

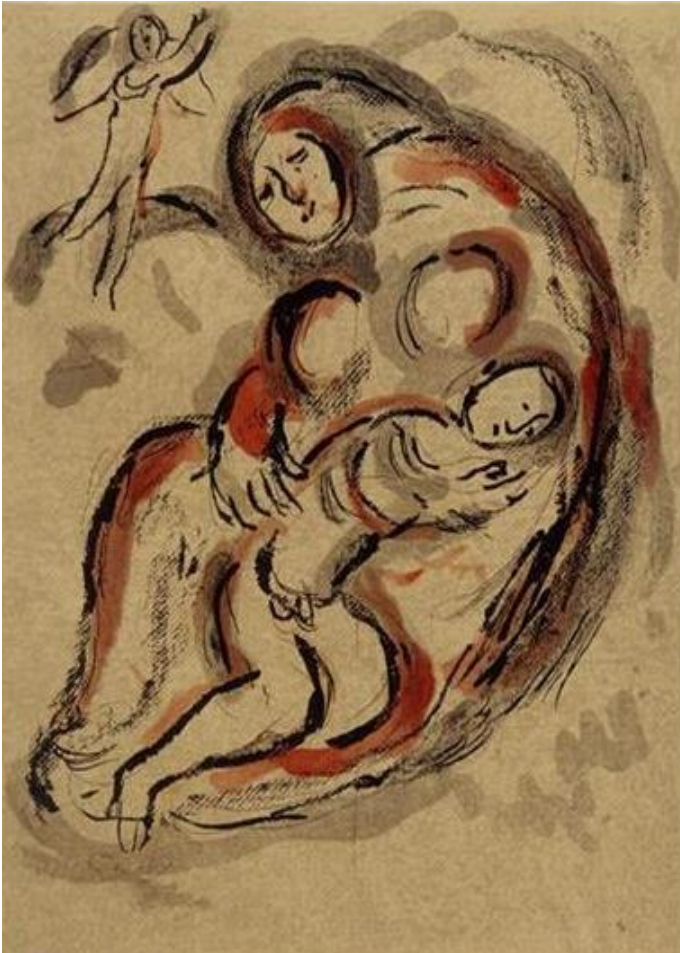


An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada

2023 June 25

Life Passages

Pentecost 4



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: *Prelude and Fugue in D minor*, by Georg Boehm Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Introit: *Day by Day*, by Martin How

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

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:

we are one as the body of Christ.

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

Whatever happens and however it happens:

God is present here.¹

Hymn: *Come In, Come In and Sit Down*

Voices United 395

Come in, come in and sit down,

you are a part of the family.

We are lost and we are found,

and we are a part of the family.

You know the reason why you came,

yet no reason can explain;

so share in the laughter and cry in the pain,

for we are a part of the family.

Come in, come in and sit down,

you are a part of the family.

We are lost and we are found,

and we are a part of the family.

God is with us in this place,

like a mother's warm embrace.

We're all forgiven by God's grace,

for we are a part of the family.

Come in, come in and sit down,

you are a part of the family.

We are lost and we are found,

and we are a part of the family.

There's life to be shared in the bread and the wine;

we are the branches, Christ is the vine.

This is God's temple, it's not yours or mine,

but we are a part of the family.

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

**Come in, come in and sit down,
you are a part of the family.
We are lost and we are found,
and we are a part of the family.**

**There's rest for the weary and health for us all;
there's a yoke that is easy, and a burden that's small.
so come in and worship and answer the call,
for we are a part of the family.**

**Come in, come in and sit down,
you are a part of the family.
We are lost and we are found,
and we are a part of the family.**

Prayer of Confession:

**Gracious God, thank you, not only for the forgiveness you offer us,
but also for being with us when we feel far from home. Help us, O
God, to give the same forgiveness and care to others that you offer
to us. (Shared Silence)**

Word of Assurance:

Know that God's love shows no boundaries and that God's forgiveness
is deeper and wider than we can ever imagine.

