

The logo features a stylized sailboat with a brown mast and three sails (one blue, one green, one brown) on the left. To the right, the text "Robertson - Wesley" is in a brown serif font, "UNITED CHURCH" is in a smaller brown sans-serif font, and "Spirited" is in a green cursive font.

Robertson - Wesley

UNITED CHURCH *Spirited*

An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada

2023 April 2

Palm Sunday



Welcome and Inclusion

We open our hearts and our church family to all people in our community regardless of age, gender identity, differing abilities, ethnicity, economic circumstances, or sexual orientation. 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: *All Glory, Laud, and Honour*, arr. by Smith and Hustad

Allan Bevan, organ; Raydene Koch, piano

Embracing Our Spirit

Processional Hymn and Palm Parade: *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

Voices United 123

**Hosanna, loud hosanna
the happy children sang;
through pillared court and temple
the joyful anthem rang:
to Jesus, who had blessed them,
close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises,
the simplest and the best.**

**From Olivet they followed
'mid an exultant crowd,
the victory palm-branch waving,
and singing clear and loud;
the Lord of earth and heaven
rode on in lowly state,
content that little children
should on his bidding wait.**

**"Hosanna in the highest!"
That ancient song we sing,
for Christ is our Redeemer;
earth, let your anthems ring.
O may we ever praise him
with heart and life and voice,
and in his humble presence
eternally rejoice!**

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**

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.

**Sanna, sannanina, sanna, sanna, sanna,
Sanna, sannanina, sanna, sanna, sanna,
Sanna, sanna, sanna, sannanina,
Sanna, sanna, sanna,
Sanna, sanna, sanna, sannanina,
Sanna, sanna, sanna.**

Coming into God's Presence

Rev. Dirk Jessen

Prayer of Lament and Thanksgiving:

Psalm 118 • God's love endures forever.

Voices United p. 837
Part 1, 3, 4

Sung Refrain: Hallelujah! hallelujah!

Let Israel now say:

"God's love endures forever."

Let the house of Aaron say:

"God's love endures forever."

Let those who fear God say:

"God's love endures forever."

Sung Refrain: Hallelujah! hallelujah!

Open to me the gates of the temple,
that I may enter and give thanks to God.

This is the gate of God; through it the righteous shall enter.

I thank you for you have answered me;
you have become my salvation.

**The stone which the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

This is God's doing, marvellous in our eyes.

**This is the day that God has made,
let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Sung Refrain: Hallelujah! hallelujah!

Save us, O God, we pray;

God, we pray, give us success.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God.

We bless you from the house of God.

God, our God, has given us light;

With palm branches in hand let us march to the altar.

You are my God, and I will thank you;

You are my God, and I will extol you.

Sung Refrain: Hallelujah! hallelujah!

God's Holy Word

Prayer of Illumination:

God of the ages: stories about you were told and retold by word of mouth. Later these stories were written down and passed from community to community. May your story ring true for us just as it has for generations. Open us to this message of hope and help us to trust in your presence. Amen.²

Anthem: *Hosanna Filio David*, by Tomas Luis de Victoria

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

*Hosanna filio David:
benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.
Rex Israel: Hosanna in excelsis.*

Hosanna to the son of David:
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
O King of Israel: Hosanna in the highest.

Scripture: Matthew 21:1-11 • Jesus enters Jerusalem.

Robert Mah

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, “Tell the daughter of Zion, look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: *The Roar of the Crowd*.

Rev. Dirk Jessen

² Written by Beth W. Johnston, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter, 2016, p. 32. Used with permission.

**When they heard that Jesus was coming.
Sing hosanna to the chosen one!
All the people went out to meet him.
Sing hosanna to the chosen one!
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, sing hosanna to the chosen one!**

**Spread their cloaks and branches before him,
Sing hosanna to the chosen one!
Children sang with palm branches waving.
Sing hosanna to the chosen one!
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, sing hosanna to the chosen one!**

**Blest is he, like David before him.
Sing hosanna to the chosen one!
Blest is he, God's blessing upon him.
Sing hosanna to the chosen one!
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, sing hosanna to the chosen one!**

**Vision blest, and hope for the future,
Sing hosanna to the chosen one!
God's beloved, radiant with glory.
Sing hosanna to the chosen one!
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, sing hosanna to the chosen one!**

Pastoral Prayers

Rev. Karen Bridges

Sung Lord's Prayer:

Voices United p. 960

**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:

We thank you, providing God, that on that first Palm Sunday, the disciples went into the village to find what Jesus asked for with only these words: “The Lord needs them.” We respond today with our gifts, our time, and ourselves because the Lord still needs them and needs us. Amen.³

