



An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada

2023 April 30

Life Passages

Easter 4



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

Belinda Chiang, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Sung Invocation: *Hallelujah*

Voices United 717

**Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.
Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.**

Prayer of Approach:

We have set aside this day as holy as we come before you, O God, to find ways by which we may live your message of hope and goodwill. We look for new beginnings in our personal lives and in our life as a community. We seek the eternal truths of your message even as we struggle with the challenges of each new day. Be present with us in our time together today as we continue to search for ways to be both a faithful and a faith filled people. We pray all of this in Jesus' name. Amen.¹

Hymn: *Wash Us, God, Your Sons and Daughters*

Voices United 442

**Wash us, God, your sons and daughters,
newborn creatures of your womb.**

(alternate text)

**Number us among your people,
raised like Christ from death and tomb.**

**Weave us garments bright and sparkling,
compass us with love and light.**

**Fill, anoint us, send your Spirit,
holy dove and heart's delight.**

**Every day we need your nurture;
by your milk may we be fed.**

**Now we join your feast, partaking
cup of blessing, living bread.**

**Give us new life, guide our footsteps;
free from sin and all its snares,
one with Christ in living, dying,
by your Spirit, children, heirs.**

O how deep your holy wisdom!

Unimagined, all your ways!

To your name be glory, honour!

With our lives we worship, praise!

**We your people stand before you,
water-washed and Spirit-born.**

By your grace, our lives we offer.

Recreate us; God, transform!

¹ Written by Bill Steadman, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2021, p. 47. Used with permission.

Life Passages

Sacrament of Baptism:

Prayer for the Holy Spirit (*in unison*)

Eternal God, whose Son the Servant-Lord Jesus Christ has commissioned us to make disciples of people of all nations baptizing them in your name. May your Spirit be upon us and what we do, that this water may be a sign for all of new life in Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Congregation's Promise (*standing*)

We will continue to support you, walk with you, and grow with you. With God's help we will live out our baptism as a loving community in Jesus Christ: nurturing one another in faith, upholding one another in prayer, encouraging one another in God's work.

Recommitment: *A New Creed*

Voices United 918

Please note that the last line of the creed (omitted in some of the hymn books) is:

We are not alone.

We live in God's world.

We believe in God who has created and is creating,

Who has come in Jesus the word made flesh,

To reconcile and make new.

Who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the church;

To celebrate God's presence

To live with respect in creation

To love and serve others

To seek justice and resist evil

To proclaim Jesus crucified and risen

Our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death

God is with us,

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

Blessing: (*sung*)

Voices United 454

May God who creates you give you light;

May God who sustains you make you wise;

May God who protects you give you joy;

May God who surrounds you give you peace.

God's Holy Word

Prayer of Illumination:

We listen carefully to your word, O God, seeking, hoping, praying to understand. We search for meaning in the text and then discover that we learn its meaning for our lives in our interactions with each other. Be made known to us today, loving God; be made known. Amen.²

Anthem: *The Gift of Love*, Trad. Melody arr. by Hal H. Hopson

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Scriptures:

Jane Chesebrough

1 Peter 2:19-25 • Our example in suffering

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his footsteps. Christ committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

John 10:1-10 • Jesus as shepherd and gate.

Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for the shepherd, and the sheep hear the shepherd's voice. The shepherd calls the sheep by name and leads them out. When the shepherd has brought out all the sheep that belong to the flock, the shepherd goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know the shepherd's voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run away because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

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

Thanks be to God.

² Written by Susan Lukey, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2020, p. 48. Used with permission.

