Gathering**.
Lent/Easter, 2020, p. 37. Used with permission.

anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, “Do you come peaceably?” He said, “Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely his anointed is now before the Lord.” But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.” Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here.” He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The Lord said, “Rise and anoint him, for this is the one.” Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward.

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: *Now I See!*

Rev. Dirk Jessen

Hymn: *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

Voices United 670

**Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn,
through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

**When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,
when my life is almost gone,
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall:
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

**When the darkness appears, and the night draws near,
and the day is past and gone,
at the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

Pastoral Prayers

Rev. Karen Bridges

**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.**

Grateful Response

Offering:

Your donations today support R-W Church programs and operations, as well as outreach projects and programs in the city and around the world. You can donate by e-transfer to pay@rwuc.org, cheque, debit/credit at the terminal located at the Grocery Card table in Memorial Hall during fellowship after worship, pre-authorized remittance, or PayPal on the website. Tax receipts are issued at the end of the year for donations over \$20 if your name and address are provided.

Prayer of Gratitude:

**For the Gospel of undying life and undiminished challenge,
for the company of supportive friends,
for the satisfaction of healthy appetite,
for the love which has its source in you,
and for every good gift of earth,
we give thanks, O God.
Receive these, our offerings, as a sign of our thankfulness
and of our resolve to serve your will for our world. Amen.³**

Hymn: *Open My Eyes, That I May See*

Voices United 371

**Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.**

³ Written by Peter Wyatt, found in **Worship for All Seasons II—Selections from Gathering Year B**, United Church Publishing House, Thomas Harding & Bruce Harding, Editors, page 115

Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

**Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wave-notes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.**

**Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.**

Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

**Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.**

**Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.**

Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Commissioning:

As we go forth from this time of worship, our loving and
compassionate God is with us.

**As we find courage to walk the faithful path,
God journeys with us.**

When we are tempted to turn back, God renews our vision.

**When we joyfully follow the way of Jesus,
God celebrates with us!**

As we make this Lenten journey,
God's courage and peace will be ours!

Thanks be to God! Amen.⁴

Postlude: *Fugue in C*, by Johann Ernst Rembt

Allan Bevan, organ

Questions for Reflection:

When has how you saw someone else been challenged and changed?

What did this change mean for you and for that person?

⁴ Written by **David Sparks**, Summerland, B.C., **Gathering**, Lent/Easter, 2020, p. 38.
Used with permission.

R-W Report

Next Sunday

Sunday, March 26, 2023

Lent 5 & 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.

Psalm 130 • Out of the depths I cry to God.

Ezekiel 37:1-14 • Valley of dry bones.

John 11:1-45 • The raising of Lazarus.

Sermon: *Speak your deepest longing.*

Wisdom takes us beyond thought to deeper knowing. Wisdom grounds us in grace. Both the story of the dry bones and the raising of Lazarus remind us that God not only gives life but restores life, and that death will not be the last word. The dry bones in the passage from Ezekiel represent, according to Kelton Cobb, "the dusty sense of hopelessness that the exiles would ever find their way home." Sometimes on the faith journey we feel lost, and we long to feel God's presence again, we long to be home. May we speak the prayers of our deepest longing to God, trusting that God will transform us and the world.

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

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun Mar 19	Sunday Worship - Sanctuary & Online	10:30 am
	Kids' Church - Garden Patch and Air Room	10:30 am
	Youth Discussion - Youth Room	10:30 am
	Fellowship - Memorial Hall	11:45 am
	Membership Class - Club Room	12:30 pm
	Wild Church - Emily Murphy Park	1:00 pm
Mon Mar 20	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	7:00 pm
Tues Mar 21	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
	R-W Board Meeting - Room 11 & Zoom	7:00 pm
Wed Mar 22	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	1:30 pm
	Gratitude Team Meeting - Club Room	5:00 pm
	R-W Choir - Lower Hall & Sanctuary	7:30 pm
Thur Mar 23	Nova Bells - Lower Hall	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers - Lower Hall	6:45 pm
Sat Mar 25	Youth Group - Away	7:00 pm

