



An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada

2023 July 9

Sacrament of Communion

Pentecost 6



“I am gentle and
humble in heart,
and you will find
rest for your souls.”

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, or sexual orientation, 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: *Fugue in D Major*, by J. S. Bach

Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Opening Prayer:

**Loving God, in response to your call, we have come to worship.
We humbly worship you, and we reach out our hearts to show
love and care to all. May our worship this day feed our work.
May our praise energize our faith. May our prayers and songs
feed our souls for the life of service. Amen.¹**

Hymn: *One More Step Along the World I Go*

Voices United 639

**One more step along the world I go,
one more step along the world I go,
from the old things to the new,
keep me travelling along with you:
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me travelling along with you.**

**Round the corner of the world I turn,
more and more about the world I learn;
all the new things that I see,
you'll be looking at along with me:
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me travelling along with you.**

**As I travel through the bad and good,
keep me travelling the way I should;
where I see no way to go
you'll be telling me the way I know:
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me travelling along with you.**

**Give me courage when the world is rough,
keep me loving though the world is tough,
leap and sing in all I do,
keep me travelling along with you:
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me travelling along with you.**

**You are older than the world can be,
you are younger than the life in me,
ever old and ever new,
keep me travelling along with you:
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me travelling along with you.**

¹ Written by Beth Johnston, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1, 2023, p. 41. Used with permission.

Prayer of Confession:

God of unfailing love, Saviour to whom we belong, Spirit of truth, you we worship, you we love, you we trust. We long for wisdom to live well and faithfully all the days of our lives. You know the fears that bind us. You know how lost we get sometimes. Yet, you search for us and find us; you never let us go. You pour grace upon grace into our lives. Then, you send us out into the world, which needs your light. As we seek to be what you have called us to be, fill our minds so that we observe the world through the light and love of Jesus' cross and resurrection. Then, grant us courage to walk in the way of Jesus who is your truth, your life. Amen.²

Word of Assurance:

**The God who challenges us is also the God who encourages us.
The God who confronts us is also the God who accepts us.
Be assured that God is with us even now, accepting, guiding, and forgiving.**³

Coming into God's Presence

Rev. Karen Bridges

God's Holy Word

Prayer of Illumination:

Eternal God, in the reading of the scripture, may your Word be heard; in the meditations of our hearts, may your Word be known; and in the faithfulness of our lives, may your Word be shown.

Amen.⁴

Scriptures:

Donna Krucik

Romans 7:15-25a • I do not do the good I want to do. I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing that I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

² Written by Christine Jerrett, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1, 2020, p. 42. Used with permission.

³ **Celebrate God's Presence; A book of services**. United Church of Canada, 0K004

⁴ **Celebrate God's Presence; A book of services**. United Church of Canada, 0M004.

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 • My yoke is easy and my burden is light. “But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; the Son of God came eating and drinking and they say, ‘look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.” At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Creator of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Creator, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Creator; and no one knows the Son except the Creator, and no one knows the Creator except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to be revealed to. “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light”.

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

Thanks be to God.

Anthem: *Ave Verum*, by Gabriel Faure

Jacqueline Hernandez and Raydene Koch, soloists

*Ave verum Corpus, natum de Maria Virgine:
Vere passum, immolatum in cruce pro homine
Cujus latus perforatum, unda fluxit sanguine:
Esto nobis praegustatum in mortis examine
O Jesu dulcis, O pie, O Jesu fili Mariae, tu nobis miserere. Amen.*

Hail, true Body, born of the Virgin Mary
who has truly suffered, and was sacrificed on the cross for mankind,
whose side was pierced, whence flowed water and blood,
Be for us a foretaste of heaven, during our final trial.
O sweet, O merciful, O Jesus, Son of Mary, have mercy upon us. Amen.

Sermon: *Step into God's love.*

Rev. Karen Bridges

Grateful Response

Hymn: *Let us Break Bread Together*

More Voices 480

**Let us break bread together on our knees,
let us break bread together on our knees.**

**When I fall down on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.**

**Let us drink wine together on our knees;
let us drink wine together on our knees.**

**When I fall down on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.**

**Let us praise God together on our knees;
let us praise God together on our knees.**

**When I fall down on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.**

Pastoral Prayers

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.**

A Gratitude Minute

Sylvia Duffus

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: *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:

We gather this morning, O God, amid such an abundance of your grace. All around us, we experience you at work. Help us to live in a state of gratitude, especially in those times when things go wrong in our lives, times when we are most tempted to focus

on all that is wrong instead of all that is well and good. As we pause now to present our offering, inspire us and move us closer to a true appreciation of your grace. Amen.⁵

Sacrament of Holy Communion:

All who worship with us today, regardless of age or church membership, are invited and welcome to partake in this sacrament. For people who worship online, please prepare whatever is available in your house, a cracker, bread, muffin, and juice, wine, or water. People in the sanctuary will be offered bread and grape juice. There is a gluten free option available.

Rejoice before God, you and your children.

Rejoice with the stranger, the widowed, the orphan.

Rejoice, you who were once enslaved.

Break the bread of freedom.

Drink deep from laughter's cup.

Rejoice, for God has blessed us in all we produce,
in all we undertake.

Together, let us celebrate.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Loving God, you made this wonderful world for us to enjoy. You showed our ancestors how to care for one another. You have given us Jesus to be our friend and to bring us closer to you. He died on a cross but you brought him to life, to live with us forever. You send us your Spirit and bring us to this table so that we can share your love. For all your goodness we give you thanks; and together we give you praise.

Holy, Holy, Holy:

Holy, holy, holy God, power of life and love!

Heaven and earth are full of your glory!

