



An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada

2023 April 9

Easter Sunday



**We shall go out with hope of
resurrection...**

**seeking a
vision of
new life
in Christ!**

Welcome and Inclusion

We open our hearts and our church family to all people in our community regardless of sexual orientation, age, gender identity, differing abilities, ethnicity, or economic circumstance. 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: *Te Deum*, Traditional Plainsong; setting by Charles Callahan
Robin Doyon, Kevin Yue, trumpets; Aldren Lowrey,
Julien Simard, trombones; Allan Bevan, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Introit: *Christ Is Risen from the Dead* **Voices United 167**

Christ is risen from the dead, glory, hallelujah!
Christ is risen from the dead, glory, hallelujah!
Jesus Christ is risen, glory, hallelujah!
Jesus Christ is risen, glory, hallelujah!

Call to Worship:

Lend a helping hand and...
Jesus is risen!
Demand equality for all and...
Jesus is risen!
Fight against injustice and...
Jesus is risen!
Remove social barriers and...
Jesus is risen!
Live your life with grace and...
Jesus is risen!¹

Hymn: *Christ Is Alive* **Voices United 158**

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praise ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.

In every insult, rift, and war,
where colour, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.

Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

¹ Written by Diane Handcock, *Gathering*, Lent/Easter 2013, p. 38. Used with permission.

**Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love and praise.**

Coming into God's Presence

Rev. Karen Bridges

Prayer of Lament and Thanksgiving:

Psalm 118 • God's love endures forever.

Voices United p. 837

Part 1- 3

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!

God is my strength and my song; God has become my salvation.

**There are shouts of joy and deliverance
in the tents of the righteous.**

The right hand of God does mighty things;
the right hand of God raises up.

The right hand of God does mighty things.

I shall not die, but live; and I shall proclaim what God has done.

God indeed punished me, but did not give me over to death.

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!

God's Holy Word

Prayer of Illumination:

O God for whom there are no barriers, no stones too big to remove, roll away our resistance to you. Let your words fill us with new life and bring us out from the tomb of indifference, alive again in you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.²

Anthem: *O Sons and Daughters*, by Luigi Cherubini, arr. by Richard Proulx

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Scriptures:

Daniel Gregory

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

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Christ in glory.

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

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Simon Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Simon Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I

² Celebrate God's Presence, 8G007.

will take him away.” Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to him in Hebrew, ‘Rabbouni!’ (which means Teacher) Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Creator. But go to my siblings and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Creator and your Creator, to my God and to your God.’” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

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

Thanks be to God.

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

Rev. Karen Bridges

Hymn: *Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain*

Voices United 165

**Come, you faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness:
God has brought forth Israel into joy from sadness,
loosed from Pharaoh’s bitter yoke Jacob’s sons and daughters,
led them with unmoistened foot through the Red Sea waters.**

**‘Tis the spring of souls today, Christ has burst his prison,
and from three days’ sleep in death as a sun has risen;
all the winter of our sins, long and dark, is flying
from his light, to whom we give laud and praise undying.**

**Now the queen of seasons, bright with the day of splendour,
with the royal feast of feasts, comes its joy to render;
comes to gladden faithful hearts, who with true affection
welcome in unwearied strains Jesus’ resurrection!**

**Neither could the gates of death, nor the tomb’s dark portal,
nor the watchers, nor the seal, hold him as a mortal:
for today amid his own he now stands, bestowing
God’s true peace which evermore passes human knowing.**

Pastoral Prayers

Rev. Dirk Jessen

Lord’s Prayer:

Voices United p. 921

**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 that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kin-dom 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.

Offertory: *When We Are Living*

Voices United 581 v. 2

Through all our living, we our fruits must give.

Good works of service are for offering.

**When we are giving, or when receiving,
we belong to God, we belong to God.**

Prayer of Gratitude:

Now, in offering what matters, we are blessed.

Now, in giving of ourselves we are equipped for love.

Now, in transforming these gifts for the healing in the world, the Spirit opens us to transformation.

Now, in giving, in receiving, we become one with you, O God.

Amen.³

Hymn: *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

Voices United 155

**Jesus Christ is risen today, hallelujah!
our triumphant holy day, hallelujah!
who did once, upon the cross, hallelujah!
suffer to redeem our loss, hallelujah!**

**Hymns of praise then let us sing, hallelujah!
unto Christ, our heavenly King, hallelujah!
who endured the cross and grave, hallelujah!
sinners to redeem and save, hallelujah!**

**But the pains which he endured, hallelujah!
our salvation have procured, hallelujah!
now above the sky he's King, hallelujah!
where the angels ever sing, hallelujah!**

**Sing we to our God above, hallelujah!
praise eternal as God's love, hallelujah!
praise our God, ye heavenly host, hallelujah!
praise the Son and Holy Ghost, hallelujah!**

³ Written by Gord Dunbar, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2020, p. 50. Used with permission.

Commissioning:

And now let us go out into God's world
to enter into the days of our new beginnings,

**With confidence, with trust, with hope, and with joy, for God is
with us and within us, this day and forevermore.**⁴

Postlude: *Concertato on "Crown Him with Many Crowns"*, arr. by Vaclav
Nelhybel Robin Doyon, Kevin Yue, trumpet; Aldren Lowrey, Julien
Simard, trombone; Allan Bevan, organ

Questions for Reflection:

How has your faith been tested and strengthened?

