



An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada

2023 Aug 20

Pentecost 12



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

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 C minor*, by J. S. Bach

Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Introit: *The Lord's Prayer*, by Flor Peeters

Jacqueline Hernandez, soloist

Opening Prayer:

God who strengthens the faint of heart, calls us into a community of faith—

where we find courage to befriend our enemies and practise reconciliation.

Christ who makes the broken whole, call us into the communities where we live—

to touch with comfort and to speak hope to despair.

Spirit, we gather in your embrace—

to be blessed and a blessing, whole and healing. Amen.¹

Hymn: *Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness*

Voices United 375

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,

blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,

Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness,

Wind, Wind on the sea.

You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,

then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;

and over the eons you called to each thing:

wake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,

blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,

Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness,

Wind, Wind on the sea.

You swept thro' the desert, you stung with the sand,

and you goaded your people with a law and a land;

and when they were blinded with their idols and lies,

then you spoke thro' your prophets to open their eyes.

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,

blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,

Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness,

Wind, Wind on the sea.

You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,

¹ Written by Wetaskawin Writers, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1, 2023, p. 41. Used with permission.

**then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;
and down in the city you called once again,
when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind.**

**Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness,
Wind, Wind on the sea.**

**You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes,
from the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams,
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes,
with bold new decisions your people arise.**

**Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness,
Wind, Wind on the sea.**

Prayer for Transformation:

**Loving God, in response to your call, we have come to worship.
We humbly worship you, and we open our hearts to show love
and care to all. May our worship this day nourish our life's
work. May our praise of you energize our faith. May our prayers
and songs feed our souls for a life of service. Amen.²**

Coming into God's Presence

Rev. Dirk Jessen

God's Holy Word

Hymn: *God Loves Me*

More Voices 107

God loves me, for my God is love, divine love.

God protects me: God is great.

God loves me, for my God is love, divine love.

God protects me: God is great. (3x)

Prayer of Illumination

**Ever-moving, yet ever-stable God, we trust in your
steadfastness. In these complex times, we cling to the assurance
that you are constant. At the same time, we are dependent on
the promise that you are adaptable. As we reflect on ancient
scripture today, may we catch glimpses of your amazing
presence. Open our hearts that we might be aware of your
blessing. Amen.³**

² Written by Beth W. Johnson, *Gathering*, Pentecost 1, 2023, p. 41. Used with permission.

³ Written by Laura J. Turnbull, *Gathering*, Pentecost 1, 2023, p. 48. Used with permission.

Scriptures:

Matthew 15:10-28 • Being ritually unclean and the story of the Canaanite woman

Then Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offence when they heard what you said?” Jesus answered, “Every plant that my creator has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” Then Jesus said, “Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.” Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” But he did not answer her at all. And the disciples came and urged Jesus, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.” Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

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

Thanks be to God.

Anthem: *Ave Maria*, by Franz Schubert

Claire Rolheiser, soloist

Sermon: *Inside Out/Outside In*

Rev. Dirk Jessen

Grateful Response

Hymn: *Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands*

Voices United 570

**Jesus' hands were kind hands, doing good to all,
healing pain and sickness, blessing children small,
washing tired feet and saving those who fall;
Jesus' hands were kind hands, doing good to all.**

**Take my hands, O Jesus, let them work for you;
make them strong and gentle, kind in all I do;
let me watch you, Jesus, till I'm gentle too,
till my hands are kind hands, quick to work for you.**

Pastoral Prayers

Rev. Karen Bridges

**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 by scanning the QR code. 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.**

Solo: *Me wura Ye – sue*, by Albert Adusei Dua Kwaku Agyemang Duah, soloist
My dear Lord Jesus,
Marvellous are thy many works,
My dear Lord Jesus, it is by your grace that I am alive.
I know not what to do, I don't know what to say, you have cared for me
And saved me from all troubles.
All that you have done transcends human thoughts.
Every knee shall bow to you, worship you, praise you, and
Every tongue shall lift your holy name on high.
Faithful God! Faithful God!
All that you have done transcends human thoughts.

Prayer of Gratitude and Dedication:

You have given us all our gifts, O God,
and we are thankful.
You have shown us how our gifts may be used, O God,
and we are challenged.
You are with us as we put our gifts to work
in the way of Jesus Christ,
and we are blessed. Amen.

**Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou has been thou forever wilt be.**

**Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!**

**Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.**

**Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!**

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow -
wondrous the portion thy blessings provide.**

**Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!**

Commissioning:

Your love, O God, is a welcoming love, an embracing love, a love wonderful beyond the telling of it. As we leave this time and place of worship, may that love we experience in you be reflected in our living day by day as we work for peace and justice for all your people within creation. Amen.⁴

Postlude: *Voluntary in F*, by William Hine
1. *Slow* 2. *Allegro Moderato*

Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Questions for Reflection:

Who has challenged you in how you thought, spoke and acted on your faith?
When and how did this challenge come?

⁴ Written by Bob Root, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1, 2019, p. 50. Used with permission.

R-W Report

Next Sunday

Sunday, Aug 27, 2023

Pentecost 13

Gratitude Bucket

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

Romans 12:1-12 • New life in Christ.

Matthew 16:13-20 • Peter's declaration about Jesus.

