



An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada

2023 June 18

Indigenous Day of Prayer Sunday

Pentecost 3



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

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: *Two Chorale Preludes*, by Johannes Brahms

- 1) *O Gott, du frommer Gott* (O God, Thou Faithful God) Op. 122 #7
- 2) *Herzlich tut mich erfreuen* (My Faithful Heart Rejoices) Op. 122 #4

Allan Bevan, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Introit: *Umoja Tunaimba (United We Sing)*, by Victor Johnson

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Opening Prayer:

Holy One, we praise you for your deep and abiding love, which holds each one of us every moment of our lives. We praise you for your generous spirit and your infinite patience as you wait for us to embrace your transforming love and accept forgiveness. Help us to bring these words of praise from our minds to our hearts so we can live into sharing your gracious compassion and extravagant blessings with all our neighbours, known and unknown. Creator, thank you for your truth and wisdom, and for inviting us to travel the healing path with you; we offer you our hearts and minds so that we might embody your grace and share your blessings with all who lie upon the earth. Amen.¹

Hymn: *Open Our Hearts*

More Voices 21

**Open our hearts, open our minds.
Open our lives to you O loving God.**

**Oeuvre nos coeurs, ouvre nos pensées;
Oeuvre nos vies à toi, O Dieu d'amour.**

**Open our hearts, open our minds.
Open our lives to you O loving God.**

Coming into God's Presence

Rev. Dirk Jessen

Prayer of Confession:

Holy One, accept, we pray, our sorrow and shame for the times when we have not shown compassion and mercy to those you have created in love and for love. Help us to grow in courage and hope so we are no longer bound by the lies that have been spoken to us, free us from the untruths that prevent us from being your faithful partners in the healing of Creation.² (*shared silence*)

Word of Assurance:

Holy One, you have embodied truth and mercy, you have suffered for and with us – accept our faltering words of gratitude; breathe your Spirit upon us once again, and kindle in us the love that would ever reflect your creative joy and peace. Amen.³

^{1,2 & 3} Written by Rev. Jan Jorgensen, The United Church of Canada/L'Eglise, Unie du Canada, Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution Noncommercial Share Alike License.

God's Holy Word

Solo: *Lord God of Abraham*, by Felix Mendelsohn

Douglas Graham, soloist

Prayer of Illumination:

Creator of our hearts, Christ of our lives, Spirit of each moment—we don't often acknowledge it, but we know, God of all, that we are yours, heart, mind and spirit, to love and protect, and cherish and challenge. Guide us, O God, as we live our part and give our generous portion, for you. In Christ's name, bless these gifts, we ask it. Amen.

Scriptures:

Garnet Thomas

Romans 5:1-8 • Suffering will happen, and...

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person - though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

Matthew 9:35-10:8 • Jesus chooses people to share in his mission.

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kin-dom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then Jesus said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into the harvest. Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him. These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kin-dom of heaven has come near.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: *As You Go*

Rev. Dirk Jessen

Grateful Response

Hymn: *Hope of the World*

Voices United 215

**Hope of the world, O Christ of great compassion,
speak to our fearful hearts by conflict rent;
save us, your people, from consuming passion,
who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.**

**Hope of the world, God's gift from highest heaven,
bringing to hungry souls the bread of life,
still let your Spirit unto us be given
to heal earth's wounds and end its bitter strife.**

**Hope of the world, afoot on dusty highways,
showing to wandering souls the path of light,
walk now beside us lest the tempting byways
lure us away from you to endless night.**

**Hope of the world, who by your cross has saved us
from death and dark despair, from sin and guilt,
we render back the love your mercy gave us;
take now our lives, with them your kingdom build.**

**Hope of the world, O Christ, o'er death victorious,
who by this sign has conquered grief and pain,
we would be faithful to your gospel glorious.
You are our Lord! You shall forever reign.**

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.**

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:

**Generous God, whose love knows no boundaries, work in us to
remove the limits of your love. Bless this offering that it may
bring healing to those who have been repelled as untouchable,
rejected as undeserving, and dismissed as incomprehensible.
Expand our love and our offering so that others may experience
your love in the world and we may serve you in our lives. Amen.**⁴

Hymn: *Before the Earth Had Yet Begun*

Voices United 301

Tune: "Winchester New"

**Before the earth had yet begun
its journey round the burning sun,
before a seed of life had stirred,
there sounded God's creating Word.**

**In that bright dawning of the world,
ere ocean surged or wind unfurled,
the vaults of heaven with praises rang,
the morning stars together sang.**

**Thus when creation's God did take
the clay of earth our form to make,
God willed that to our race belong
the gifts of music, word, and song.**

**For mind can never comprehend,
our noblest words can but pretend
to grasp God's glory; praise alone
is our companion by that throne.**

Commissioning and Benediction:

**May we travel our lands in gentle ways, caring for creation as in
turn she cares for us. May God's light and love encircle and
envelop us all, as we rest in the promise of God's abundance.
Go in peace, with wisdom and gratitude and in a good way.
Amen.**⁵

Postlude: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*, by William Runyan, arr. by Marianne Kim

Allan Bevan, organ

Question for Reflection:

As you were growing up, what informed your awareness of
Indigenous people?
How has that awareness changed over time?
How has this influenced how you now think, speak and act in
relation to Indigenous peoples?

⁴ Written by Richard Bott, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1, 2021, page 52. Used with permission.

