



An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada

2023 May 28 Gratitude Sunday Pentecost Sunday



Welcome and Inclusion
We open our hearts and our church family to all people in our community regardless of gender identity, differing abilities, ethnicity, economic circumstances, sexual orientation, or age. 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) *For the Beauty of the Earth*, by W. C. Dix arr. by P. Cota Nova Bells
2) *Holy Manna*, Trad. American Hymn Melody arr. Martha Lynn Thompson
Robertson-Wesley Ringers

Embracing Our Spirit

Introit: *Come, Holy Ghost, Our Souls Inspire*, Traditional Latin Hymn arr. by
Michael Burkhardt Choir of Robertson-Wesley; R-W Ringers

Call to Worship:

The spirit is alive and well!

The spirit is moving through each and everyone of us.

As we gather in this sacred space we can feel the energy and passion building among us ready to share our gifts and live out our faith both within this space and in the neighbour that we serve along with the entire world with gratitude.

May your spirit guide our actions, and inspire generosity to share these gifts that we have received for the common good.

Hymn: *Serve the Lord*

All God's Children Sing 28

Serve the Lord, serve the Lord with gladness.

Serve the Lord, serve the Lord with gladness.

**O ye people who've been waiting for so long,
serve the Lord.**

Trust the Lord, the Lord will always lead you.

Trust the Lord, the Lord will always lead you.

**O ye people who've been waiting for so long,
trust the Lord.**

Thank the Lord, for God's mighty actions.

Thank the Lord, for God's mighty actions.

**O ye people who've been waiting for so long,
thank the Lord.**

Love the Lord and there is your freedom.

Love the Lord and there is your freedom.

**O ye people who've been waiting for so long,
love the Lord.**

Serve the Lord, serve the Lord with gladness.

Serve the Lord, serve the Lord with gladness.

**O ye people who've been waiting for so long,
Serve the Lord.**

Coming into God's Presence
M&S Bucket (March/April/May)

Rev. Karen Bridges and Gratitude Team

Let us celebrate the special events in our lives of the last 3 months with a special donation into the bucket for Mission and Service.

God's Holy Word

Prayer of Illumination:

You, God, light up our lives when we are open to your presence and your word. You provide each one of us with the power and enthusiasm to carry on.

We are here to open ourselves to your presence and to be guided by your truth. We are thankful that we are not alone no matter what we face this day and always. Amen.¹

Anthem: *Laudate Dominum*, by Camille Saint-Saens Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Laudate Dominum, omnes gentes; laudate eum, omnes populi.

Quoniam confirmata est super nos misericordia ejus, et veritas Domini manet in aeternum. Alleluja, amen. (Psalm 117)

Praise the Lord, all nations; praise him, all peoples.

Certain is his love and mercy for us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.

Alleluia, amen.

Scripture:

Gwen Blanchard

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 • The gifts of the Spirit.

No one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body - Jews or Greeks, slaves or free - and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

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

Thanks be to God.

Meditation: *Holy, Holy, Holy*, by Franz Schubert arr. by Martha Lynn Thompson

Robertson-Wesley Ringers

Sermon: *Shared gifts lead to gratitude in abundance.*

Rev. Karen Bridges

¹ Written by Bill Steadman, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1, 2022, p. 46. Used with permission.

**On Pentecost they gathered quite early in the day,
a band of Christ's disciples, to worship, sing, and pray.
A mighty wind came blowing, filled all the swirling air,
and tongues of fire a-glowing inspired each person there.**

**The people all around them were startled and amazed
to understand their language, as Jesus Christ they praised.
What universal message, what great good news was here?
That Christ, once dead, is risen to vanquish all our fear.**

**God pours the Holy Spirit on all who would believe,
on women, men, and children who would God's grace receive.
That Spirit knows no limit, bestowing life and power,
The church, formed and reforming, responds in every hour.**

**O Spirit, sent from heaven on that day long ago,
rekindle faith among us in all life's ebb and flow.
O give us ears to listen and tongues aflame with praise,
so folk of every nation glad songs of joy shall raise.**

Pastoral Prayers

Rev. Dirk Jessen

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: *Come, O Spirit, Dwell among Us* *Voices United 198 v. 1*

**Come, O Spirit, dwell among us, come with pentecostal power;
give the church a stronger vision, help us face each crucial hour.
Built upon a firm foundation, Jesus Christ, the cornerstone,
still the church is called to mission
that God's love shall be made known.**

Prayer of Gratitude:

May the Spirit inspire your giving.

May the Spirit give life to your gifts.

In the Spirit, we have come together in joyful worship. In the Spirit, we give thanks continually. In the Spirit, we encourage each other. In the Spirit, we care compassionately. In the Spirit, we energize our neighbourhood. In the Spirit, we support God's call in the world.