ON THE HORIZON

Sun Mar 26	Sunday Worship - Sanctuary & Online	10:30 am
	Kids' Church - Garden Patch and Air Room	10:30 am
	Youth Discussion - Youth Room	10:30 am

	Fellowship - Memorial Hall	11:45 am
	Membership Class - Club Room	12:30 pm
	Koinonia - Memorial Hall	5:00 pm
Mon Mar 27	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	7:00 pm
Tues Mar 28	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
Wed Mar 29	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	1:30 pm
	R-W Choir - Lower Hall & Sanctuary	7:30 pm
Thur Mar 30	Nova Bells - Lower Hall	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers - Lower Hall	6:45 pm
	Book Study - Club Room & Zoom	7:00 pm

Volunteer Opportunities

FELLOWSHIP HELPERS

Seeking volunteers to help with prep and clean-up for Sunday fellowship. You can sign up for multiple Sundays or just one! By signing up to help prepare and serve beverages and to clean up after Sunday fellowship, you are contributing to the life of Robertson-Wesley. Plus, it's a great way to get to know other members of the community of faith. See the sign-up sheet in Memorial Hall for more information.

R-W News & Notes

WILD CHURCH

Wild Church will gather **today** at Emily Murphy Park at 1:00 pm. 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.

KOINONIA

The theme for the evening is "Dealing with Difficult Days", led by Arleen Drysdale. In our everyday lives we may all expect such days (ongoing issues, and others such as the isolation and uncertainty caused by the recent pandemic), where we wish for comfort and support. Some of this response can be found through talking with others about what can help us through these trials. Discussion in small groups, comforting Bible readings and music will be shared. You are welcome for POTLUCK SUPPER at 5:30, and WORSHIP at 7:00 on Sunday, **March 26th** in Memorial Hall. If you are able, a contribution towards the shared meal will be happily received. All are welcome!!

GREEN BITES

Ah yes, the Holy Trinity: Reduce, Re-Use, Recycle. Saving the world? Hardly. What about the first R, Refuse? Refuse to buy items made from plastic, which comes from Fossil Fuels. For example, reject that plastic bottle full of ketchup, and instead buy your ketchup in a glass bottle. Better yet, make your own and store it in glass! - The Environmental Stewardship pod.

MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Sundays for 5 weeks from 12:30 - 2:00 pm (**March 19 & 26, April 2, 16, 23**) in the Club Room. This is an opportunity to talk about your faith, to learn about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. It is also an opportunity to learn about the history, polity and faith practice of The United Church of Canada, and how we live out our faith in the world. After the class you will be asked to discern for yourselves whether or not you wish to publicly proclaim your commitment in this dynamic faith organisation. If you wish to participate in the group please contact Rev. Karen at karen.bridges@rwuc.org to register.

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 emails 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.

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



At the Cross

Friday, April 7 10:30 am
Good Friday

Sunday, April 9 10:30 am
Easter Sunday Service

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>.

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 few 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

YEG FAMILY COUNSELLING: UNRAVELLING

A 6-week Process Group for Survivors of Religious Trauma

Religious Trauma is something that impacts our relationships with ourselves, our loved ones, and our communities SO MUCH, but it is so rarely talked about. Join YEG Family Counselling in creating a space to discuss, process, and untangle the threads of Religious Trauma. This is a space to tell your story with support and understanding with the hope that you will come away with new stories of hope and healing. Wednesday Evenings **April 5 - May 10** from 7:00 - 9:00 pm. Registration is open to all, regardless of their current connections to religious and/or spiritual communities and/or practices. \$300 for six group therapy sessions (we recognize that there are significant equity factors for those affected by Religious Trauma and will have equity rate spots available) to register visit: <https://forms.gle/f61E2JEKBgfbyALs8>

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, **Today** at 3:00pm.

Worship Notes

As we continue 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.

Cover Image

Cover Image of Art: "Man Born Blind" by Rev. Ronald Raab, CSC 2017

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

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