⁵ Written by Rev. Nancy Best, The United Church of Canada/L'Eglise, Unie du Canada,
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R-W Report

Next Sunday Sunday, June 25, 2023 Pentecost 4

Children & Youth: Children and Youth are invited to worship with their families in the sanctuary.

Genesis 21:8-21 • Abraham's son Ishmael is banished, or maybe set free.

Matthew 10:26-39 • In light of persecution.

Sermon: Family Tensions

One of the things that makes the scriptures of our faith so powerful is how they refuse to sugarcoat the history of the family of faith. Even the depths of humanity are remembered including Sarah's demand that Abraham's son Ishmael and his mother Hagar be banished. The reading from Matthew's Gospel is a collection of teachings that are harsh, reflecting the steep cost of being a person of faith. In both readings, it is God who has the last word, a word of blessing.

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

WEEK AT A GLANCE

| | | |
|--------------|---|----------|
| Sun June 18 | Sunday Worship - Sanctuary & Online | 10:30 am |
| | Fellowship - Memorial Hall | 11:45 am |
| | Wild Church - Away | 12:30 pm |
| Tues June 20 | Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom | 12:00 pm |
| | R-W Board Meeting - Club Room | 7:00 pm |
| June 22-24 | Community & Connection Conference | |

ON THE HORIZON

| | | |
|--------------|---|----------|
| Sun June 25 | Sunday Worship - Sanctuary & Online | 10:30 am |
| | Fellowship & Bake Sale - Memorial Hall | 11:45 am |
| | Worship Committee - Club Room | 12:00 pm |
| | Koinonia - Memorial Hall | 5:00 pm |
| Tues June 27 | Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom | 12:00 pm |
| Wed June 28 | Gratitude Team Meeting - Club Room | 5:00 pm |

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

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. 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 **today**, 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

COMMUNITY OF FAITH PROFILE

A few weeks ago at the Robertson-Wesley Congregational Meeting the Community of Faith Profile was approved by the congregation. The Profile is the story of who R-W is, what we feel God is calling R-W to do and be, as well as the ministry model that will help us get there. The next step is for R-W to report the approval to the Pastoral Relations Commission of Northern Spirit Regional Council (our region of The United Church of Canada) and with their initial assistance begin the search for the permanent minister(s). The report including ministers' job descriptions can still be found on the website at rwuc.org/cofp

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. . If you are unable to get tickets online please speak to Angela at 780-482-1587 ext 300.

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.

PENNIES FROM HEAVEN

Do you have spare change weighing down your pockets? If so, you can donate that change in the *Pennies from Heaven* jar in the office. The coins that are donated are rolled-up and the funds are forwarded to Mission & Service.

GREEN BITES

They looked stunning at the party; she in a colourful dress made of organic cotton, he in a jacket of fine wool. Both were conscious of their attire, and they had researched the source of each item. They had recently become aware of certain attributes of clothing that they had never considered; how was the fabric manufactured, what kind of dye was used, did the workers make a living wage, and how were the animals treated who had made it possible for them to wear stylish clothing and leather footwear. Today in our modern world Fast Fashion reigns. We must temper it with things such as care for the earth, the true cost of human labour, and waste, all of which are part of Responsible Consumerism. - The Environmental Stewardship Group

In the Community

PRIDE MONTH: Celebrating 2SLGBTQIA+ Communities

As June begins, Pride celebrations take place in communities across the country. We wish the Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ community a happy Pride Month and encourage allies to renew their commitment to fighting alongside the 2SLGBTQIA+ community for a future where all can live in freedom and security. To read the full statement from The United Church of Canada visit united-church.ca/news/statement-pride-month

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS HISTORY MONTH & NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY

June is National Indigenous History Month, a time to commemorate and honour the history, contributions, and diversity of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples in Canada. The summer solstice, celebrated by many

Indigenous peoples of Turtle Island for millennia, is recognized as National Indigenous Peoples Day in Canada (June 21, 2023). We encourage you to make connections with Indigenous neighbours, dive deeper into Indigenous history, and experience the beauty of Indigenous cultures and traditions. Please look carefully at your local gatherings, which are a rich opportunity to learn.

RELEASING GOSPEL MINISTRY IN A COMPLEX CONTEXT

Diane Strickland will be giving a presentation on **June 20** at 7 pm, open to Communities of Faith, Lay Representatives & Leaders, and anyone interested. Topic: Why is it so hard and what can I do?

1. Describing what's making our ministry context complex.
2. Identifying how it's affecting you and your participation—eg. Grief, choices you might wish to revisit, changing expectations, anger, fatigue, disengagement, accepting who we are with compassion and courage for this “now.”
3. Identifying a biblical model for ministry in these days.
4. With the unfolding of gospel into justice there is confusion about who we are and how to be in the parable—revisiting connections and relationships in and outside the community of faith.

Please contact the Northern Spirit Regional office to register & receive the Zoom link at northernspirit@united-church.ca

Worship Notes

On this Indigenous Day of Prayer Sunday, we remember that, Indigenous or Settler, we are part of a larger story, one initiated (and ultimately completed!) by God. May we be open to both the accountability and the promise inherent in engaging all aspects of our shared story in a good way.

Cover Image

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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

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



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
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**EMMET MICHAEL
ARTS NIGHT
PERFORMER**

ALT-FOLK SINGER-
SONGWRITER

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www.communityandconnection.com

◀ Scan here to register

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