When people ask you, "Why do you care so enthusiastically?"
you will tell them,

"We pray, share, and work in the Spirit." Amen.²

Hymn: *For the Faithful Who Have Answered*

Voices United 707

**For the faithful who have answered
when they heard your call to serve,
for the many ways you led them
testing will and stretching nerve,
for their work and for their witness
as they strove against the odds,
for their courage and obedience
we give thanks and praise, O God.**

**Many eyes have glimpsed the promise,
many hearts have yearned to see.**

**Many ears have heard you calling
us to greater liberty.**

**Some have fallen in the struggle,
others still are fighting on.**

You are not ashamed to own us.

We give thanks and praise, O God.

**For this cloud of faithful witness,
for the common life we share,
for the work of peace and justice,
for the gospel that we bear,
for the vision that our homeland
is your love - deep, high, and broad -
for the different roads we travel
we give thanks and praise, O God.**

² Written by David Sparks, *Gathering*, Pentecost 1 2022, p. 29. Used with permission.

Commissioning:

As you leave this church, the breath of the Spirit goes with you, enabling you to pay attention to the needs around you, calling on you to use your talents wisely, showing you the opportunities for friendship and sharing, reminding you that forgiveness is possible, and giving you the strength to face each new day with hope. The breath of the Spirit goes with you; its inspiration will never leave you.³

Postlude: *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*, Melody by L. Van Beethoven arr. by Patricia Sanders Cota Nova Bells and R-W Ringers

Questions for Reflection:

- How do you live out your call?
What are you passionate about?

R-W Report

Next Sunday
Sunday, June 4, 2023
Trinity Sunday

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

2 Corinthians 13:5-7, 11-13 • Let us live in peace.

Matthew 28:16-20 • The call to discipleship

Sermon: Let us grow in our trust in each other and in God's Spirit. Living in peace with one another is sometimes easier said than done. As we, like the disciples, answer the call to serve the world in love, bringing harmony and peace to all of God's creation we must remember whom we serve, we must remember that we are called to do this together, and we must remember that with the Spirit to guide us that we can be united even in our differences. How will our action reflect our commitment to God?

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

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Table with 3 columns: Day, Activity, Time. Rows include Sun May 28 (Sunday Worship, Kids' Church, Youth Discussion, Fellowship, Koinonia), Mon May 29 (Spirited Art Studio), Tues May 30 (Scripture Reflections), Wed May 31 (Spirited Art Studio), and Thur June 1 (Nova Bells, R-W Ringers).

3 Written by David Sparks, Gathering, Pentecost 1 2022, p. 29. Used with permission.

ON THE HORIZON

Sun June 4	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
	Congregational Meeting - Memorial Hall	12:00 pm
Mon June 5	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	7:00 pm
Tues June 6	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
	DEAP - Club Room	5:30 pm
Wed June 7	Canterbury Worship - Away	10:30 am
	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	1:30 pm
Sat June 10	Community Dinner - Memorial Hall	5:00 pm

R-W News & Notes

BOOK SALE: BOOK DONATIONS NEEDED

We are holding a book sale fundraiser on the church lawn **July 8 & 9**. We need books hardcover and paperbacks, magazines, and anything you think is appropriate for the books sale. We can pick it up if you can't drop off at the church. Sheila & Pat 780-481-0056.

SILENT TALENT AUCTION - LAST DAY!

Auction items are posted on the walls of Memorial Hall and the bidding that started last week has been fierce! Check out the over 30 talents that have been generously submitted by fellow parishioners. Remember to check your last bid as it may have been beaten! You can bid as many times as you like. Also, the value posted is what the donor has determined the item to be BUT you can bid below or above that amount; it's a guideline. Lots of great, fun, interesting and unique bids. The gong will sound at 12:45 pm **today** to end the auction. Meet new friends, learn something new, and have fun!