Hymn: *You Satisfy the Hungry Heart*

Voices United 478

**You satisfy the hungry heart with gift of finest wheat.
Come, give to us, O saving Lord, the bread of life to eat.**

**As when the shepherd calls the sheep,
they know and heed that voice,
so when you call your family, we follow and rejoice.**

**You satisfy the hungry heart with gift of finest wheat.
Come, give to us, O saving Lord, the bread of life to eat.**

**With joyful lips we sing to you our praise and gratitude,
that you should count us worthy friends,
to share this heavenly food.**

**You satisfy the hungry heart with gift of finest wheat.
Come, give to us, O saving Lord, the bread of life to eat.**

**The mystery of your presence here no mortal tongue can tell,
whom all the world cannot contain comes in our hearts to dwell.**

**You satisfy the hungry heart with gift of finest wheat.
Come, give to us, O saving Lord, the bread of life to eat.**

**In gracious love you give yourself, then selfless let us be,
to serve each other in your name in truth and charity.**

**You satisfy the hungry heart with gift of finest wheat.
Come, give to us, O saving Lord, the bread of life to eat.**

Pastoral Prayers

Rev. Karen Bridges

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:

As our gifts of time and talent are dedicated, our spirits rise to fresh opportunities. As gifts of money are offered, our spirits rise to strengthen the faith community. As we remember the risen Christ, our spirits rise to work out our calling as Christians. Gracious God, our thanksgiving rises in the name of Jesus, the Holy One. Amen.³

Hymn: *Are You a Shepherd?*

More Voices 126

**Are you a shepherd, good shepherd who leads us
safely through danger, while calming our fears?**

**Are you a father who shelters and feeds us,
shares in our laughter and wipes away tears?**

**Yes, you are shepherd, parent and teacher,
but you are greater than all that we know.**

**Holy and living, loving and giving,
God, you are with us wherever we go.**

**Are you a mother, good mother who bears us,
comforts, protects us and helps us to rest?**

**Are you a teacher who daily prepares us,
challenging students to offer their best?**

**Yes, you are shepherd, parent and teacher,
But you are greater than all that we know.**

**Holy and living, loving and giving,
God, you are with us wherever we go.**

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

**Great, gentle shepherd, forever beside us,
lead all your children in paths that are right.
Great, loving parent, wise teacher, you guide us.
We want to love you and bring you delight.**

**Yes, you are shepherd, parent and teacher,
But you are greater than all that we know.
Holy and living, loving and giving,
God, you are with us wherever we go.**

Commissioning:

Travel the road of life with love.

We will journey the paths of God.

Travel the road of life with faith.

We will journey with the risen Christ.

Travel the road with hope.

We will follow the Holy Spirit, wherever it may lead us. Amen!⁴

Postlude

Belinda Chiang, organ

Questions for Reflection:

What type of voice or voices to you respond to? Why? Has this changed for you over time?

R-W Report

Next Sunday

Sunday, May 7, 2023

Children & Youth: Children begin in the sanctuary, then go to Kids' Church. Youth meet in the youth room at the beginning of the service.

Acts 7:55-60 • Stephen is stoned.

John 14:1-14 • I am the way the truth, the life.

Sermon: The Pilgrims' Mistake.

We live in a complex and dynamic world. As followers of Jesus we are called to acknowledge and proclaim that Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. In some parts of the world this proclamation has led to the persecution of Christians, as Stephen (in the passage from Acts) was. In other places this proclamation has led to Christians being the persecutors of others. History tells us that the Puritans created closed communities which did not tolerate the presence of non-Puritans. They came to "Worship God in their own way, and make others do the same." How can we faithfully proclaim Jesus in our world today?

Music: Cantilon Chamber Choir

⁴ Written by Diane Bennett-Jones, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2020, p. 51. Used with permission.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun April 30	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 & Bake Sale - Memorial Hall	11:45 am
Mon May 1	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	7:00 pm
Tues May 2	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
	DEAP - Club Room	5:30 pm
Wed May 3	Canterbury Worship - Away	10:30 am
	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	1:30 pm
	Spirited Arts Writing Workshop - Club Room	7:00 pm
Thur May 4	Nova Bells - Lower Hall	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers - Lower Hall	6:45 pm
Sat May 6	Trash to Treasure Sale - Memorial Hall	9:00 am

ON THE HORIZON

Sun May 7	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
Mon May 8	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	7:00 pm
Tues May 9	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
	Property Committee Meeting - Room 11	1:00 pm
	UCW - Memorial Hall	1:30 pm
	Finance Ctte - Club Room	7:00 pm
Wed May 10	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	1:30 pm
	R-W Choir - Lower Hall & Sanctuary	7:30 pm
Thur May 11	Men's Group - Memorial Hall	10:00 am
	Nova Bells - Lower Hall	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers - Lower Hall	6:45 pm
Sat May 13	Community Dinner - Memorial Hall	5:00 pm

R-W News & Notes

STAFF

Rev. Karen & Rev. Dirk will be away from **May 4-7**, attending the Northern Spirit Regional Council Annual meeting in Camrose. Dr. Allan Bevan will be away on **April 30 & May 4-7**.

