

The logo features a stylized brown mast with three lines extending upwards and to the left. To the right of the mast are three wavy lines in blue and green. Below the mast and waves, the text "Robertson - Wesley" is written in a large, brown, sans-serif font. Underneath that, "UNITED CHURCH" is written in a smaller, brown, sans-serif font. To the right of "UNITED CHURCH", the word "Spirited" is written in a green, cursive script font.

Robertson - Wesley
UNITED CHURCH *Spirited*

An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada

2023 May 14

Sacrament of Communion

Easter 6



Welcome and Inclusion

We open our hearts and our church family to all people in our community regardless of ethnicity, economic circumstances, sexual orientation, age, gender identity, or differing abilities. 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: *Fugue in C Minor*, by Wilhelm Friedemann Bach Allan Bevan, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Introit: *Spirit of the Living God*, by Daniel Iverson arr. Darryl Nixon
Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Call to Worship:

Rejoice, people of God! Rejoice in the presence of God in our midst,
and in the power of God's love.

We are in God's embrace. This day is the theatre of God's love.

Our lives are anchored in God's presence.

Rejoice, people of God! Open your hearts to God's truth, for it is our
wisdom and strength.

**We place ourselves before our God, that we may be touched and
enriched by the power of God's Spirit.¹**

Hymn: *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*

Voices United 468

**Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.**

**Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

**Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

**Christ is able to make us one,
at the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express.**

**Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

**Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

**Jesus calls us in, sends us out,
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) everywhere!**

**Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

**Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

¹ Written by Sharon Thornton and Fumitaka Matsouka, *Celebrating Covenant*, St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2001, p. 45. Used with permission.

Coming into God's Presence & Board Covenant

Congregational Promise:

We the community of faith of Robertson-Wesley United Church promise to honour the leadership of these people. We will assist them through daily prayer, generous support, respectful dialogue, and grace as they help us to live out our mission as a church. As a community of faith we come together to worship God, to share each other's joys and sorrows, to learn and grow in faith, to use God's gifts wisely, and to lead active Christian lives of service among neighbours here and in the global community.

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 and in the breaking of bread. Be made known to us today, loving God; be made known. **Amen.**²

Anthem: *Teach Me, O Lord*, by Thomas Attwood Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Scriptures:

Charl Els

Acts 17:22-31 • The unknown God.

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, God who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is God served by human hands, as though God needed anything, since God gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor God made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and God allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for God and find God - though indeed God is not far from each one of us. For 'In God we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are God's offspring.' Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now God commands all people everywhere to repent, because God has fixed a day on which God will have the world judged in righteousness by a person whom God has appointed, and of this God has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

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

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

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Creator, and God will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Creator, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Creator, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

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

Thanks be to God.

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

Rev. Karen Bridges

Hymn: *We Are One*

Voices United 402

**We are one as we come, as we come,
joyful to be here, in the praise on our lips
there's a sense that God is near.**

**We are one as we sing, as we seek, we are found;
and we come needful of God's grace
as we meet, together in this place.**

**We are one as we share, as we share
brokenness and fear, in the touch of a hand
there's a sense that God is here.**

**We are one as we care, as we heal, we are healed;
and we share warmth in God's embrace
as we pray together in this place.**

**We are one as we feast, as we feast,
peace becomes the sign;
in the bread and the wine
there's a sense of love divine.**

**We are one as we come, as we feed, we are fed;
and we feel God's refreshing grace
as we meet at table in this place.**

**We are one as we hear, as we hear,
heart and hand unite; in the word we receive
there's a sense that God is light.**

**We are one as we leave, as we love, we are loved,
and we seek justice in God's ways
as we move together from 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.**

Grateful Response

Minute for Mission

Sylvia Duffus

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:

Gracious God, as we go about our daily tasks, as we share the story of our faith, as we share our bread with the stranger, may we know the presence of the Risen One, and by this presence, may our hearts burn with love within us, so that we may share all of our gifts in gratitude and praise. Amen.³

Sacrament of Holy Communion:

All who worship with us today, regardless of age or church membership, are invited and welcome to partake in this sacrament. For people who worship online, please prepare whatever is available in your house, a cracker, bread, muffin, and juice, wine, or water. People in the sanctuary will be offered bread and grape juice. There is a gluten free option available.