KOINONIA WORSHIP

Tonight, 5:30 pm - approx. 8:30 pm. Do you enjoy singing (or listening to?) lively music? If so, you are invited to share your voice (or ears!) to the sounds of Ron Klusmeier, Jim and Jean Strathdee, and others in a celebration and praise for some joyful hymns! The evening begins at 5:30 in Memorial Hall with sharing of food, in the form of a POTLUCK prepared by those in attendance. If you are able, a contribution towards the shared meal will be very welcome. Following lively conversation around the supper tables, we will gather to sing some favourite tunes, using our very familiar Voices United and More Voices, led by Graham Cooke, Marg May and Phyllis Harlton. Scripture readings, other readings and a Circle Prayer will be included. All are invited to a warm and happy musical time together! See you then!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On **June 4th** at noon in Memorial Hall, an in person congregational meeting will be held to discuss and vote on the Community of Faith Profile. This document shares the story of Robertson-Wesley United, who we are and what we believe God is calling this faith community to do and be in the next 10 - 15 years. Through surveys, interviews and discussions, the Community of Faith Task Group, and with the leadership of Rev. Lynn Maki (in visioning), the Board finalized the report with the proposed new minister job descriptions. The Northern Spirit Region Pastoral Relations Commission of the United Church has approved the updated profile, and the next step is to share it with the R-W community of faith. When the congregation has approved this report, R-W can then begin the search for the permanent minister(s). The report can be found on the website **rwuc.org/cofp**. If you would like a printed copy of the report please contact the church office. Robertson-Wesley's Bridging Minister, Rev. Dirk Jessen will chair the June 4th meeting.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION POD CONVERSATION

The Spiritual Formation Pod Coordinator is hosting a conversation on Sunday, **June 11** after church from 12:00 to 1:30 in Room 11. This conversation is to explore fellowship and ways to make people--especially newcomers and the more shy among us--feel more welcome at coffee hour. All who want to share their thoughts (including you) are welcome to attend.

GREEN BITES

World Environment Day is **June 5**. Here are a few suggestions for special things to do that day:

- Walk outdoors and observe aspects of nature that you never noticed before (eg. the different ways that birds walk on the ground in search of bugs to eat, the shape of the clouds in the sky).
 - Thank the North Saskatchewan River for its gifts to Edmonton.
 - Send a letter to a politician emphasizing the importance of caring for Mother Earth.
 - Begin to read a book about nature (eg. *Finding the Mother Tree* by Suzanne Simard, *Wildscape* by Nancy Lawson).
 - Ask an older adult to recall memories of nature from childhood.
 - Take a walk with a young child and look at clouds, flowers, etc.
 - Promise yourself to find ways to reduce your use of fossil fuels.
 - Donate money to an environmental organization.
- The Environmental Stewardship Group

COMMUNITY & CONNECTION 2SLGBTQIA+ ADVOCACY CONFERENCE

The Community & Connection 2SLGBTQIA+ Advocacy Conference is fast approaching. The website and registration form is up and can be found at www.communityandconnection.com Register quickly to

guarantee you get your first choice of workshops and they don't fill up! We have had a great response on social media with many sharing about the conference. Now that we are getting closer to the conference dates, we are looking for volunteers to help out. Roles would include the following; greeters, registration table, beverage servers, and workshop presenter support. If any of these roles interest you and you are wanting to help out with the conference, we would love to have you join us! A volunteer sign-up sheet can be found in Memorial hall.

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.

Worship Notes

Today is known as Pentecost Sunday. It is the day that we celebrate the birth of the Christian Church. We celebrate with the colour red designating the Holy Spirit descending on the people. The colour red, not only in the church but in life, represents blood, heat, fire, and love. In this case, it represents the passion of Christ and other followers who gave of their lives holding firm to their faith, love and devotion to God. Thank you to R-W Ringers and Nova Bells for your gifts of music this year.

Cover Image

The cover image is of the communion table, decorated with the colours of the Theological Banquet.

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

June 22-24 2023

**Robertson-Wesley United Church
10209 123 ST EDMONTON, AB**

Community & Connection

2SLGBTQIA+ Advocacy Conference

BRINGING TOGETHER THOSE WHO DO WORK IN THE 2SLGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY TO SHARE THEIR CHALLENGES AND EXPERIENCES WITH EACH OTHER AND THE GREATER COMMUNITY.



NISHA PATEL
SPEAKER

POET LAUREATE
EMERITUS OF THE CITY
OF EDMONTON
PHOTO BY AARON PEDERSON



SISSY THIESSEN
KOOTENAYOO
SPEAKER

PERFORMER AND
EDUCATOR
PHOTO BY COLE RICHARDS
INDIGENALITY PHOTOGRAPHY



EMMET MICHAEL
ARTS NIGHT
PERFORMER

ALT-FOLK SINGER-
SONGWRITER
PHOTO BY NADIA JADE PHOTOGRAPHY



www.communityandconnection.com

◀ Scan here to register

Thank you to our Sponsors:



Community & Connection

2SLGBTQIA+ Advocacy Conference
Presents an Evening with Edmonton
based Alt-Folk Singer-Songwriter



JUNE 24 • DOORS 6:30 PM • SHOW 7:15 PM

**ROBERTSON-WESLEY
UNITED CHURCH
10209 123 ST EDMONTON**

**TIX ON THE
SQUARE**
BOX OFFICE & STORE

**TICKETS \$20
TIXONTHE SQUARE.CA
780-420-1757**

