



An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada

2023 April 16

Easter 2



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 circumstances. 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: 1) *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today* 2) *The Day of Resurrection*. arr.

by Patricia Sanders Cota

Nova Bells

Embracing Our Spirit

Sung Invocation: *Hallelujah*

Voices United 717

Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

Call to Worship:

You come with questions and doubts;

we are welcome here.

You come with concerns and anxieties;

we are welcome here.

You come as part of a searching faith community;

we are welcome here.

You come believing that God's presence will be your peace;

we are welcome here. Let us worship God!¹

Introit: *Esurientes from Magnificat in G minor*, by Antonio Vivaldi

Cantillon Children's Choir

Prayer of Approach:

Gracious God, we thank you for the joy that comes in the morning after the long, deep night of sorrow. We thank you for the hope that is born in our hearts to reveal a new day. When you raised Jesus from the dead, you showed us that nothing in all creation has the power to take us out of your hand and separate us from the wonder of your love.

Jesus appeared to his friends and said, "Peace be with you." Let this peace dwell in our hearts as we give thanks for the good news of the gospel. Be with us as we come alongside the disciple Thomas and remember that you are the God who can use our doubts to deepen our faith and make us a people who will carry your good news out into the world. All praise, honour and glory be to you and the risen Christ, now and forevermore. Amen.²

Hymn: *Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks*

Voices United 179

Hallelujah, hallelujah. Give thanks to the risen Christ;

Hallelujah, hallelujah! Give praise to God's name.

Jesus is Lord of all the earth,

First-born of all creation.

¹ Written by David Sparks, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2023, p. 44. Used with permission.

² Written by Dianne Astle, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2023, p. 46. Used with permission.

**Hallelujah, hallelujah. Give thanks to the risen Christ;
Hallelujah, hallelujah! Give praise to God's name.**

**Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
Jesus has died and is risen.**

**Hallelujah, hallelujah. Give thanks to the risen Christ;
Hallelujah, hallelujah! Give praise to God's name.**

**We have been crucified with Christ,
Now we shall live for ever.**

**Hallelujah, hallelujah. Give thanks to the risen Christ;
Hallelujah, hallelujah! Give praise to God's name.**

**Come let us praise the living God,
Joyfully sing to our Saviour.**

**Hallelujah, hallelujah. Give thanks to the risen Christ;
Hallelujah, hallelujah! Give praise to God's name.**

Coming into God's Presence

Rev. Dirk Jessen

God's Holy Word

Prayer of Illumination:

**Holy One, as we open your word, open our minds. Help us to
recognize the message you have for us today. Amen.³**

Anthem: Psalm 92, by Saul Irving Glick

Cantilon Children's Choir

Scriptures:

Tory Bachmann

1 Peter 1:3-9 • A living hope.

Blessed be the God and Creator of our Lord Jesus Christ! By God's great mercy God has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith - being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire - may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

³ Written by Jean Wilson, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2023, p. 49. Used with permission.

John 20:19-31 • Jesus appears to the disciples, including Thomas. When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Creator has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” A week later his disciples were again in the house, and came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.’ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.’ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: *Making Room for Faith*

Rev. Dirk Jessen

Hymn: *Jesus, Stand Among Us*

Voices United 396

**Jesus, stand among us in your risen power;
Let this time of worship be a hallowed hour.**

**Breathe the Holy Spirit into every heart;
Bid the fears and sorrows from each soul depart.**

**Lead our hearts to wisdom till our doubting cease,
And to all assembled speak your word of peace.**

Pastoral Prayers

Brian Webb

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:

Our faith has brought us to church.

Our faith sustains us in the testing times.

These gifts sustain our family of faith.

Our faith has held us in church.

Our faith gives us purpose and a vision.

These gifts enliven our faith community.

Our faith calls us to look beyond this local church. Our faith calls us to partner with churches and agencies in many nations.

These gifts strengthen many communities.

Our faith rejoices in the Easter hallelujahs.

Our faith finds focus in the risen Jesus Christ.

These gifts will be blessed as the Way of Jesus is followed.

Amen.⁴

Hymn: *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

Voices United 271

**There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice**

⁴ Written by David Sparks, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2023, p. 50. Used with permission.

which is more than liberty.

**There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heaven;
there is no place where earth's failings
have such gracious judgement given.**

**There is plentiful redemption
in the blood that Christ has shed;
there is joy for all the members
in the sorrows of the Head.**

**Troubled souls, why will you scatter
like a crowd of frightened sheep?
Foolish hearts, why will you wander
from a love so true and deep?**

**For the love of God is broader
than the measures of the mind,
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.**

Commissioning:

At the empty tomb, wonderful surprise,
the stone has been rolled away;

God's wonderful surprise, death is no longer the end of it all.

