



An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada

2023 July 30

Pentecost 9

**Everything
counts in
small amounts!**



Welcome and Inclusion

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

Embracing Our Spirit

Call to Worship:

(with arms outstretched)

We gather in the name of Christ,

(with jazz hands)

To offer our praise,

(making a book with your hands)

To share stories of Jesus,

(making a bird)

And to be inspired by the Spirit

(walking fingers on palm)

To journey in his way.

(praying hands)

Lord, bless u as we worship today. Amen.¹

Hymn: *Seek Ye First*

Voices United 356

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and God's righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Hallelu, hallelujah.**

**Ask and it shall be given unto you;
seek and you shall find,
knock and the door shall be opened unto you.
Hallelu, hallelujah.**

**We do not live by bread alone,
but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of God.
Hallelu, hallelujah.**

Prayer of Confession:

Gentle Spirit, receive the whispers of our spirits when we cannot share them aloud. Receive the cries of our heart when we hide them from public expression. Listen to the song we sing when we dream at night. Reach out to us so that we may be reminded we are not alone. For you are our partner in this world, ready to be a shoulder to cry upon, ready to jump up and listen to us even before we form the words. Help us find the ways to communicate with you as a friend, sharing our pain and our joy, our love and our hurt. Help us to

¹ Written by Heather Ferrier, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1, 2023, p. 38. Used with permission.

overcome the mistakes and the ties when we travel the wrong paths.
Hug our souls so that they may feel the protection of your arms,
today, tomorrow, and until the day you greet us face to face. Amen.

Word of Assurance:

The Good news is that God pays attention to us.

**God know us and God forgives us. May we celebrate this truth
each day and be reassured by it. Amen.²**

Coming into God's Presence

Rev. Karen Bridges

God's Holy Word

Hymn: *Small Things Count*

Voices United 361

**Small things count, so Jesus said:
cups of water, crumbs of bread,
small things done because we're kind
count as big things in God's mind.**

**Small things make the big things grow:
grains of yeast inside the dough,
puffs that fill a big balloon,
notes that make a happy tune.**

**Every hair that's on our head,
every sparrow, Jesus said,
God takes care of, counts and knows,
God loves us from top to toes!**

Scriptures:

Lynn Maki

Romans 8:26-27 • The Spirit intercedes.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 • Five parables.

He put before them another parable: "The kin-dom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." He told them another parable: "The kin-dom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened. The kin-dom of heaven

² Written by Eric Hebert-Daly, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1, 2023, p. 44. Used with permission.

is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kin-dom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding a pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. Again, the kin-dom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And Jesus said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kin-dom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

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

Thanks be to God.

Solo: *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*, by Thomas Dorcey Raydene Koch, soloist

Sermon: *Everything counts in small amounts.*

Rev. Karen Bridges

Grateful Response

Hymn: *God, Reveal Your Presence*

Voices United 391

**God, reveal your presence:
as we now adore you
and with awe appear before you.
Here in this your temple:
all within keep silence,
gather now with deepest reverence.
You alone God we own,
you, our God and Saviour:
praise your name for ever.**

**God, reveal your presence:
hear the harps resounding;
see the crowds the throne surrounding.
"Holy, holy, holy!"
Hear the hymn ascending,
angels, saints, their voices blending.
Bow your ear to us here;
hearken, O Lord Jesus,
to our humble praises.**

**O great Fount of blessing,
purify my spirit,**

**trusting only in your merit;
like the holy angels
gathered all before you,
may I ceaselessly adore you.
Let your will ever still
rule your church terrestrial,
as the hosts celestial.**

Pastoral Prayers

Rev. Dirk Jessen

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: *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:

Loving God, accept these gifts as thanksgiving for your many blessings. Accept these gifts as our commitment to your kin-dom. Accept these gifts and accept our lives. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.³

³ Written by Frances Flook., **Gathering**, Pentecost 1, 2017, p. 39. Used with permission.

**Go make a difference.
We can make a difference.
Go make a difference in the world.
Go make a difference.
We can make a difference.
Go make a difference in the world.**

**We are the salt of the earth,
called to let the people see
the love of God in you and me.
We are the light of the world,
not to be hidden but be seen.
Go make a difference in the world.**

**Go make a difference.
We can make a difference.
Go make a difference in the world.
Go make a difference.
We can make a difference.
Go make a difference in the world.**

**We are the hands of Christ
reaching out to those in need,
the face of God for all to see.
We are the spirit of hope;
we are the voice of peace.
Go make a difference in the world.**

**Go make a difference.
We can make a difference.
Go make a difference in the world.
Go make a difference.
We can make a difference.
Go make a difference in the world.**

**So let your love shine on,
let it shine for all to see.
Go make a difference in the world.
And the spirit of Christ
will be with us as we go.
Go make a difference in the world.**

**Go make a difference.
We can make a difference.
Go make a difference in the world.
Go make a difference.
We can make a difference.
Go make a difference in the world.**

Commissioning:

Into a world aching for hope and meaning,

we go.