Hymn: *Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!*

Voices United 127

Tune: Winchester New, *Voices United 20*

**Ride on! Ride on in majesty!
Hark! All the tribes hosanna cry;
O Saviour meek, pursues thy road
with palms and scattered garments strowed.**

**Ride on! Ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die;
O Christ, thy triumphs now begin
o'er captive death and conquered sin.**

**Ride on! Ride on in majesty!
The wingèd squadrons of the sky
look down with sad and wondering eyes
to see the approaching sacrifice.**

**Ride on! Ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die;
bow thy meek head to mortal pain,
then take, O God, thy power, and reign.**

Commissioning:

**Hosanna! We praise you, O Christ.
Hosanna! We lift our voices with joy.
Hosanna! We have welcomed you among us.
We now promise to continue the journey with you.
As the shouting dies, the way grows hard and the outstretched
arms of the cross beckon you forward,
may we continue by your side. Amen.⁴**

Postlude: *There Is a Green Hill Far Away*, arr. by Philip Moore

Allan Bevan, organ

Questions for Reflection:

Have you ever found yourself in a crowd that was celebrating something or someone? What did that feel like?

Have you ever found yourself in a crowd that was angry at something or someone? What was that like?

If you've been in a crowd that has changed its mood or nature, what happened to make that happen?

³ Written by Wanda Winfield, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter, 2018, p. 36. Used with permission.

⁴ Written by Kate Crawford, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter, 2016, p. 35. Used with permission.

R-W Report

Next Sunday

Sunday, April 9, 2023

Easter Sunday

Children & Youth: Children and Youth are encouraged to worship with their families.

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 • God is my strength and my song.

Colossians 3:1-4 • Set your mind on things above.

John 20:1-18 • Mary and the Empty Tomb.

Sermon: *Dwell in Christ and turn despair into hope.*

Why do you look for the living among the dead? Why do you weep when what you seek has come? The resurrection story sheds light on our doubt and leads to depth of knowing and believing. A stone, a tomb, a person cannot contain the power of God and the love of Christ. Death is not the last word. What we are promised is that the end is our beginning, so why do we hold onto the past when our path lays ahead. For this path is filled with possibility, promise, hope, acceptance, peace and love?

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

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun April 2	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
Mon April 3	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	7:00 pm
Tues April 4	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
	DEAP - Club Room	5:30 pm
	Spirited Arts Workshop - Lower Hall	7:00 pm
Wed April 5	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	1:30 pm
	Spirited Art Writing Workshop - Club Room	7:00 pm
	R-W Choir - Lower Hall & Sanctuary	7:30 pm
Thur April 6	Maundy Thursday - Sanctuary & Online	7:00 pm
Fri April 7	Good Friday Service - Sanctuary & Online	10:30 am
Sat April 8	Community Dinner - Memorial Hall	5:00 pm
	Easter Vigil - Sanctuary & Online	7:00 pm

ON THE HORIZON

Sun April 9	Easter Sunrise Service - Paul Kane Park	7:30 am
	Easter Breakfast - Memorial Hall	8:30 am
	Easter Sunday Service - Sanctuary & Online	10:30 am

Mon April 10	Fellowship - Memorial Hall	11:45 am
	Church Closed	
Tues April 11	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
	Property Committee Meeting - Room 11	1:00 pm
	UCW - Memorial Hall	1:30 pm
	Finance Committee Meeting - Club Room	7:00 pm
Wed April 12	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	1:30 pm
	Spirited Art Writing Workshop - Club Room	7:00 pm
	R-W Choir - Lower Hall & Sanctuary	7:30 pm
Thur April 13	Men's Group - Memorial Hall	9:00 am

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

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

EASTER HYDRANGEAS

Honour a loved one with a symbol of the Resurrection by ordering a Hydrangea to display for the Easter Season. You can order in Memorial Hall following worship. The cost is \$30.00. A special Easter Sunday bulletin will include all of the honourees names!

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE & BREAKFAST

Everyone is welcome for the Easter sunrise service on Sunday **April 9** at 7:30 am in Paul Kane Park, This is a moving service surrounded by the beauty of nature. Following the service please come back to the church for a pancake breakfast provided by Koinonia members. Hope to see you there!

WILD CHURCH

Join Wild Church at Emily Murphy Park at 1:00 pm on **April 16!** Gathering around a fire, we will explore WATER as the second in the series, “Praying with the Elements”. Meet at the east parking lot; bring an empty mug for a hot drink after worship. Cancelled below -15°C with windchill.

