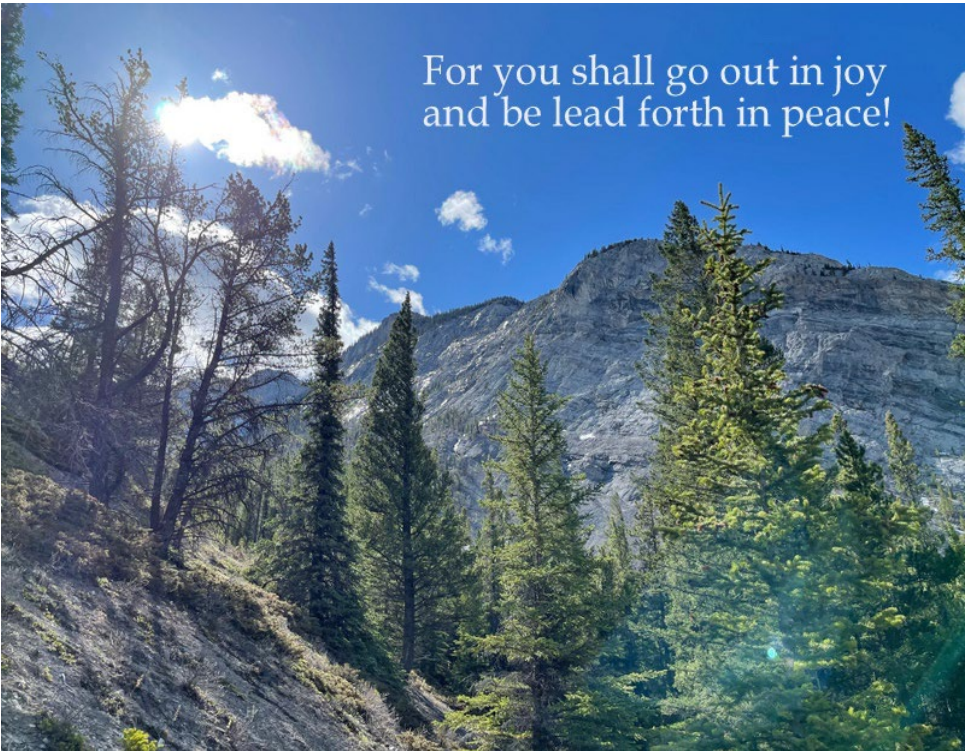




An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada

2023 Aug 6

Pentecost 10



For you shall go out in joy
and be lead forth in peace!

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: from *Eight Quiet Preludes on American Hymn Tunes*, arr. by
Charles Callahan, 6. *Beecher* 8. *Samanthra* Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Introit: *The Lord Is My Shepherd*, by Henry Smart
Jacqueline Hernandez and Raydene Koch, soloists

Call to Worship:

Do not sit idle, thinking your worship has no point, no purpose, no power. Your prayers invite God closer. Your singing touches God. Your confession launches a brighter future. God is active: attentively listening, eagerly forgiving, powerfully shaping you into your best self.

Thanks be to God! We are here to worship and to be transformed in the image of God. Amen.¹

Hymn: *Worship the Lord*

Voices United 401
vv. 1-3, 5

**Worship the Lord
praise the Creator, the Spirit, the Son,
raising our hands in devotion to God who is one!**

**Raising our hands as a sign of rejoicing,
and with our lips our togetherness voicing,
giving ourselves to a life of creativeness,
worship and work must be one!**

**Worship the Lord
praise the Creator, the Spirit, the Son,
raising our hands in devotion to God who is one!**

**Praying and training that we be a blessing,
and by our gifts and skills daily confessing:
we are committed to serving humanity,
worship and work must be one!**

**Worship the Lord
praise the Creator, the Spirit, the Son,
raising our hands in devotion to God who is one!**

**Called to be partners with God in creation,
honouring Christ as the Lord of the nation,
we must be ready for risk and for sacrifice,**

¹ Written by Elaine Bidgood Sweet, *Gathering*, Pentecost 1, 2020, p. 35. Used with permission.

worship and work must be one!