³ Written by Beth W. Johnston, *Gathering*, Lent/Easter 2020, p. 49. Used with permission.

Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body,
for we all partake of the one bread.

In Christ, God breaks down the walls that make us strangers to ourselves, and divide us from one another.

We are the body of Christ.

At this table we bear witness to our faith.

At this table, God brings wholeness out of brokenness, and healing to our world.

Let us break bread together.⁴

The Spirit of God be with you.

And also with you.

Turn to God, the source of life.

We lift our hearts in prayer.

Let us give thanks.

We offer joyful thanks to God.⁵

Hallelujah, thanks and praise, ever-living God, worker of wonders, maker of miracles, author of all life and giver of life eternal! Out of chaos and fear you bring beauty and hope. Out of despair and death you create courage and new life. And so, with the risen Christ, who makes all things new by the power of his resurrection, we join in the song of a new day, to sing your praise.⁶

Holy, Holy, Holy (*sung*):

Voices United p. 942

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might;

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heav'n and earth are full, full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Bless'd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Remembering Jesus at Table:

When Jesus knew that his hour had come, he gathered with his friends for a meal. Getting up from the table, he tied a towel around himself and washed their feet. And, after he had finished, he said, "I have set an example for you; do as I have done to you." Then he took bread, blessed it, and gave it, even to Judas, saying, "I am the Bread of life. Do this to remember me." And he blessed the cup, and gave it to them saying, "I am the True Vine. Drink of this cup to remember me." Then he gave them a new commandment, saying, "Love one another as I have loved you. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."⁷

⁴ Celebrating God's Presence, 14A001.

⁵ Celebrating God's Presence, 0E019

⁶ Celebrating God's Presence, 8O002.

⁷ Celebrating God's Presence, 14D012.

Remembering your boundless love for us in Jesus Christ, we offer you our praise, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Memorial Acclamation (*sung*):

Voices United 943

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Prayer for Transformation:

Holy God, we pray for your Spirit.

Make us, while many, one. Make us, though broken, whole.

Make us, despite death, alive.

And so we pray:

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Praise be to God, the Source of love!

Praise be to Christ, Love incarnate!

Praise be to the Spirit, Love's power!

Praise be to God!⁸

Great Amen (*sung*):

Voices United 943

Amen, amen, amen, amen.

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Meditation: *Holy, Holy, Holy Is the Lord*, by Malcolm Archer

Allan Bevan, organ

Prayer after Communion:

Life-giving God, may we, who share Christ's body, live his risen

life; **we, who drink his cup, bring new life to others;**

we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world.

Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so that we and all

your children shall be free, and all creation will live to praise your

name. **Amen.⁹**

Hymn: *Spirit God, Be Our Breath*

More Voices 150

Spirit God: be our breath, be our song.

Blow through us, bringing strength to move on.

Our world seems inward, defensive, withdrawn...

Spirit God, be our song.

Patient God: soothe our pride, calm our fear.

Comfort us. When we know you are near

we grow more certain, our vision is clear.

Patient God, calm our fear.

Loving God: be our voice, be our prayer.

Reaching out, joining hands as we share,

we seek your guidance through friendship and care.

Loving God, be our prayer.

⁸ Celebrating God's Presence, 28Z023.

⁹ Celebrating God's Presence, 14V006.

**Spirit God: be our breath, be our song.
Blow through us bringing strength to move on.
Through change, through challenge, we'll greet the new dawn...
Spirit God, be our song.**

Commissioning:

You have remembered God's redeeming love. You have feasted at the table of God's grace. You have sung of resurrection hope. Now go from here to celebrate God's presence, to love and serve others, to live with respect in creation.

With the Spirit to guide us, we will go. Amen.¹⁰

Postlude: *Crown Him With Many Crowns*, by George Elvey arr. Robert Powell
Allan Bevan, organ

Questions for Reflection:

What does this time and situation of the community of faith need?
What is God revealing to us as a community of faith?

R-W Report

Next Sunday
Sunday, May 21, 2023
Easter 7

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

Luke 24:44-53 • The ascension of Jesus.

