



*An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada*

2023 July 2

Pentecost 5



### **Welcome and Inclusion**

We open our hearts and our church family to all people in our community regardless of differing abilities, ethnicity, economic circumstances, sexual orientation, age, or gender identity. 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*

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*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

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## *Friends in Christ*

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Prelude: *Voluntary in G Minor*, Op. 6#10 by John Stanley

1) *Grave* 2) *Andante*

Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Opening Prayer:

God of grace, we come this morning filled with our morning beverage of choice, yet still feeling a thirst -  
**a thirst for a clearer thought, a thirst for a revelation in your word, a thirst for a deeper connection with others in this quest of following you, a thirst to be satisfied, if only for a moment, by gathering in this oasis of peace where each of us is welcomed wholeheartedly.**

As we drink in your peace, your joy, your love, your hope, and your grace, may it flow through us and make us ready for the changes you are working in us; for we have come to be inspired - to be encouraged, to be changed, to worship you. **Amen.**<sup>1</sup>

Hymn: *Love Knocks and Waits*

*More Voices* 94

**Love knocks and waits for us to hear,  
to open and invite;  
Love longs to quiet every fear,  
and seeks to set things right.**

**Love offers life, in spite of foes  
who threaten and condemn;  
embracing enemies, Love goes  
the second mile with them.**

**Love comes to heal the broken heart,  
to ease the troubled mind;  
without a word Love bids us start  
to ask and seek and find.**

**Love knocks and enters at the sound  
of welcome from within;  
Love sings and dances all around,  
and feels new life begin.**

Prayer of Confession:

O Loving God, receive our prayers. We bring our whole lives before you today, especially our failures and our inattentiveness to your word and your ways. (silence)

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<sup>1</sup> Written by Sheryl McLeod, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1, 2020, page 38. Used with permission.

We bring broken relationships with you and with family. (silence)  
We rejoice in the perfect colours of summer but cry out to you when  
we realize the destruction humans are causing to this home you have  
given to us. (silence)  
Holy God, we come to your house seeking healing for our  
brokenness and strength in our weakness. We ask forgiveness for the  
times we have chosen our path rather than yours. (silence)  
Holy God,  
**we wait for you and put our hope and trust in you. Amen.**

Word of Assurance:

With God is unfailing love and full redemption. God redeems the  
people of God from all their sins and brokenness. God restores the  
people of God to loving relationship.

**We are forgiven and redeemed, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Thanks be to God.  
Amen.<sup>2</sup>**

Coming into God's Presence

Rev. Karen Bridges

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## *God's Holy Word*

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Prayer of Illumination:

**Encouraging God, open our hearts to hard words and deep  
truths. Nudge us with your Spirit to recognize the message you  
have for us today. Inspire us, with your love, to take your  
message into our hearts and into our lives. Amen.<sup>3</sup>**

Duet: *Ave Maria*, by Allan Bevan      Ilona Bevan and Jacqueline Hernandez, soloists  
*Ave Maria, gratia plena  
Dominus tecum.  
Benedicta tu in mulieribus,  
Et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.  
Sancta Maria, Mater Dei,  
Ora pro nobis peccatoribus  
Nunc et in hora mortis nostrae.  
Amen.*

Hail, Mary, full of grace;  
the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women;  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, mother of God,  
Pray for us sinners  
Now and at the hour of our death.  
Amen.

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<sup>2</sup> Written by Jeanne Wilson, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1 2023, p. 47. Use with permission.

<sup>3</sup> Written by Gill Le Fevre, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1, 2023, p. 49. Used with permission.

Scriptures:

Nancy Heule

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

Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the hearts to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification. When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple - truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.

