



*An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada*

2023 May 7

Easter 5



### **Welcome and Inclusion**

We open our hearts and our church family to all people in our community regardless of economic circumstances, sexual orientation, age, gender identity, differing abilities, or ethnicity. 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*

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*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.

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10209 123 St, Edmonton T5N 1N3 780-482-1587

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[www.rwuc.org](http://www.rwuc.org)



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## *Friends in Christ*

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Prelude: *Sinfonia No. 13 in A Minor*, J.S. Bach  
*Sonata No. 12 in F Major*, W.A. Mozart

Sophie Turgeon, piano  
Sophie Brereton, piano

### Embracing Our Spirit

Introit: *Okawimaw Askiy (Mother Earth)*, by Sherryl Sewepagaham

Cantilon Chamber Choir

### Call to Worship:

We come into this space, prepared to celebrate the God of energy, life, and truth, aware of the needs of the world, and open to the Spirit that leads us. May God guide us on our journey.

**May God support us as we seek to share life and truth with others.**

We come into this moment, aware of the variety of needs that surround us and open to a future yet to be revealed. May God guide us on our journey.

**May God encourage us as we follow the Way, reaching out with hope and goodwill toward others.** In words and in songs, in stories and in prayers, in quiet times and in happy times, God is with us. In this time of worship, God is with us.

**Thanks be to God. May God guide us on our journey.<sup>1</sup>**

Hymn: *And on This Path*

*More Voices 8*

**And on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide,  
and on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide,  
and on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide!  
Open wide! Open wide! Open wide!  
The gates are open wide!**

**So enter in the gates of holiness are open wide,  
so enter in the gates of holiness are open wide,  
so enter in the gates of holiness are open wide!  
Open wide! Open wide! Open wide!  
The gates are open wide!**

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## *God's Holy Word*

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Prayer of Illumination:

**Almighty God, in whom all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are contained: open our eyes that we may behold wonderful things in your word, and give us grace to understand your will clearly, and to choose freely the way of your wisdom; through Jesus Christ your Word made flesh. Amen.**

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<sup>1</sup> Written by Bill Steadman, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2023, p. 44. Used with permission.

Anthem: *We Rise Again*, by Leon Dubinsky, arr. Stephen Smith

Cantillon Chamber Choir

Scriptures:

Benjimen Funk

Acts 7:55-60 • Stephen is stoned.

But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of God standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he said this, he died.

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

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Creator's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Creator except through me. If you know me, you will know my Creator also. From now on you do know the Creator and have seen the Creator." Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Creator, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Creator. How can you say, 'Show us the Creator'? Do you not believe that I am in the Creator and the Creator is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Creator who dwells in me does the work. Believe me that I am in the Creator and the Creator is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Creator. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Creator may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

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

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon: *The Pilgrims' Mistake*

Rev. Larry Wright

**Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell  
how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:  
All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.**

**Let us build a house where prophets speak  
and words are strong and true,  
where all God's children dare to seek  
to dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness  
and as symbol of God's grace;  
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:  
All are welcome, all are welcome,  
All are welcome in this place.**

**Let us build a house where hands will reach  
beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,  
and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger  
bear the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger:  
All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.**

**Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed  
as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
prayers of faith and songs of grace;  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:  
All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.**

**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.**

Royal Anthem: *God Save the King*

**God save our gracious King,  
long live our noble King;  
God save the King.  
Send him victorious,  
happy and glorious,  
long to reign over us:  
God save the King.**

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### *Grateful Response*

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Anthem: *The Storm Is Passing Over*, arr. Barbara Baker Cantilon Chamber Choir

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:

**We know there is much need, O God, and we offer what we can to help. Spread the good we intend where it is needed, we pray, that it may help our neighbours, near and far, through Christ, in love. Amen.<sup>2</sup>**

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<sup>2</sup> Written by George Allan, *Gathering*, Lent/Easter 2023, p. 37. Used with permission.

**How firm a foundation, you servants of God,  
is laid for your faith in his excellent word!  
What more can be said than to you has been said,  
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**

**"Fear not, I am with you; O be not dismayed!  
For I am your God and will still give you aid;  
I'll strengthen and help you, and cause you to stand,  
upheld by my righteous omnipotent hand.**

**"When through the deep waters I call you to go,  
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;  
for I will be with you, your troubles to bless,  
and sanctify to you your deepest distress.**

**"When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,  
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply:  
the flame shall not hurt you, I only design  
your dross to consume, and your gold to refine.**

**"The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose  
I will not -- I will not desert to his foes;  
that soul, though all hell should endeavour to shake,  
I'll never -- no, never -- no, never forsake!"**

Commissioning:

**Go out from here, secure in God's promises. Take with you the  
knowledge of God's presence. Offer to all the hospitality and the  
welcome of Christ, whose love provides a home for every heart.  
Amen.<sup>3</sup>**

Postlude: *Prelude in G flat Major*, Rachmaninoff

Mia Friendenthal, piano

Questions for Reflection:

What Gospel or good news do you hope you are proclaiming in your words and actions? Do your words or actions betray this hope?

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<sup>3</sup> Written by Fern Gibbard, *Gathering*, Lent/Easter 2023, p. 37. Used with permission.

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## R-W Report

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### Next Sunday

**Sunday, May 14, 2023 Easter 6, Communion & Minute for Mission**

**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 17:22-31** • The Unknown God.

**John 14:15-21** • The Advocate, the Spirit, will be with you.

**Sermon:** The goal of power is the well-being of all.

What is the role of the church? What are we called to do and be as people of faith? We are called to love. There is no magical formula to doing this.

