



An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada

2023 April 9

Easter Sunrise



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

Easter Proclamation:

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Hallelujah!

Call to Worship:

Sing praises to God, you faithful, give thanks to God's holy name!

Weeping may linger for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

God turns our weeping to dancing and clothes us in gladness.

**May we praise God and not be silent! Thanks to you, O God,
forever! Amen!¹**

Opening Prayer:

**Servant Christ, Help us to follow you out of the dark tomb, to share
daily your resurrection life, to be used daily as part of your new
Body in your service to the world. Servant Christ, help us to follow
you.²**

Hymn: *Joy Comes with the Dawn*

Voices United 166

**Joy comes with the dawn;
joy comes with the morning sun;
joy springs from the tomb
and scatters the night with her song,
joy comes with the dawn.**

**Weeping may come;
weeping may come in the night,
when dark shadows cloud our sight.**

**Joy comes with the dawn;
joy comes with the morning sun;
joy springs from the tomb
and scatters the night with her song,
joy comes with the dawn.**

**Sorrow will turn,
sorrow will turn into song,
and God' laughter makes us strong.**

Joy comes with the dawn;

¹ Ruth C. Duck, *Celebrate God's Presence: A Book of Services for The United Church of Canada*, United Church Publishing House, Copyright 2000, p. 192. Used with permission.

² India, *Celebrate God's Presence: A Book of Services for The United Church of Canada*, United Church Publishing House, Copyright 2000, p. 194. Used with permission.

joy comes with the morning sun;
joy springs from the tomb
and scatters the night with her song,
joy comes with the dawn.

We will rejoice,
we will rejoice, and give praise,
to the One who brings us grace.

Joy comes with the dawn;
joy comes with the morning sun;
joy springs from the tomb
and scatters the night with her song,
joy comes with the dawn.

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.³

Scripture:

Arleen Drysdale

Acts 10: 34-42 • Simon Peter at the centurion's home.

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears God does what is right is acceptable to God. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ - who is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Jesus. We are witnesses to all that Jesus did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. Jesus commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead."

Reflection Question: What part of what Peter is quoted as saying is most important to your understanding of the story of Jesus?

³ Written by Anne Matthewson, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter, 2023, p. 36. Used with permission.

Scripture:

Ann Thomas

Matthew 28: 1-10 • Two women venture to the tomb at dawn

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message to you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my friends to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

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

Thanks be to God.

Reflection Question: What part of this story of Jesus' resurrection is most interesting to you?

Hymn: *Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah!*

More Voices 121

Hey now! Singing hallelujah!

Hey now! The morning has come!

Hey now! Singing hallelujah!

The tomb was empty at the rising sun.

Jesus loved people and he made them friends.

Hey now, the tomb was empty.

He called to the children and the women and men.

Hey now, the tomb was empty.

Hey now! Singing hallelujah!

Hey now! The morning has come!

Hey now! Singing hallelujah!

The tomb was empty at the rising sun.

Jesus healed people and he helped them be well.

Hey now, the tomb was empty.

He taught about God in the stories he'd tell.

Hey now, the tomb was empty.

Hey now! Singing hallelujah!

**Hey now! The morning has come!
Hey now! Singing hallelujah!
The tomb was empty at the rising sun.**

**Jesus loved people and they said he was a king.
Hey now, the tomb was empty.
He turned all the table on everything.
Hey now, the tomb was empty.**

**Hey now! Singing hallelujah!
Hey now! The morning has come!
Hey now! Singing hallelujah!
The tomb was empty at the rising sun.**

**Jesus had power and they took him away.
Hey now, the tomb was empty.
They nailed him to a cross and they killed him one day.
Hey now, the tomb was empty.**

**Hey now! Singing hallelujah!
Hey now! The morning has come!
Hey now! Singing hallelujah!
The tomb was empty at the rising sun.**

**Jesus loves people and he lives again!
Hey now, the tomb was empty.
Calls us disciples and he calls us his friends.
Hey now, the tomb was empty.**

Grateful Response

Pastoral Prayers

Prayer of Jesus:

**Our Creator in heaven,
Hallowed be your name.
Your kin-dom come,
your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread;
and forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:
for yours is the kin-dom and the power and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Hymn: *I Danced in the Morning*

Voices United 352

I dance in the morning when the world was begun,

**And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth;
At Bethlehem I had my birth.**

Chorus: (repeat after each verse *)

**Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.**

**I danced for the scribe and the pharisee,
But they would not dance and they would not follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
They came with me and the dance went on.***

**I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;
The holy people said it was a shame;
They whipped and the stripped and they hung me high,
And left me there on the cross to die.***

**I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back;
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
But I am the dance and I still go on.***

**They cut me down and I leap up high;
I am the life that will never, never, died;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me;
I am the Lord of the dance said he.***

Commissioning:

**God of Easter, send us forth to live the power of the resurrection,
that we and all creation might be one with the living Christ; to
whom with you and the Spirit, one holy God, be honour and
praise now and forever. Amen.⁴**

Easter Proclamation:

**Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Hallelujah!**

*All are invited to Memorial Hall for fellowship, pancakes and
refreshments*

⁴ Thomas Harding, in WAS, vol. II, found in **Celebrate God's Presence: A Book of Services for The United Church of Canada**, United Church Publishing House, Copyright 2000, p. 200. Used with permission.

Cover Image

Cover image was taken by Albert de Vos in 2008.

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