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

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon: *To yield or not to yield to God!*

Rev. Karen Bridges

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### *Grateful Response*

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Hymn: *There Is Room for All*

*More Voices 62*

**There is room for all in the shadow of God’s wing;**

**there is room for all, sheltered in God’s love.**

**And I rejoice and sing, “My refuge and my rock,  
in whom I trust.”**

**There is room for all, there is room for all! (2x)**

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.**

National Anthem:

*Voices United 524 v.1*

**O Canada! Our home and native land!  
True patriot love in all of us command.  
Car ton bras sait porter l'épée,  
Il sait porter la croix!  
Ton histoire est une épopée des plus brillants exploits.  
God keep our land glorious and free!  
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.  
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.**

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](mailto: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: *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* **Voices United 541**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures high and low;  
give thanks to God in love made known:  
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.**

Prayer of Gratitude:

**You call us to dedicate our lives to you, Gracious God, to proclaim the good news to others, and to be your healing touch in a broken world. These offerings are but symbols of this response. We dedicate these gifts and ourselves to the service of your work. Amen.<sup>4</sup>**

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<sup>4</sup> Written by Beth W. Johnston, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1, 2023, p. 51. Used with permission.

**God is here! As we your people  
meet to offer praise and prayer,  
may we find in fuller measure  
what it is in Christ we share.**

**Here, as in the world around us,  
all our varied skills and arts  
wait the coming of the Spirit  
into open minds and hearts.**

**Here are symbols to remind us  
of our lifelong need of grace;  
here are table, font and pulpit;  
here the cross has central place.**

**Here in honesty of preaching,  
here in silence, as in speech,  
here, in newness and renewal,  
God the Spirit comes to each.**

**Here our children find a welcome  
in the Shepherd's flock and fold;  
here as bread and wine are taken,  
Christ sustains us as of old.**

**Here the servants of the Servant  
seek in worship to explore  
what it means in daily living  
to believe and to adore.**

**God of all, of church and kingdom,  
in an age of change and doubt,  
keep us faithful to the Gospel;  
help us work your purpose out.**

**Here, in this day's dedication,  
all we have to give, receive;  
we, who cannot live without you,  
we adore you! We believe!**

Commissioning:

And may God who brought us into being to care for creation and one another bless us as we leave:

**May we be blessed in the air we breathe, the relationships we nurture, and the acts through which love is shared, that God's blessing, light, and love will be known by all.**

Go in joy, blessed to be a blessing.<sup>5</sup>

Postlude: *Fugue in D Minor*, by Felix Mendelssohn

Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Questions for Reflection:

How do you extend hospitality to others?

How have others extended hospitality to you?

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<sup>5</sup> Written by **Bob Root**, *Gathering*, Pentecost 1, 2020, p. 48. Used with permission.

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## *R-W Report*

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### Next Sunday

**Sunday, July 9, 2023**

**Pentecost 6**

### **Sacrament of Communion and a Gratitude Minute**

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

**Romans 7:15-25a** • I do not do the good I want to do.

**Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30** • My yoke is easy and my burden is light.

**Sermon:** Step into God's love.

Emilie M. Townes, a theologian, believes that the discipleship that Jesus is inviting us to in the passage from Matthew "Requires that we stretch into our ministries by focusing on his message and realizing that we will find rest for carrying the burden of the gospel by living out the unique mission to which Jesus calls each of us." If we heed Paul's warning and turn from our self-centeredness to God-centeredness how will the pain and burden of our lives be transformed?

Dr. Allan Bevan, organist; Jacqueline Hernandez and Raydene Koch, soloists.

### **WEEK AT A GLANCE**

Sun July 2	Sunday Worship - <b>Sanctuary &amp; Online</b>	10:30 am
	Fellowship - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	11:45 am
Mon July 3	Church Closed	
Tues July 4	Scripture Reflections - <b>Club Room &amp; Zoom</b>	12:00 pm
	DEAP - <b>Club Room</b>	5:30 pm
Wed July 5	Canterbury Worship - <b>Away</b>	10:30 am
Sat July 8	Book Sale - <b>Lawn</b>	11:00 am
	Community Dinner - <b>Lawn</b>	5:00 pm

### **ON THE HORIZON**

Sun July 9	Sunday Worship - <b>Sanctuary &amp; Online</b>	10:30 am
	Book Sale - <b>Lawn</b>	11:00 am
	Fellowship - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	11:45 am
Tues July 11	Scripture Reflections - <b>Club Room &amp; Zoom</b>	12:00 pm
Thur July 13	Wild Church - <b>Emily Murphy Park Site 3</b>	7:00 pm

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

### **COMMUNITY DINNER**

We are in need of some more folks to volunteer for the next Community Dinner on **July 8**. Please sign up in Memorial Hall.