What Jesus teaches us is how to live in and with love. We know this because Jesus led a life of service and compassion feeding the hungry, healing the sick, acting towards all people with care and respect. Imagine a community of faith and a world where the desire for power is not for personal gain and affirmation, but rather power is used for the well-being of all people. Jesus came to serve, and now we are called to do the same.

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

### WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun May 7	Sunday Worship - <b>Sanctuary &amp; Online</b>	10:30 am
	Kids' Church - <b>Garden Patch and Air Room</b>	10:30 am
	Youth Discussion - <b>Youth Room</b>	10:30 am
	Fellowship - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	11:45 am
Mon May 8	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	7:00 pm
Tues May 9	Scripture Reflections - <b>Club Room &amp; Zoom</b>	12:00 pm
	Property Committee Meeting - <b>Room 11</b>	1:00 pm
	UCW - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	1:30 pm
	Finance Cttee - <b>Club Room</b>	7:00 pm
Wed May 10	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	1:30 pm
	R-W Choir - <b>Lower Hall &amp; Sanctuary</b>	7:30 pm
Thur May 11	Men's Group - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	10:00 am
	Nova Bells - <b>Lower Hall</b>	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers - <b>Lower Hall</b>	6:45 pm
Sat May 13	Community Dinner - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	5:00 pm
	Youth Group - <b>Lower Hall</b>	7:00 pm

### ON THE HORIZON

Sun May 14	Sunday Worship - <b>Sanctuary &amp; Online</b>	10:30 am
	Kids' Church - <b>Garden Patch and Air Room</b>	10:30 am
	Youth Discussion - <b>Youth Room</b>	10:30 am
	Fellowship - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	11:45 am
Mon May 15	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	7:00 pm
Tues May 16	Scripture Reflections - <b>Club Room &amp; Zoom</b>	12:00 pm
	R-W Board Meeting - <b>Room 11</b>	7:00 pm
Wed May 17	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	1:30 pm
	R-W Choir - <b>Lower Hall &amp; Sanctuary</b>	7:30 pm
Thur May 18	Nova Bells - <b>Lower Hall</b>	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers - <b>Lower Hall</b>	6:45 pm



## R-W News & Notes

### **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. Articles do not have to be lengthy; instead the editors are looking for special stories about special people. The deadline for submissions is **today!**

### **THANK YOU**

We had a very successful bake sale last Sunday and raised \$600.50 for the R-W Anniversary Legacy Fund! The support and generosity is greatly appreciated.

### **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!

### **WILD CHURCH**

Join Wild Church at 1pm on **May 21!** Meeting at the Stark Oak Tree (found near the eastern wall of the old Royal Alberta Museum building on 102 Ave and 129 St), we will explore EARTH as the third in the series, "Praying with the Elements". Bring an empty mug for a hot drink after worship. Contact for questions/transportation arrangements at wildchurch@rwuc.org

### **MEN'S GROUP**

The snow is gone and the sun is shining - it's Spring! To mark the occasion the R-W Men's Group's April meeting subject will be GARDENING, with Tony Jansen giving a presentation on this timely subject. Everyone from Robertson-Wesley UC are welcome to attend (it's not just for men!). The meeting will be held in Memorial Hall, on **May 11th**, at 10:00 am. Coffee will be served, bring munchies if you can. Those with questions may contact Louis Berlinguette at 780-910-4486.

## **GREEN BITES**

Plastic, plastic everywhere! Indeed. Believe it or not, 175 countries are working on a Treaty to assist the world in getting rid of plastic. For the next two Sundays following the service, May 14 and 21, a short video will be shown in Memorial Hall courtesy of The Story of Stuff. Viewers can also record their ideas about how to reduce our plastic consumption. The list of ideas will be included in both the church bulletin and in Between the Aisles.

## **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**

### **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.

### **GUARANTEED LIVABLE INCOME**

Since 1972 -fifty-one years ago!- the United Church has been advocating for a Guaranteed Livable Income. On April 18, the Senate voted to send Bill S-233 – the National Framework for a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income Act – to be reviewed by the Senate Standing Committee on National Finance where they will discuss the merits of the Bill as written, propose changes, and hear from expert witnesses. This is a significant step forward. For a Bill to become law it needs to pass in both the House and Senate. Luckily, Bill C-223, S-233's sister bill with the exact same text, has already been introduced in the House and is awaiting an opportunity to be debated--probably in the Fall. The next step is encouraging our elected representatives to follow the example of the Senate. Contact your MP directly or use the advocacy tool on UBIWorks website ([ubiworks.ca/guaranteed-livable-basic-income](http://ubiworks.ca/guaranteed-livable-basic-income)) to encourage the movement of these bills.

### **CANTILON CHOIRS JOYFUL RISING**

Cantilon Choirs is thrilled to be collaborating with Juno award-winning artist, Maria Dunn for the final concert of our season. Featuring all the choirs of Cantilon, this concert will resonate with the joy, hope, resilience and love that has shaped our collective stories. Join us on Sunday **May 14**, 3:30 at McDougall United Church!

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## *Worship Notes*

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Our Music Director, Dr. Allan Bevan is in Ontario this weekend attending the premiere of one his compositions to be performed by Chorus Niagara and the Concordo Ensemble and conducted by Robert Cooper. Thanks to Heather Johnson and the Cantilon Chamber Choir for their gift of music in our worship service today!

Today is the day when the next level of the United Church, the Northern Spirit Region, gathers in worship to celebrate with ministers who are retiring, and to both ordain and commission new ministers. This is happening in Camrose, AB. Our thoughts and prayers are with the new candidates as they serve the United Church with grace and love.

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## *Cover Image*

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The cover image is a detail from *The Peace Quilt* that was created in Israel by Palestinian and Israeli women as a symbol of peaceful cooperation. The quilt was displayed at the North American Interfaith Connect 2016 in Guadalajara, Mexico. Photo by Larry Wright.

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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](http://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