Amen.²

Life Passages

Sacrament of Baptism:

Prayer for the Holy Spirit (*in unison*)

**Eternal God, whose Son the Servant-Lord Jesus Christ has
commissioned us to make disciples of people of all nations baptizing
them in your name. May your Spirit be upon us and what we do,
that this water may be a sign for all of new life in Christ, in whose
name we pray. Amen.**

Congregation's Promise (*standing*)

**We will continue to support you, walk with you, and grow with you.
With God's help we will live out our baptism as a loving community
in Jesus Christ: nurturing one another in faith, upholding one
another in prayer, encouraging one another in God's work.**

² Written by Peter Chynoweth, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1, 2023, page 45. Used with permission.

Please note that the last line of the creed (omitted in some of the hymn books) is:

**We are not alone.
 We live in God’s world.
 We believe in God who has created and is creating,
 Who has come in Jesus the word made flesh,
 To reconcile and make new.
 Who works in us and others by the Spirit.
 We trust in God.
 We are called to be the church;
 To celebrate God’s presence
 To live with respect in creation
 To love and serve others
 To seek justice and resist evil
 To proclaim Jesus crucified and risen
 Our judge and our hope.
 In live, in death, in life beyond death
 God is with us,
 We are not alone.
 Thanks be to God.**

Blessing: *(sung)*

Voices United 454

**May God who creates you give you light;
 May God who sustains you make you wise;
 May God who protects you give you joy;
 May God who surrounds you give you peace.**

God’s Holy Word

Prayer of Illumination:

God of the ages, you reach out to us at all the times in our lives. The biblical story shows us many examples of your presence in good times and in days of hardship and trial. Open us to your presence as we receive the words of scripture today and help us to know that we are never alone. Amen.³

Solo: *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*, by John Rutter

Raydene Koch, soloist

Scriptures:

Marilee Stephens

Genesis 21:8-21 • Abraham’s son Ishmael is banished, or set free. The child grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. So she said to Abraham, “Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac.” The matter was

³Written by Beth W. Johnston, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1, 2023, page 45. Used with permission.

very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. But God said to Abraham, “Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring.” So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beersheba. When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, “What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him.” Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink. God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother gave a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

Matthew 10:26-39 • Jesus’ message of new world will be opposed.

“So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Creator. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Creator in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Creator in heaven. Do not think that I have come, to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household. Whoever loves their parents more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves their children more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

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

Thanks be to God.

Grateful Response

Hymn: *Give to the Winds Your Fears*

Voices United 636

**Give to the winds your fears.
Hope and be undismayed.
God hears your sighs and counts your tears.
God shall lift up your head,
God shall lift up your head.**

**Through waves and clouds and storms,
God gently clears your way.
Wait for the time, so shall this night
soon end in joyous day,
soon end in joyous day.**

**Even though you do not rule,
yet heaven and earth and hell
proclaim God sits upon the throne,
and rules o'er all things well,
and rules o'er all things well.**

**Your everlasting truth,
O God, your ceaseless love,
sees all your children's wants, and knows
what best for each will prove,
what best for each will prove.**

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:

With thanks, we dedicate our offerings to you, God the Parent, God the Child, God the Spirit, the triune God of our faith. Accept our gifts of time, talent and money. Use them as a blessing, these gifts given today with love and gratitude for all that you have shared with us. Amen.⁴

Hymn: *You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd* **Voices United 210**

**You, Lord, are both lamb and shepherd.
You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
You, peacemaker and sword-bringer
of the way you took and gave.
You, the everlasting instant;
you, whom we both scorn and crave.

Clothed in light upon the mountain,
stripped of might upon the cross,
shining in eternal glory,
beggar'd by a soldier's toss,
You, the everlasting instant;
you, who are both gift and cost.