FROM TRASH TO TREASURE

Robertson-Wesley announces its first mini-rummage sale of the year! The sale will feature kitchen items only, such as gadgets, small appliances, tea towels, cookbooks, sets of carving knives, baking sheets etc. Donations will be accepted at the church beginning on Sunday, April 30. Volunteers are needed on Friday, **May 5** to set up sale items from 9-4, and Saturday, **May 6** to sell items, help customers and greet people from 9-4. A sign-up sheet for volunteers is in Memorial Hall.

THE ELEMENTS - Movement Workshop

April 4, 7-9 pm in Lower Hall. For generations, different cultures have tried to understand the universe by breaking it down into its basic elements: often this means fire, earth, air, and water. This acting workshop will explore how these elements (and others!) can help us in performance or daily life – or in other uses of our imagination. Lead by Charlie Peters.

RAINBOW AFTER RAIN- Writing Workshop

April 5, 7-9 pm in the Club Room. The rainbow symbol is one of hope, inclusion, love, and friendship. After the storm when the sky is still full of moisture, the rainbow shines the strongest. In this workshop, we'll explore making rainbow poems: poems which give us hope when we need it and show us how far we've come. Lead by Beth Janzen

FOOD BANK

Quite often we are asked by Food Bank clients if we have menstrual supplies, while these items are available by request from the Food Bank, people don't always remember to request them in advance. If you can help with donations of menstrual products you can drop them off

anytime during office hours 8:30 - 4:30 Monday to Friday or on Sundays. Thanks so much.

GREEN BITES

Spring is just about here, isn't it? No doubt most of us are dreaming of the disappearance of snow, trees leafing out, and tulips poking through the earth. Some of us have already booked a date to have our winter tires exchanged for summer ones. And dreaming about this year's garden takes up lots of our time. Perhaps this is the year to plant more native plants and to rid our yards of invasive species. Fortunately Mr. Google can help us choose which plants to purchase. The Alberta Invasive Plant Council (www.abinvasives.ca) and the Edmonton Native Plant Society (www.anpc.ab.ca) have useful information to help gardeners select plants that are both native and non-invasive. Not only will your garden make its owner happy this year but the birds and insects will be happy too!
-the Environmental Stewardship Group

In the Community

OUTDOOR WAY OF THE CROSS

April 7, 10 am. The Outdoor Way of the Cross is an ecumenical prayer event marking the suffering and death of Jesus. The 43rd annual Outdoor Way of the Cross invites people to think about the relevance and importance of the Gospel message in our world today. This year's theme, "Hope in the Midst of Crisis," is based on Micah 6:8: "And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." The walk will once again take place in person, along the streets of Edmonton's inner city. People of all faith traditions are welcome. The 2 km walk is reasonable for most ages and levels of fitness and ability. Free street parking is available near the start location. Light refreshments will be provided at Hope Mission after the final station. For more information, <https://northernspiritrc.ca/event/2023-outdoor-way-of-the-cross/>

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

GOOD FRIDAY WITH PRO CORO CANADA

Friday, **April 7**, 7:30 pm at Robertson-Wesley. The annual choral concert commemorating the Passion of Christ with works by Bach, Pärt, Gesualdo, Sandström, and Praulins. Tickets at procoro.ca/performances/goodfriday23

THE SEVEN WORDS OF CHRIST

This free concert features Haydn's Lenten Cantata performed by Edmonton Metropolitan Orchestra & the McDougall United Church Choir. **April 7** at 2:00 pm at McDougall United Church, 10024 101 st.

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. 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>

Worship Notes

There are at least two biblical controversies regarding donkeys, or "donkroversies" as I call them. One is the donkey depicted in pictures around the nativity, shown carrying Mary to Bethlehem. Neither the Gospel of Luke or Matthew mentions a donkey, but Mary walking all that way while very pregnant is unthinkable. The other controversy is around Jesus' mount during his entry into Jerusalem apparently on both a donkey and her colt according to Matthew's telling of the story. If true, this would be awkward to say the least! The writer of the Gospel according to Matthew was extremely eager to show direct connections with the existing scriptures. In Zechariah 9:9, which emphasizes the humility of the coming king on a donkey, writes so that the reader can't miss the point that the real coming king will be riding a humble donkey, that, "yes, you heard correctly folks--a donkey!" The writer of Matthew seems to add an "and" where it doesn't really belong hence the confusion and the odd image.

Cover Image

Cover image is a fresco by Giotto (1267-1337) titled No. 26 Scenes from the Life of Christ: 10. Entry into Jerusalem.

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