Acts 1:1-11 • Promise of the Spirit.

Sermon: Sent

The surviving disciples are still in the process of grieving Jesus' terrible death. And now they are also experiencing the welcome, but confusing presence of the resurrected Jesus in their midst. Is it really him? How does this connect with their religious heritage? What will it mean for the future? Jesus is explicit that he is preparing them to move on from these experiences and share them with the wider world. Yet, there is something critical they need to wait for. When have you understood yourself to be "sent" somewhere? Who did the sending? How were you prepared to be sent? How did this sending unfold?

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

¹⁰ Written by Robin Wardlaw, *Gathering*, Lent/Easter 2020, p. 51. Used with permission.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun May 14	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
	Story of Stuff Screening - Club Room	11:45 am
Mon May 15	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	7:00 pm
Tues May 16	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
	R-W Board Meeting - Room 11	7:00 pm
Wed May 17	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	1:30 pm
	R-W Choir - Lower Hall & Sanctuary	7:30 pm
Thur May 18	Nova Bells - Lower Hall	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers - Lower Hall	6:45 pm

ON THE HORIZON

Sun May 21	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
	Story of Stuff Screening - Club Room	11:45 am
	Wild Church - Stark Oak Tree	1:00 pm
Mon May 22	Church Closed	
Tues May 23	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
Wed May 24	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	1:30 pm
	R-W Choir - Lower Hall & Sanctuary	7:30 pm
Thur May 25	Gratitude Team Meeting - Room 11	1:00 pm
	Nova Bells - Lower Hall	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers - Lower Hall	6:45 pm

R-W News & Notes

VICTORIA DAY

The church will be closed **May 22** in observance of Victoria Day.

THANK YOU

Thank you to the Youth Group for making sandwiches and assembling 100 lunches for the ICPM lunch (May 14). Thanks also to Brad W, Garnet, and Rhonda from the Outreach Committee for organising lunch supplies. R-W worked together with St. Albert United Church to provide and serve lunches at this yearly event, hosted by the Inner City Pastoral Ministry (ICPM).

THANK YOU

The kitchen rummage sale last weekend was a success. Slightly more than \$1,000 was raised for the church. A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who donated, to everyone who helped set up and take down and to all who supported Robertson-Wesley by buying items.

MISSION AND SERVICE OF THE UNITED CHURCH

Today is Communion Sunday and there will be a collection of our special offerings for Mission and Service. R-W is committed to financially supporting the Mission and Service of The United Church of Canada. On each Sunday when communion is served we highlight some aspect of the work and mission of the National Church. At this time we also take up a special collection designated for Mission and Service. Blue envelopes are provided for this purpose in the bulletin.

SILENT TALENT AUCTION

We still are still accepting more talents! 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 28** 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

GREEN BITES

The Nature Conservancy's Spring 2023 newsletter offers ways to encourage bees in our yards. First of all, start by including plants in your garden that are native to your locale. Also, be sure to add some hollow stemmed plants that attract bees that nest in cavities. Make sure there is a sunny spot with loose soil and sparse vegetation because some species of bees prefer that type of habitat. Lastly, make sure there is a source of fresh, clean water close by for the bees, preferably one that has a few partially submerged rocks for them to land on. - The Environmental Stewardship Group

THE STORY OF STUFF SCREENING

Plastic, plastic everywhere! 175 countries are working on a Treaty to assist the world in getting rid of plastic. On Sunday **May 14** and **21** there will be a very short video to view on this topic in the Club Room following the service. Pop in with your coffee and spend a few minutes thinking about the plastic in our lives!

In the Community

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) 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!

Worship Notes

Today is known as Christian Family Sunday, it is also known as Mother's Day. We recognize in the United Church that there are many people in each person's life who guide us, nurture us, love us, and help us grow. As they say, "It takes a village to raise a child." Some of you have noticed that we often replace the word "kingdom" with "kin-dom". As a community of faith we seek to build relationships and foster a sense of kin-ship that recognizes that we are all kin, and that we are all children of God. God calls us into kin-ship where we work together cooperatively and collaboratively. We celebrate all people who nurture and care for each other on this day.

Cover Image

The cover image from openbible.info was created by Artificial Intelligence.

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