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, **TODAY**
Proceeds to the R-W Anniversary Legacy Fund.

SPIRITED ARTS WRITING WORKSHOP: Laughter Medicine
May 3, 7-9 pm in the Club Room. What kind of sense of humour do you have? Do you enjoy puns, dark humour, quirky jokes, or absurd situations? Or does physical humour make you giggle? In this writing workshop, we'll play with techniques to write short funny monologues and dialogues. Bring your own unique sense of humour, and we'll see if we can make each other laugh. Facilitated by Beth Janzen.

SILENT TALENT AUCTION

We still are still accepting more talents and are looking for folks offering to help with technology, taking folks to an appointment, grocery shopping, helping with spring clean up etc. for this community building fundraiser. 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!

FROM TRASH TO TREASURE

Robertson-Wesley will be holding its first mini-rummage sale of the year on Saturday, **May 6**. The sale will feature kitchen items only, such as gadgets, small appliances, tea towels, cookbooks, sets of carving knives, baking sheets etc. Donations of kitchen items will be accepted at the church beginning on Sunday, **April 30**.

GREEN BITES

STOP! Put away your power tools and don't mow and blow, at least not yet. Plants and insects are waking up to spring, birds are getting ready to nest, and what do we humans do? We clean up. We rake, we clip, we dig. We are all too eager to have tidy gardens, unaware of the importance of debris for the next generation of living creatures. Why not wait until the last week of May to perform the annual garden clean-up? Such a delay will allow insects to hatch, and the many birds that ingest our six-legged friends will have something to feed upon. With respect to spring gardening tasks, Cleanliness is NOT next to Godliness! - The Environmental Stewardship Group

BOOK SALE

We are holding a book sale on the church lawn **July 8 & 9**. If you have any books to donate please bring them to the church so we have lots to sell. Contact Sheila or Pat at 780-481-0056 if you are unable to deliver the books to the Church.

In the Community

DREAMSCAPES CONCERT

May 5 at 7:30 pm at Robertson- Wesley. An evening of opera and musical scenes including *Into the Woods*, *Falstaff*, *Cendrillion*, *Dead Man Walking*, *Sweeney Todd*, and more. Featuring singers Douglas Graham, David Gibbons, Nansee Hughes, Mairi-Irene McCormack, Mathew Glen, Alla Salakhoa, Erin Selin, and pianist Frances Thielmann. Admission by donation.

Worship Notes

Director of Music, Dr. Allan Bevan is in Toronto this weekend attending the premiere of his large-scale composition “*Perfectly Mad...*” Thanks to Belinda Chiang and Raydene Koch for their assistance with the music in our worship service today!

The verse that precedes today’s epistle reading from 1 Peter reads, “Slaves, accept the authority of your masters with all deference, not only those who are kind and gentle but also those who are harsh.” In one way, it’s understandable that the lectionary omits this verse for any number of reasons, not the least of which is so that anyone who is to preach doesn’t have to confront a passage that seems to condone not only slavery, but harsh slave masters! A very brief bit of context is that letters written by Christian leaders only a generation or so after Jesus’ death had various purposes in mind. A major consideration was that at that point they strongly believed that Jesus would return any day and that, since time was short, those who were enslaved or of low social status and power would be suffering only a little while longer. In other words, Jesus upon his return would re-order society imminently, so it wasn’t important to do so themselves.

Cover Image

Cover image is of a mural of Christ as a sower by Norbert Strolz from 1957, it adorns a Jaggeleshaus (semi-detached house) in Stanz bei Landeck, Austria.

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