## R-W News & Notes

### **CHURCH CLOSED**

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

### **STAFF**

Rev. Dirk Jessen will be away from **June 29- July 10, 2023.**

### **THANK YOU**

We had a very successful bake sale last Sunday and raised \$468.75 for the R-W Anniversary Legacy Fund. The support and generosity is greatly appreciated.

### **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.

### **WILD CHURCH**

Join Wild Church fireside at Emily Murphy Park Picnic Site 3 on **July 13** at 7:00 pm. We invite you, if you wish, to bring your favorite nature-related prayers, poems, songs, and readings to share during this unstructured worship. Bring a mug for hot chocolate! Contact [wildchurch@rwuc.org](mailto:wildchurch@rwuc.org) for questions or transportation arrangements. Check our website ([wildchurchyeg.org](http://wildchurchyeg.org))/ Instagram ([@wildchurchyeg](https://www.instagram.com/wildchurchyeg)) for any last-minute location changes.

### **COULD YOU HELP WITH AN ITALIAN DINNER?**

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 let Rosemary Dunbar (780-862-2223) or the office (780-482-1587) know.

### **GREEN BITES**

When God created the first human, God took him and led him around all the trees of the Garden of Eden and said to him "Pay attention that you do not corrupt and destroy My world; if you corrupt it, there is no one to repair it after you." From Midrash Ecclesiastes Rabbah, 7:13 - The Environmental Stewardship Group

## **BETWEEN THE AISLES**

For the fall issue they are looking for submissions of favourite poems and prayers, recipes for hearty meals, including vegan and vegetarian options and stories on how we can do more for the environment. Send your submissions to news@rwuc.org. Submissions are due: **Aug 20**.

## **SPIRITUAL FORMATION POD**

This past June, we held a discussion, open to all interested, after church. There were seven of us: two ministers, four members of our community of faith, and me (the pod coordinator). We talked about fellowship here at Robertson-Wesley. We shared why we think fellowship is important, with a focus on fellowship in the Memorial Hall after the service. We also shared some ideas about how we might make improvements, and make the fellowship experience even better for all people of R-W's community of faith as well as guests. We also want to make fellowship more attractive to those who don't often come to fellowship after the service. One area we'd like to focus on soon is supporting the team of people in the kitchen on Sunday mornings. These are the people who make sure we have coffee, tea, treats and other refreshments after Sunday service. There are other things we discussed too. As pod coordinator, I took a lot of notes. I'll be sharing many of these thoughts and ideas in the coming months.

-John Fleming, Spiritual Formation Pod Coordinator

## **LIVING IN RIGHT RELATIONS**

The National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering is being held in Edmonton from **July 27-30**, 2023. A cluster of United Churches in Edmonton are making 150 snack bags for the people arriving at the airport. Each bag will cost \$5. The group who is organizing this is hoping to raise \$750. If you are interested in donating to this please contact Rev. Karen Bridges by July 9, 2023 for further information.

## **EMERGENCY CONTACTS**

Are you part of a single person household? Does your family live outside of Edmonton? Providing an emergency contact and phone number to the church is helpful. When we have this information we can provide care and help when needed or follow up when we suddenly can't find you. You can also add Robertson-Wesley as an emergency contact. When you add Robertson-Wesley as your primary emergency contact, one of the Reverends will be contacted first in times of need, this will allow them to visit you, provide spiritual care, and facilitate contacting your loved ones. If you would like to add or update your emergency contact please speak to Elyse in the office or email mail@rwuc.org.

## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Tuesdays at 12:00 pm on Zoom and in the Club Room. Reflect on the scripture passages for the upcoming Sunday. We are using the practice of Lectio Divina which means we read through the scripture three times. You will be invited into some moments of silence, and if you are willing you are invited to share with the group. You don't need to be a Biblical Scholar. God speaks through the scriptures and it is wonderful to hear the diversity of messages that are received. Contact the office for the Zoom link. Come with a bible and a journal, or simply yourself! Tune in when you can.

## 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](http://rwuc.org/cofp)

## 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 M&S.

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### *Worship Notes*

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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](mailto:music@rwuc.org) for further information.

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### *Cover Image*

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Cover image is by Frauke Riether from Pixabay.

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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](http://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

