

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: *Nun Bitten Wir den heiligen Geist*, by Dietrich Buxtehude

Allan Bevan, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Introit: *Meinem Hirten bleib'ich treu*, by J. S. Bach Jacqueline Hernandez, soloist

Meinem Hirten bleib ich treu.

I stay faithful to my shepherd.

Will er mir den Kreuzkelch füllen,

Though he fills the cup of suffering for me,

Ruh ich ganz in seinem Willen,

I rest completely in his will,

Er steht mir im Leiden bei.

he stands by me in sorrows.

Es wird dennoch, nach dem Weinen,

For after my weeping

Jesu Sonne wieder scheinen.

the sun of Jesus will shine again.

Meinem Hirten bleibe ich treu.

I stay faithful to my shepherd.

Jesu leb ich, der wird walten,

I live for Jesus, who will rule over me,

I stay faithful to my shepherd.

Rejoice, my heart, [though] you must grow cold [in death]

Freu dich, Herz, du sollst erkalten,

Jesus has done enough.

Jesus hat genug getan.

Amen: Vater, nimm mich an!

Amen: Father, take me up!

Call to Worship:

Many are the reasons we gather:

we are one as the body of Christ.

Excited, anxious, reluctant, restrained:

we are one as the body of Christ.

Brought here, sent here, drawn here, just here:

we are one as the body of Christ.

Let us open our hearts and minds to the possibility of change.

Whatever happens and however it happens:

God is present here.¹

Hymn: *River*

More Voices 3

River, rush-a-down to the ocean blue,

River from a mountain high.

River, as you do what rivers do,

River, draw the Spirit nigh.

Spirit, come-a-down to the riverside,

Spirit, spark of wondrous thought.

Spirit, I am free for you to guide,

Spirit, pray that I be taught!

Water, let me drink of your healing pow'r,

Water, strength and life you give.

Water, as I travel with each hour,

Water, help my body live.

River, flow-a-down where you ran before,

River, source of clearer view.

River, as I walk your rocky shore,

River, see my journey through,

See my journey through.

¹ Written by Peter Chynoweth, *Gathering*, Pentecost 1 2023, p. 37. Used with permission.

Prayer of Confession:

Your Spirit calls us to new relationships, Gracious God, relationships of peace and equality. The old ways of inequality, power, and privilege lead only to distress and despair. Only the mind of Christ within us can lead us to new understandings of life for ourselves and our world. May we be open to the mind of Christ transforming and renewing both us and our world.

(a time of silence prayer)

Amen.

Word of Assurance:

With Christ in us, we are raised to new life, and new possibilities.

Thanks be to God. Amen.²

Coming into God's Presence

Rev. Karen Bridges

God's Holy Word

Anthem: *Give Me Jesus*, Trad. Spiritual arr. by Hal H. Hopson

Choir of R-W

Prayer of Illumination:

When we yearn for your call, God of the Ages, our expectations sometimes block the message. Open us to the ways in which your call is made plain. Help us to pay attention to your call revealed in what is happening all around. Call us and then join us on our journey of discipleship. **Amen.³**

Scriptures:

Raydene Koch

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

Examine yourselves to see whether you are living in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you? - That is, unless, you fail the test! I hope you come to see that we haven't failed it. We pray to God that you won't commit any wrongdoing - not that we should appear to be in the right, but that you should do right, even if we appear to be in the wrong. For we can't do anything against the truth - only for it. And we rejoice when you are strong and we are weak. We pray that you will be made complete. I write this while I am away from you, so that when I come, I need not be severe in my use of authority, which God gave me for building up, not for tearing down. And now siblings, I must say goodbye. Mend your ways. Encourage one another. Live in harmony and peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the holy ones send greetings to you. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the friendship of the Holy Spirit be with you all!⁴

² Written by Wanda Winfield, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1, 2023, p. 44. Used with permission.

³ Written by Beth W Johnston, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1, 2023, p. 49. Used with permission.

⁴ The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation.

Matthew 28:16-20 • The call to discipleship.

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw Jesus, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the God, Christ, and Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: *Let us grow in trust in each other and the Spirit* Rev. Karen Bridges

Grateful Response

Hymn: *When a Poor One*

Voices United 702

**When a poor one who has nothing shares with strangers,
when the thirsty water give unto us all,
when the wounded in their weakness strengthen others,
then we know that God still goes that road with us,
then we know that God still goes that road with us.**

**When at last all those who suffer find their comfort,
when they hope though even hope seems hopelessness,
when we love though hate at times seems all around us,
then we know that God still goes that road with us,
then we know that God still goes that road with us.**

**When our joy fills up our cup to overflowing,
when our lips can speak no words other than true,
when we know that love for simple things is better,
then we know that God still goes that road with us,
then we know that God still goes that road with us.**

**When our homes are filled with goodness in abundance,
when we learn how to make peace instead of war,
when each stranger that we meet is called a neighbour,
then we know that God still goes that road with us,
then we know that God still goes that road with us.**

Pastoral Prayers

Lord's Prayer:

**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.**

Rev. Dirk Jessen

Voices United p. 921

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:

You have given us all our gifts, O God,
and we are thankful.