Into relationships yearning for healing and wholeness,

we go.

Into communities seeking vision and direction,

we go.

We go with Christ as our centre, with the Spirit's guidance and strength and with the blessing of God's grace.

Amen.⁴

Postlude

Question for Reflection:

How will our love for God impact the world?

What is one small action that you will do to help God's vision for the world come to fruition?

R-W Report

Next Sunday

Sunday, Aug 6, 2023

Pentecost 10

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

Isaiah 55:1-5, 12-13 • An invitation to Abundant Life.

Psalms 145:8-9, 14-21 • The goodness of God.

Sermon: We are in this together!

We are in a covenant with God. God says "you are my people, I am your God." The conclusion then is that we are in this together not only with each other but with God by our side. In the passage from Isaiah we are being invited to partake of the abundance of all that God offers us. How often do we feel depleted and isolated? How many times have you hungered for friendship, or a place to belong? God is calling us together, "Come to me; listen so that you may live." What do you hope to receive by participating in a community of faith? What do you offer to the community of faith that God has called you to? How will we worship, work and play together, thus living an abundant life?

Music: Dr. Allan Bevan, organist

⁴ Written by Gord Dunbar, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1, 2017, p. 42. Used with permission.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun July 30	Sunday Worship - Sanctuary & Online	10:30 am
	Fellowship - Memorial Hall	11:45 am
	Membership Class - Club Room	12:30 pm
Tues Aug 1	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
Wed Aug 2	Canterbury Worship - Away	10:30 am

ON THE HORIZON

Sun Aug 6	Sunday Worship - Sanctuary & Online	10:30 am
	Fellowship - Memorial Hall	11:45 am
	Membership Class - Club Room	12:30 pm
Tues Aug 8	Church Closed	
Wed Aug 9	Finance Committee Meeting - Club Room	7:00 pm
Thur Aug 10	Labyrinth Walk - Memorial Hall	11:00 am
Sun Aug 12	Community Dinner - Memorial Hall	5:00 pm

R-W News & Notes

STAFF & HOURS

Elyse is away on vacation from **July 31** to **August 4**. Christine will be covering the office. The church will be closed August 8 in observance of the Stat holiday.

GREEN BITES

Last Sunday in church we sang that old chestnut, “We plough the fields and scatter..”. Well, that struck an unusual chord because nowadays most farmers don’t plough. They practise what is called No Till. Presumably the soil is much healthier because the organisms necessary for fertility can continue their very important work when fields remain unploughed. How about “We bless the fields and scatter”? It fits with our new knowledge about soil. - Environmental Stewardship Group

BOOK SALE

Since there are still books left over there will be a second sale on August 20. If you still have books to donate, you can drop them off at the church or Pat & Sheila (780-481-0056) can pick them up. If possible, please bring books in low boxes with spines facing upwards so they can be set right out.

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**.



THE LABYRINTH THIS SUMMER

The Labyrinth at Robertson-Wesley will be available on Thursday mornings: **August 10** and **August 24** from 11:00 am to noon in Memorial Hall. Take some time on these midday occasions to engage in reflection and spiritual renewal on the Labyrinth. There will be some themed quotes and questions to guide your walk if you desire, along with guidance for labyrinth walking for those for whom the experience is new.

MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Sundays for 5 weeks from 12:30 - 2:00 pm (**July 30, Aug 6, 13, 20, 27**) in the Club Room. This is an opportunity to talk about your faith, to learn about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. It is also an opportunity to learn about the history, polity and faith practice of The United Church of Canada, and how we live out our faith in the world. After the class you will be asked to discern for yourselves whether or not you wish to publicly proclaim your commitment in this dynamic faith organisation. If you wish to participate in the group please contact Rev. Karen at karen.bridges@rwuc.org to register.

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.

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.

EMAIL SAFETY TIPS

Recently a few folks from the church have been experiencing scam emails, using a method called spoofing. Email spoofing is when a scammer forges (spoofs) the emails *from* address, so the sent message appears to have been sent from someone you know with the intention of infecting your computer with malware, asking for money or stealing information. These addresses can either be created by using alternative numbers or letters to look slightly different than the original, or by disguising the '*from*' field to be the exact email address of someone in your network. If you receive an email that looks like it is from someone you know, requesting gift cards or help and asking for secrecy, please feel free to call Elyse in the church office or the person who sent it to confirm legitimacy, do not reply to the email because the reply will get sent to the scammer.

What to do if your email has been spoofed:

- Don't panic, spoofing does not mean that the scammer has access to your account, they are only making it appear as though they do. You have not been hacked. Spoofing is a temporary issue that will often be resolved in a few weeks when the scammer will move on.
- Email everyone in your contacts to let them know to disregard any suspicious emails from you.
- Just to be safe, run a full virus scan on your computer. This ensures that you have not experienced a malware or virus infection and helps eliminate the possibility that you have a compromised account.
- Update your email password

Cover Image

Cover image is taken by Jane Chesebrough.

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