Worship the Lord

**praise the Creator, the Spirit, the Son,
raising our hands in devotion to God who is one!**

**Now in response to the life you are giving,
help us, Creator, to offer our living,
seeking a just and a healing society,
worship and work must be one!**

Worship the Lord

**praise the Creator, the Spirit, the Son,
raising our hands in devotion to God who is one!**

Prayer of Confession:

Creator God, we compare, we measure, we worry, we work, we judge, we compete, we buy, we sell, and we try to win at the race of life. We confess we have forgotten the great gift you've given us in the Sabbath, a time set apart to be with you. We have chosen to avoid the promise that you have offered in being "enough" for us if we would only stop...just stop, observe the Sabbath, and know that in you, we have all we need.

Receive our prayers. Forgive our misguided choices. Forgive our avoidance of you and of a day of rest. Forgive us, we pray. Amen.

Word of Assurance:

The good news is that we are a forgiven people. God welcomes us into the Sabbath by giving us all we need, gently calming our spirits, minds, and souls so that we can rest.

We can rest because we have the knowledge of God's ever-present and unending love for all, now and forever.

Thanks be to God. Amen.²

Coming into God's Presence

Rev. Karen Bridges

God's Holy Word

Hymn: *Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old*

Voices United 680

**Isaiah the prophet has written of old
how God's new creation shall come,
instead of the thorn tree, the fir tree shall grow;
the wolf shall lie down with the lamb.
The mountains and hills shall burst forth into song,**

² Written by Allison Abbott-Wiebe, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1, 2020, p. 40. Used with permission.

**the peoples be led forth in peace,
for the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of God
as the waters cover the sea.**

**Yet nations still prey on the meek of the world,
and conflict turns parent from child.**

**Your people despoil all the sweetness of earth;
the brier and the thorn tree grow wild.**

**God, bring to fruition your will for the earth,
that no one shall hurt or destroy,
that wisdom and justice shall reign in the land
and your people shall go forth in joy.**

Scriptures:

Jay Ferguson

Isaiah 55:1-13 • An invitation to abundant life.

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for God has glorified you. Seek the Lord while the Lord may be found, call upon the Lord while the Lord is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that the Lord may have mercy on them, and to our God, for the Lord will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

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

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The Lord is good to all, and the Lord's compassion is over all that has been made. The Lord upholds all who are falling, and

raises up all who are bowed down. The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing. The Lord is just in all ways, and kind in all doings. The Lord is near to all who call on the Lord; the Lord also hears their cry and saves them. The Lord watches over all who love the Lord, but all the wicked the Lord will destroy. My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord, and all flesh will bless the holy name of God forever and ever.

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

Thanks be to God.

Duet: *O Divine Redeemer*, by Charles Guonod

Jacqueline Hernandez and Raydene Koch, soloists

Sermon: *We are in this together!*

Rev. Karen Bridges

Grateful Response

Hymn: *Take My Life and Let It Be*

Voices United 506

**Take my life and let it be
consecrated, all for thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of thy love,
take my feet, and let them be
swift and purposeful for thee.**

**Take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from thee;
take my intellect, and use
every power as thou shalt choose.**

**Take my will, and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.**

**Take my love: and I will pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.**

Pastoral Prayers

Lord's Prayer:

**Our Creator, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
thy kin-dom come,**

Voices United p. 921

**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:

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.³

Hymn: *You Shall Go Out With Joy*

Voices United 884

**You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;
the mountains and the hills will break forth before you,
there'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field will clap,
will clap their hands!**

**And all the trees of the field will clap their hands,
the trees of the field will clap their hands,
the trees of the field will clap their hands while
you go out with joy. (2x)**

³ Written by Catherine Tovell, *Gathering*, Pentecost 1, 2023, p. 50. Used with permission.

Commissioning:

Go forth as God's people.

We have been called.

Go forth as disciples of Christ.

We have been called and we have answered, "Yes!"

Go forth strengthened by the Spirit.

**We go, equipped to show God's love
and ready to be the good news.⁴**

Postlude: *Fugue in C*, by J. S. Bach

Dr. Allan Bevan, organist

Question for Reflection:

Where is the word of God that has been planted in this community of faith growing and sprouting?

As we are led forth in joy and peace as a community of faith how will our actions, and our commitment be returned back to God?