Jesus in the garden, recognized by Mary as her well-loved friend.

Jesus will be recognized in our just and compassionate action.

In the upper room, peace among the trouble disciples,
Jesus is with them;

**The promise of peace within our faith community, the promise of
peace in the challenging areas of our experience.**

**Let us go forth to share this wonderful surprise that brings true
peace.**⁵

Postlude: *The Strife Is O'er*, by Melchior Vulpus arr. by Healey Willan

Allan Bevan, organ

Questions for Reflection:

Without experiencing what those first disciples did, what compels
you to believe in Jesus? Or, what would make it possible for you to
do so?

⁵ Written by David Sparks, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2020, p. 50. Used with permission.

R-W Report

Next Sunday

Sunday, April 23, 2023

Earth Day Blessing

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 116:1-4, 12-19 • What shall I return to the Lord?

Luke 24:13-35 • The road to Emmaus.

Sermon: The blessing of relationships.

The seeds of hope are planted not only in the earth, but also in you and me. What does it take to grow these seeds? It begins by believing that there is hope. The death and resurrection of Jesus according to Luke identifies, according to Donald Senior that "the suffering and death of Jesus were to be understood not as an ultimate defeat of God's purpose, but as the necessary pathway to new life." Jesus taught the disciples about the importance of hospitality and relationship and that hope grows when we understand our interconnectedness with each other and all of creation. God has truly blessed us and for this we give thanks. **Music:** Dr. Allan Bevan, organist, Robertson-Wesley Choir

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

ON THE HORIZON

Sun April 23	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 24	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	7:00 pm
	M&P Meeting - Online	7:00 pm
Tues April 25	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
Wed April 26	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	1:30 pm
	Gratitude Team Meeting - Club Room	3:00 pm
	R-W Choir - Lower Hall & Sanctuary	7:30 pm
Thur April 27	Nova Bells - Lower Hall	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers - Lower Hall	6:45 pm

Volunteer Opportunities

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.

R-W News & Notes

STAFF

Rev. Karen Bridges is on study leave April 11 - 16, 2023.

WILD CHURCH

Join Wild Church at Emily Murphy Park at 1:00 pm **today!** 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.

BETWEEN THE AISLES

The next issue of Between the Aisles. Robertson-Wesley's quarterly newsletter, is dedicated to our wonderful church volunteers. If there is someone in the past or the present who has made an outstanding contribution to our church's activities or faith journey, please write about that person and submit to news@rwuc.org by **May 7**. Articles do not have to be lengthy; instead the editors are looking for special stories about special people.

BAKE SALE

There will be a bake sale during fellowship on Sunday, **April 30**. Proceeds to the R-W Anniversary Legacy Fund.

WEBSITE LAUNCH FOR THE COMMUNITY & CONNECTION 2SLGBTQIA+ ADVOCACY CONFERENCE

We are excited to share that the website and registration for the conference launched Friday. The website features the program schedule and all the information pertaining to the conference. The website also has the registration link. Be sure to check it out at www.communityandconnection.com

SILENT TALENT AUCTION

A fun community building fundraiser where RWUC congregants myriad of talents are silently auctioned off for RWUC. 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 the world's religions to speak on a common topic from the point of view of their respective religious traditions. 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

CHALMERS-CASTLE DOWNS UC SPRING CRAFT MARKET

Saturday, **May 13** from 10 am to 3 pm. Browse the handiwork of local artisans and home-based businesses as we welcome Spring's arrival. There will be a café offering coffee and tea, and a yummy homemade dessert. This fundraiser supports the life & work of Chalmers-Castle Downs United Church in North West Edmonton.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOMS: A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

The Edmonton District Council of Churches invites you to an interfaith panel on religious freedoms, featuring speakers from the Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton, the Edmonton Council of Muslim Communities, and the Edmonton Jewish Federation. There will be speakers and a panel discussion, with refreshments to follow. Sunday, **April 16** at 2:00 pm at the Edmonton Riverbend Meetinghouse, 14325 53 Ave.

EARTH WEEK: TOGETHER FOR THE LOVE OF CREATION

During Earth Week (**April 16–23**), The United Church of Canada is joining with numerous sibling denominations and faith-based organisations under one banner, *Together for the Love of Creation*. During Earth Week, we invite you to hold events to pray, learn, and act for climate justice. Mark Earth Week in a way that reflects and challenges your community. For ideas on how to celebrate through education, action, and prayer, visit fortheloveofcreation.ca/earth-week

Cover Image

Cover image is of a mosaic in National Cathedral, Washington, DC. By artists Rowan and Irene LeCompte.

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