Hosanna through the ages!

Blest is the One who comes to bring your justice to earth!

Remembering Jesus at Table:

Let us remember together that vision of God's reign shown to us in
Jesus at table:

He shared food with followers and friends,

⁵ Written by Catherine Tovell, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1, 2023, p. 50. Used with permission.

with saints and sinners,
with crowds of thousands on the hillside,
and a few friends in an upper room.

On the night before he died, he had supper with his companions.
He took a loaf of bread, and after giving thanks, he broke it, and gave it to them, saying:

Take, eat. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then, he took a cup, and after giving thanks, he passed it among them, saying:

“Drink this. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Through this loaf and cup, Jesus lives within us.

In word and deed, Jesus lives among us.

Eternal God, we unite in this covenant of faith, as we break bread and share the cup, giving thanks for your love in Jesus, the Christ. We spread your table with these gifts of the earth and of our labour. We present to you our very lives, committed to your service on behalf of all people.

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Accept, we pray, these gifts of bread and wine. Accept both gifts and givers, for the bread we break and cup poured out show the wounds of your children, and all our longings for peace and safety. Through this celebration of your woundedness and welcome we join our hearts with theirs. Let the bread we break become nourishment and strength for our spirits. Let the cup we share become joy and peace for our souls in this feast of new life.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, God most holy, now and forever. Amen.

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Meditation: *Sanctus and Benedictus*, by Gabriel Faure

Jacqueline Hernandez and Raydene Koch, soloists

*Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

*Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.
Hosanna in excelsis.*

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Prayer after Communion:

Gracious God, may your gifts of love transform and enliven us that we may live lives of thanksgiving. May your presence among us provoke such longing for your realm, that we will never be satisfied until the whole earth knows your justice, your peace, and your love. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

Hymn: *Come, O Fount of Every Blessing*

Voices United 559

**Come, O Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing your grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing
call for song of endless praise.**

**Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unfailing love.**

**Here I pause in my sojourning,
giving thanks for having come,
come to trust, at every turning,
God will guide me safely home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God,
came to rescue me from danger,
precious presence, precious blood.**

**O, to grace how great a debtor
daily I am drawn anew!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it,
wander from the love I've known:
here's my heart, oh, take and seal it,
seal it for your very own.**

Commissioning:

Friends, go from here knowing you are loved. Go from here knowing that amidst all of life's uncertainties, God's love for you is constant and unchanging.⁶

Postlude: *Redeemed*, by Charles Gabriel arr. Kevin Boesiger

Allan Bevan, piano; David Kelmer, percussion; Raydene Koch, synth

Question for Reflection:

What burdens do you carry that God can bear so that you may rest?

⁶ Written by Susan Ivany, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1, 2023, page 52. Used with permission.

R-W Report

Next Sunday

Sunday, July 16, 2023

Pentecost 7

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

Genesis 25:19-34 • Rebekah and Isaac as parents to Esau and Jacob.

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 • Parable of the Sower.

Sermon: Growing Conditions

In the Genesis reading, we hear about how Isaac and his wife Rebekah engage with parenthood after fertility struggles. Sadly, even disappointingly, once children are born we hear how Isaac has not learned from his own family of origin about the importance of cultivating a good relationship between siblings. From Matthew's Gospel we hear about various ways in which the growth of God's good news within and between people can be hindered. In both stories, we are reminded that life goes on: growth can and does take place. What change and growth have you experienced in your life? What has aided it? What has made it difficult?

Music: Raydene Koch, accompanist; Jacqueline Hernandez, Claire Rolheiser

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

ON THE HORIZON

Sun July 16	Sunday Worship - Sanctuary & Online	10:30 am
	Fellowship - Memorial Hall	11:45 am
Tues July 18	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
	R-W Board Meeting - Club Room	7:00 pm

R-W News & Notes

PENNIES FROM HEAVEN

Thank you to those who donated change to *Pennies from Heaven*, the 30 pounds of change have been rolled up for a total of \$164.70, which will be forwarded to M&S. To the person(s) who donated surely God will give you 10,000 Airmiles to heaven! - Louis Berlinguette

SUNDAY COMMUNION - A HYBRID

Starting **today** we are having a "Hybrid" communion. At our Worship Committee meeting on June 25 we decided to return to our R-W Intinction style communion (we dip the bread/cracker into the juice). There will be one communion station with the tiny cups of juice as an option. Most covid restrictions have been lifted, so let's give this a try.

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 for questions or transportation arrangements. Please check wildchurchyeg.org or Instagram([@wildchurchyeg](https://www.instagram.com/wildchurchyeg)) for any last-minute location changes.

MUSIC IN WORSHIP

Now is the time to be thinking about getting involved in the R-W Music program this fall! Opportunities are available as an instrumentalist, (strings, winds, brass, percussion) choral singer, 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.

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

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**.

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.

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 Elyse in the office (780-482-1587) know.

GREEN BITES

Edmonton's home gardens contain many invasive plant species. Several of them were brought by settlers, either knowingly or unknowingly, or came in the cargo from various countries. Many Edmonton gardeners don't know that some of their plant material is in fact invasive. Examples are plantain, Himalayan balsam, garlic mustard, toadflax, and dame's rocket, to name a few. Readers can become familiar with our invasive species by consulting the website abinvasives.ca. Photos and descriptions accompany each of the plants and provide suggestions for management.
- Environmental Stewardship Group

Worship Notes

Thanks today for our vocal leadership provided by Jacqueline Hernandez, and Raydene Koch, and to David Kelmer on percussion.

Cover Image

Cover image is taken by Rev. Karen Bridges in Rocky Mountain House June 2023.

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