R-W Report

Next Sunday

Sunday, Aug 13, 2023

Pentecost 11

Communion and A Gratitude Minute

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

1 Kings 19:9-18 • Elijah meets God.

Matthew 14:22-33 • Jesus walks across the stormy waters.

Sermon: Prayer ground us in times of fear and uncertainty.

What risks must we take as individuals and as a community? The United Church of Canada has a vision where as communities of faith we are committed to deep spirituality, bold discipleship and daring justice. We are being called to trust in God and take risks - prayerful risks that move us toward answering the call of Jesus to make a difference in the lives of others. We are being called to step out in faith even in uncertain times. Jesus says, "Do not be afraid." Elijah finds guidance from God in his time of fear, and so shall we.

Music: Dr. Allan Bevan, organist; Ilona Bevan and Marilee Stephens, soloists

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun Aug 6	Sunday Worship - Sanctuary & Online	10:30 am
	Fellowship - Memorial Hall	11:45 am
	Membership Class - Club Room	12:30 pm

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

Mon Aug 7	Church Closed	
Tues Aug 8	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
	Finance Committee Meeting - Club Room	7:00 pm
Thur Aug 10	Labyrinth Walk - Memorial Hall	11:00 am
Sat Aug 12	Community Dinner - Memorial Hall	5:00 pm

ON THE HORIZON

Sun Aug 13	Sunday Worship - Sanctuary & Online	10:30 am
	Fellowship - Memorial Hall	11:45 am
	Membership Class - Club Room	12:30 pm
Tues Aug 15	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
	RW-Board Meeting - Room 11 & Zoom	7:00 pm

R-W News & Notes

STAFF

Rev. Dirk Jessen is on vacation Aug 2 - Aug 11.

Garth van Herwaarden is on vacation Aug 7 - Aug 11.

SUNDAY COMMUNION

Sunday **August 13**, we are having a “Hybrid” communion. At the Worship Committee meeting on June 25 we decided to return to 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 for those who are not comfortable with intinction. If you are tuning in to worship online you are invited to prepare some bread and juice or wine and partake from your home.

On each Sunday when communion is served we highlight some aspect of the wider work of the National Church. At this time we also take up a special collection. **Sunday Aug 13** will be taken up for **Mission & Service**. Blue envelopes are provided for this purpose in the bulletin or should you wish to donate electronically simply include a note indicating your donation is for M&S.

COMMUNION SERVERS

We are seeking servers for next week’s Communion service, **Sunday August 13**. If you are able to serve please sign up in Memorial Hall. First time servers & servers of all ages are welcome.

COMMUNITY DINNER

Volunteers are needed for a variety of roles at the Community Dinner on **Saturday August 12**. Please sign up in Memorial Hall.

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: **August 20**.

BOOK SALE

Our second book sale is on **August 20** and we are hoping to do as well as we did in early July. We have received 40 boxes of books from Highlands United Church to assist in the book sale - a great gift and follows the art and books we gave to an Anglican Church last year. We hope after church, on **August 20th** you will drop by our "bookstore" located on the grass in front of our church. Sheila & Sylvia

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.

MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Sundays for 5 weeks from 12:30 - 2:00 pm (**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.

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.

GREEN BITES

Founded at the time of the first Earth Day, the Xerces Society's mission is to conserve invertebrates around the world. Many of us are “yucked out” when we see worms or insects, but invertebrates, those creatures without backbones, make up more than ninety percent of all the earth's species. In fact, life would be very different without them. The Xerces Society's name comes from the Xerces Blue Butterfly, the first invertebrate species to become extinct. The Society has three areas in which conservation protection is focused; pollinator conservation, endangered species conservation, and the reduction of pesticide use.

For more information regarding this international society, check out www.xerces.org. - Environmental Stewardship Group

Worship Notes

Thanks today to our vocal leaders Jacqueline Hernandez and Raydene Koch. Isaiah is considered to be one of the major prophets. He was the son of Amoz, and proclaimed messages from God to Judah and Jerusalem during the time of exile. The chapter that was read from Isaiah today speaks in anticipation of exiled Judah's restoration to Palestine. Prophets often are messengers and channels of God to challenge, inspire and lead the people towards God and away from human desires.

Cover Image

Cover image is taken by Rev. Karen Bridges on April 30, 2021.

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