You have shown us how our gifts may be used, O God,
and we are challenged.

You are with us as we put our gifts to work in the way of Jesus Christ,
and we are blessed. Amen.⁵

Hymn: *Walk with Me*

Voices United 649

**Walk with me, I will walk with you and build the land that
God has planned where love shines through.**

**When Moses heard the call of God he said, "Lord, don't send me."
But God told Moses, "You're the one to set my people free."**

**Walk with me, I will walk with you and build the land that
God has planned where love shines through.**

**Now Peter was a most unlikely man to lead the flock,
but Jesus knew his holiness and he became the Rock.**

**Walk with me, I will walk with you and build the land that
God has planned where love shines through.**

**Young Mary Magdalene was sure her life could be much more,
and by her faith she dared to let God's love unlock the door.**

**Walk with me, I will walk with you and build the land that
God has planned where love shines through.**

**And when you share your faith with me and work for life made new,
the witness of your faithfulness calls me to walk with you.**

**Walk with me, I will walk with you and build the land that
God has planned where love shines through.**

⁵ Written by David Sparks, *Gathering*, Pentecost 1 2023, p. 50. Used with permission.

Commissioning:

Called to ministry and mission,

God enables us to notice and accept the call.

Called to ministry and mission,

God enables us to determine which ministries are for us.

Called to ministry and mission,

God enables us to work effectively.

As we follow the way of Jesus Christ,

may God continue to bless all our ministries with abundant blessing!

Go now into the world, for Christ has sent you to share the Good News.⁶

Postlude: *Fantasy in C Major*, by J. S. Bach

Allan Bevan, organ

Question for Reflection:

How will our actions reflect our commitment as a community of faith to God?

R-W Report

Next Sunday

Sunday, June 11, 2023

Pride 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.

Genesis 12:1-9 • Call of Abraham.

Matthew 9:9-13 • Call of Matthew

Sermon: An Emmanuel Problem.

Once we have decided that we are on the best and right path to fulfill the divine hope for this world, is there anything left to do but travel on? If the answer is "yes", we may have a problem.

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

WEEK AT A GLANCE

| | | |
|-------------|---|----------|
| 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 |
| 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 |

⁶ Written by David Sparks, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1 2023, p.52. Used with permission.

ON THE HORIZON

| | | |
|---------------|---|----------|
| Sun June 11 | 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 |
| | Spiritual Formation Conversation - Room 11 | 12:00 pm |
| Mon June 12 | Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio | 7:00 pm |
| Tues June 13 | Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom | 12:00 pm |
| | Property Committee Meeting - Room 11 | 1:00 pm |
| | UCW - Memorial Hall | 1:30 pm |
| | DEAP - Club Room | 5:30 pm |
| | Finance Committee Meeting - Club Room | 7:00 pm |
| Wed June 14 | Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio | 1:30 pm |
| Thurs June 15 | Men's Group - Memorial Hall | 10:00 am |

Volunteer Opportunities

COMMUNITY & CONNECTION 2SLGBTQIA+ ADVOCACY CONFERENCE

We are looking for volunteers to help out on **June 22, 23 and 24**. Roles include the following: Greeters, registration table, beverage servers, and workshop presenter support. If any of these roles interest you and you want to help out with the conference you can sign-up in Memorial hall.

R-W News & Notes

SILENT TALENT AUCTION - THANK YOU!!

A huge thank you to all the talent donors and bidders who made last Sunday's auction such a huge success. We raised over \$4400.00 for the church but more importantly we connected dozens of donors and bidders together for the first time, in the spirit of community, who will share over the coming months a myriad of diverse and interesting talents!

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. We can pick it up if you can't drop off at the church. Sheila & Pat 780-481-0056. If possible, please bring books in low boxes with spines facing upwards so they can be set right out. CD's also welcome.

WILD CHURCH

Fun in the sun at Emily Murphy Park (Picnic Site #3)! All ages - and pets - are invited to the Wild Church potluck picnic at 12:30 on **June 18**, followed by a Summer Solstice Wild Church Service at 1:15. Feel free to join one or both activities. Food will be provided. We encourage you, if able, to bring a potluck item and plates/utensils for yourself; if unable, come anyway! Rain or shine, barring unsafe conditions. For questions/ transportation arrangements, contact wildchurch@rwuc.org. Follow us @wildchurchyeg

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Today 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 this 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 pm in Room 11. This conversation is to explore fellowship and ways to make people feel more welcome at coffee hour. All who want to share their thoughts (including you) are welcome to attend.