What does it mean to be a faithful follower of Jesus Christ?

R-W Report

Next Sunday

Sunday, April 16, 2023

Easter 2

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 Peter 1:3-9 • A living hope.

John 20:19-31 • Jesus appears to the disciples, including Thomas.

Sermon: Making Room for Faith

It appears that the disciples have heard, but have certainly not believed Mary's testimony of having encountered the resurrected Jesus. They have gathered together in fear, behind locked doors, to grieve Jesus' death. When he appears to them, the first thing he does is to offer them a blessing of peace. Then he shows them the evidence of marks of crucifixion visible even on his resurrected body. And only then do they believe that it is really him and dare to rejoice. Just as Mary and the other disciples needed a personal experience of the resurrected Jesus, so does Thomas. Without hearing and seeing what those first disciples did, what compels you to believe in Jesus? Or, what would make it possible for you to do so?

Music: Dr. Allan Bevan, organist; Cantilon Children's Choir

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Mon April 10	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
	R-W Choir - Lower Hall & Sanctuary	7:30 pm
Thur April 13	Men's Group - Memorial Hall	10:00 am
	Nova Bells - Lower Hall	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers - Lower Hall	6:45 pm
	Finding Inner Peace - Club Room	7:00 pm

⁴ Written by Bob Root, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2018, p. 46. Used with permission.

ON THE HORIZON

Sun April 16	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
	Finding Inner Peace Book Study - Club Room	3:00 pm
Mon April 17	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	7:00 pm
Tues April 18	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
	R-W Board Meeting - Room 11	7:00 pm
Wed April 19	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	1:30 pm
	R-W Choir - Lower Hall & Sanctuary	7:30 pm
Thur April 20	Nova Bells - Lower Hall	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers - Lower Hall	6:45 pm
	Finding Inner Peace Book Study - Club Room	7:00 pm

Volunteer Opportunities

FROM TRASH TO TREASURE

R-W 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** from 9-4, and Saturday, **May 6** from 9-4. Sign-up in Memorial Hall.

R-W News & Notes

STAFF

The Church will be closed on Easter Monday, **April 10**. Rev. Karen Bridges is on study leave April 11 - 16, 2023.

R-W MEN'S GROUP

The Robertson-Wesley Men's Group will be touring the historical Alberta Aviation Museum here in Edmonton. The tour will occur on **April 13th**. All those interested in attending please meet at the Church at 10:00 am so all can carpool to the Museum located on Kingsway Avenue. We will be at the building for approximately 2 hours. All in the congregation are invited. The Admission Fee for Adults is \$15.00 per person, and for youth and Seniors (60+) \$12.00 per person. Any questions may be directed to Louis Berlinguette (ph: 780-910-4486) or Jim Triscott (780-991-8837).

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.

UCW & FRIENDS

Robertson-Wesley UCW and Friends will meet on Tuesday, **April 11** at 1:30 p.m. - two days after Easter Sunday. Our theme will be "Living the Resurrection". We will share readings, prayers and discussion. We welcome everyone, and will have coffee, tea and good snacks! Hope to see you there.

GREEN BITES

“Humanity’s main strategy going forward must be to cooperate in using less energy, materials, and land, with a focus on justice for humans and non-humans alike, while restoring ecosystems to protect biodiversity”. Comment by Richard Heinberg, of The Post Carbon Institute, and published in the online journal Resilience, March 23 “But Man is part of nature, and his war against nature is inevitably a war against himself”. Rachel Carson, 1907-1964, author of Silent Spring.
- The Environmental Stewardship group.

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.

SILENT TALENT AUCTION

A fun community building fundraiser where R-W congregants myriad of talents are silently auctioned off for R-W. Can you give a one hour singing lesson? Can you take a senior grocery shopping a couple of times in a month? How about helping out with some spring cleaning? Whether you can make a couple of meals, or host a themed dinner, you have a talent! We bet there are lots of congregants willing to bid on these wonderful gifts. If you have a talent that you would like to offer, please pick up a registration form in Memorial Hall on Sundays. It’s that simple. If you need help in trying to figure out what “talent” you might have, come and see Tamara Wright or Andrew Hopkyns at Fellowship! Every week until May 17, as the list grows, we will post all the exciting talents! Bidding will begin on Sunday **May 20** when the final list of talent offerings will be posted in Memorial Hall and continue for one week. The auction on **May 28th** will start right after worship, with the auction frenzy ending at 1:00 pm!

In the Community

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>

Worship Notes

What a joy it is to celebrate Easter with all the sights and sounds that we are used to. The hydrangeas bring hope and beauty to a world made new in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. These flowers are in honour and remembrance of family and friends of R-W.

A big thank you to our wonderful brass players today: Robin Doyon, Aldren Lowrey, Julien Simard, and Kevin Yue!

Cover Image

Cover image is taken by Rev. Karen Bridges April 2022.

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

Welcome to Robertson-Wesley

If you would like you can fill out this page, tear it off, and place it in the offering plates at the exits. This form is also available to fill out online at rwuc.org/infocard

Today's Date: _____

Contact Information:

Name: _____

Preferred gender pronouns: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____

Postal Code: _____ Phone #: _____

Email: _____

I would like to subscribe to the email newsletter

Yes No

I am new in the community

I am a visitor

I am interested in speaking with a minister

I am considering making this my church

Please put in the offering plate. Thank you