You, who walk each day beside us,
sit in power at God's side.
You, who preach a way that's narrow,
have a love that reaches wide.
You, the everlasting instant;
you, who are our pilgrim guide.

Worthy is our earthly Jesus!
Worthy is our cosmic Christ!
Worthy your defeat and victory.
Worthy still your peace and strife.
You, the everlasting instant;
you, who are our death and life.**

⁴ Written by **Diane McKenty**, Gathering, Pentecost 1, 2023, page 31. Used with permission.

Commissioning:

In God, we live and move and have our being. We are God’s children. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we can say yes to God and yes to the wonderful working of the Spirit in our lives. Let us go forth with that “yes” in our hearts. Amen!⁵

Postlude: *Postlude on “Leoni,”* Trad. Hebrew Melody arr. by Pamela Decker
Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Questions for Reflection:

- How do you feel about the story of Hagar, Ishmael and Abraham?
- Have you ever felt rejected by or banished from family?
- How has this formed you and affected your relationship with others?
- Has it helped you grow?

R-W Report

Next Sunday
Sunday, July 2, 2023
Pentecost 5

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

Romans 6:12-23 • The wages of sin is death; eternal life is free.

Matthew 10:40-42 • Welcoming and offering a cup of water.

Sermon: To yield or not to yield to God!

Alfred Lord Tennyson wrote “Made weak by time and fate, but strong in will. To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.” This is the way of humans. The way of the divine is quite different. In the passage from Romans we are asked to present ourselves to God. In other translations of the bible we are asked to yield, offer or give ourselves to God. When we yield to God we are embraced in deep hospitality, we are embraced in the love of God.

Music: Dr. Allan Bevan, organist

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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 - TBC	5:30 pm
Tues June 27	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
Wed June 28	Gratitude Team Meeting - Club Room	5:00 pm

ON THE HORIZON

Sun July 2	Sunday Worship - Sanctuary & Online	10:30 am
	Fellowship - Memorial Hall	11:45 am
Mon July 3	Church Closed	

⁵ Written by Tabitha Carey, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1, 2023, page 29. Used with permission.

Tues July 4	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom DEAP - Club Room	12:00 pm 5:30 pm
Wed July 5	Canterbury Worship - Away	10:30 am
Sat July 8	Book Sale - Lawn Community Dinner - Location TBC	11:00 am 5:00 pm

R-W News & Notes

CHURCH CLOSED

The Church will be closed on **July 3** in observation of the Canada Day statutory holiday.

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, comics, 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.

COMMUNITY OF FAITH PROFILE

At the recent 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

COULD YOU HELP WITH AN ITALIAN DINNER FUNDRAISER?

Before covid, a group put on an Italian Dinner every fall as a fundraiser, we would like to start this activity up again. Many of us are getting older, and we realized we need more help! We would need help with: Setting up tables and chairs, kitchen food prep like chopping, peeling, slicing, washing and putting away dishes, pots and pans, and clean-up. If you would be interested please contact Rosemary Dunbar (780-862-2223) or Elyse in the office (780-482-1587).

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 sent to Mission & Service.

GREEN BITES

Located in the middle of Canada, in the city of Winnipeg, the Prairie Climate Centre and its multi-disciplinary team has developed the *Climate Atlas of Canada*. The atlas has been revised a couple of times since its appearance in 2018, and reflects the Centre's motto *From Risk to Resilience*. Check out climateatlas.ca for excellent information on many climate change topics such as Air Quality, Mental Health, and Agriculture.
- The Environmental Stewardship Group

Worship Notes

Now is the time to be thinking about getting involved in the R-W Music program in the fall! Opportunities are available as an instrumentalist, (strings, winds, brass, percussion) choral singer, (altos in particular!) or as a handbell ringer (beginning to advanced). Please speak with Allan Bevan after any service this summer, or email: music@rwuc.org for further information.

Cover Image

Cover image is a lithograph titled *Hagar in the desert* by Marc Chagall.

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