COMMUNITY & CONNECTION 2SLGBTQIA+ ADVOCACY CONFERENCE

The Community & Connection 2SLGBTQIA+ Advocacy Conference is June 22, 23 and 24. This conference will bring together individuals and agencies in the 2SLGBTQIA+ community to share their experiences, challenges and hopes. Through this coming together we hope to learn what is currently happening in the queer community and what needs are not being met. Visit www.communityandconnection.com for more info or to register. Register quickly to guarantee you get your first choice of workshops.

COMMUNITY & CONNECTION CONCERT

From Hiding to Healing with Alt-Folk singer Emmet Michael, **Friday, June 23** at 7:15 pm. Introspective and enthralling, with equal parts grit and grace, Emmet Michael is a musician who was built on his trials. Turning to music in his darkest times, he found solace in his ability to share his heart with others through his lyrics. Drawing on his experience as a transgender man, living with mental illness, and battling addiction, his songs carry a tone of desperation and triumph. With soulful melodies and heart-wrenching lyrics, his music conveys a message that is both powerful and vulnerable. Entirely unique, yet familiar. This arts evening concert is included in the 3 day conference pass and can also be purchased separately through Tix on the Square.

GREEN BITES

Some years ago I was driving downtown during a very heavy rainstorm. I was horrified to see the vast volume of water pouring onto the streets in the direction of the drains. How can the City of Edmonton deal with this huge amount of runoff, I wondered. The next day I called 311, the number I occasionally call if I want information regarding waste management, transportation, etc. I was connected to someone who was an expert regarding rain water. When I enquired about the city's plans for additional drainage due to in-fill and the increasing number of high-rises. I received dead silence. However, the city must have considered water management in the intervening years because on the city's website is a very interesting document entitled *How to Build a Rain Garden*. I had heard of Herb Gardens, Rock Gardens, Butterfly Gardens, but a Rain Garden was new to me. A rain garden can be built on a slope, and filled with a variety of plants that are known for their absorption of water. The idea behind a rain garden is to remove pollutants from rain runoff before it gets into the city's water treatment system. As well, rain gardens slow down the flow of water, reduce flooding, and provide habitat for birds and beneficial insects. Their purpose is to become the wetlands that we humans destroyed to make the land more suitable for housing or agriculture. Check out the city of Edmonton's website and search for Rain Garden in a Box. The article which is almost sixty pages in length is filled with information about how to build a rain garden, the plants to select, and the care the garden needs. Building a rain garden would be an excellent summer project for a family, including grandparents and grandchildren. And what memories would be created!

-The Environmental Stewardship Group

R-W MEN'S GROUP

Summer is coming and so is everyone's thinking of vacations, often involving staying at hotels. In recognition of the season the R-W Men's Group has arranged a special presentation by Chris Gowers of his career experiences as a 'Hotelier - the Inside Story'! The R-W Men's Group will be meeting on Thursday, **June 8th**, at 10:00 am. Everyone in the R-W congregation are invited. If able bring some munchie's - coffee will be provided. If there are any questions contact Louis Berlinguette (Ph: 780-910-4486).

SPIRITED ART STUDIO

The Spirited Art Studio will take a summer break, with the last Art Studios happening the week of **June 11**, and will resume in September.

In the Community

124 STREET GRAND MARKET

We are excited to welcome back to our sunny street corner the 124 Grand Market! The market will run Sundays from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm from June - September. Bring a blanket, buy some local produce, crafts, or food and have a picnic on the lawn after church to soak up the atmosphere!

ALBERTA WILDFIRES: DONATIONS AND PRAYERS

The Chinook Winds and Northern Spirit Regional Councils are under a blanket of smoke, or dealing with fires, or both. Visit northernspiritrc.ca/letter-from-the-regional-council-chair-re-wildfires/ read a letter from the Northern Spirit Chair, with various funding links for those evacuated or facing destruction of homes and businesses. Rev. Catherine Faith MacLean in Northern Spirit wrote a prayer in response to the fire crisis, which can be read at northernspiritrc.ca/the-burnt-prayer-a-prayer-of-lament/

FROM THE AFFIRMING TASK GROUP: Thanks to the Region

Northern Spirit voted to become an Affirming Region at the 2023 Annual Meeting, on May 6th. Visit northernspiritrc.ca/from-the-affirming-task-group-a-note-of-thanks-to-the-region/ to read a note of thanks from the Affirming Task Group, whose work over the last three years guided our Region in discerning & exploring this decision.

Worship Notes

Today is known as Trinity Sunday. The Trinity speaks to how there are three expressions of God, or three in one: God, Christ, and Spirit. The traditional words used to describe the Trinity are Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In *A Song of Faith*, the most recent United Church Creedal Statement we also describe the Trinity in this way: Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer; Mother, Friend, and Comforter; Source of Life, Living Word, and Bond of Love. These descriptions help us to understand where and how God is at work in our lives. What three descriptors speak to you?

Cover Image

The cover image is a word cloud created by Elyse, using the words collected during the Community of Faith Profile questions and interviews. The larger the word is the more often it was mentioned. This word cloud represents the qualities R-W's Community of Faith is seeking for the new Minister(s).

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