Sermon Title: A Good Question

Simon Peter is one of the first and closest disciples of Jesus. As his travelling companion for something like three years, Simon Peter has had many first-hand experiences of Jesus, but has also observed how others have responded to him. In this passage, we witness again how Jesus uses questions to have those around him deeply process important issues. In this situation, Jesus has his disciples share some of the conclusions about who he is that have come from members of the crowds who have come to hear and see him. Jesus then asks the disciples directly: "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter is a "blurter" and this time what he says is no less than a revelation directly from God: "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." This statement and Jesus' response to it not only cements Peter's place in the inner circle of the disciples at the time, but also in the church that would eventually develop around Jesus and his teachings. When have you had a sudden, deep insight regarding a person, event or situation? How did this insight affect your life?

Music: Dr. Allan Bevan, organist; Raydene Koch, Douglas Graham, soloists

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun Aug 20	Sunday Worship - Sanctuary & Online	10:30 am
	Fellowship - Memorial Hall	11:45 am
	Book Sale - Lawn	10:00 am
Tues Aug 22	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
Thurs Aug 24	Labyrinth Walk - Memorial Hall	11:00 am

ON THE HORIZON

Sun Aug 27	Sunday Worship - Sanctuary & Online	10:30 am
	Fellowship - Memorial Hall	11:45 am
Tues Aug 29	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
Wed Aug 30	Gratitude Team Meeting - Club Room	6:30 pm

Volunteer Opportunities

YOUTH LEADERS

We are putting together a team of leaders to work with the youth of the church (Grade 7-12). Youth Leaders with the support of the ministers gather with the youth on Sunday morning during worship for a discussion time about our faith. Curriculum and discussion topics are provided. The youth also meet twice a month on a Saturday night generally from 7:00 -9:30 pm for a time of fun and activities. We like to have a team of 4 leaders. If you are interested please contact Rev. Karen at Karen.bridges@rwuc.org

GARDEN PATCH & KIDS' CHURCH LEADERS & VOLUNTEERS

We are seeking some dedicated volunteers to work with the youngest in our midst. On most Sundays from **Sept – June** there is programming for the children in the basement of the church. The programming includes stories, games, activities, crafts, baking, discussion etc. The curriculum is provided. It is most helpful to have 2 people with each group. The Garden Patch is for children who are out of diapers (3 years old to Kindergarten). Kids' Church is Grade 1-6, and if there are enough children it is helpful to split that group into Grade 1-3 and Grade 4-6. We like to have a team of people who lead these groups and we set up a schedule to help spread the work. Please contact Rev. Karen Karen.bridges@rwuc.org if you are interested in leading over the next program year **Sept 2023 – June 2024**.

NOMINATIONS TEAM

The Board of R-W is working on creating a new team of people (3-5) that will form the Nomination Committee. The nomination committee is responsible for seeking people to fill the elected roles on the R-W Board. Each year there are 1-4 roles that need to be filled. The team also updates the job descriptions when necessary. This is a great way to get to know people in the community of faith and the goal is to help people discover where their gifts from God would best be suited. The work of this team happens primarily from November until the Annual Meeting in March. The Board is seeking people who are willing to talk to others and ask questions. It is helpful if you are a good listener that can match skills with roles. If you are interested in learning more about this role please contact Rev. Karen Bridges at karen.bridges@rwuc.org.

LIVESTREAM HELP

We are looking for all ages volunteers (youth to seniors!) to run the livestream on Sundays, from 9:30 - 11:30 am. The livestream process is a simple one that anyone can learn. The position is flexible, and if we get enough volunteers, weeks can be alternated. Having volunteers in this role is crucial to the ongoing success of the livestream. If you are interested please contact Brad at brad.campbell@rwuc.org. Brad will be away from August 14-24 and September 3-8, so expect a response once he returns.

R-W News & Notes

STAFF

Brad will be away from **August 14-24** and **September 3-8**. Rev. Karen Bridges will be on study leave from **Aug 21-25**.

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 **Today**.

THE LABYRINTH THIS SUMMER

The Labyrinth at Robertson-Wesley will be available on **August 24** from 11:00 am to noon in Memorial Hall. Take some time on this midday occasion to engage in reflection and spiritual renewal on the Labyrinth. There will be quotes and questions to guide your walk if you desire.

WORKSHOP: WHAT IS COMMUNION?

Have you ever wanted to learn more about what Communion is and why we do what we do in the way we do it? On Sunday **Sept 24** from 12 - 1:30 pm in the sanctuary Rev. Karen Bridges and Brian Webb will lead the participants through various forms of communion with the opportunity to explore, ask questions and have conversations about the meaning of this sacrament and the role of ritual in our faith traditions. Please contact Rev. Karen if you are planning on attending or sign up at www.rwuc.org/worshipworkshop

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.

FALL CHOIR AND HANDBELL REHEARSALS RESUME

Wednesday, **September 6**: R-W Choir (7:30-9:30 pm)

Thursday, **September 14**: Nova Bells (5:15-6:15 pm) and R-W Ringers (7:00-8:30 pm)

ART SALE DONATIONS NEEDED

We are collecting art for the Art Sale on **October 28**. Art is in the eye of the beholder - we are collecting paintings, pottery, china, etc. Please deliver to the church or if you need the art to be picked up please call Pat or Sheila at 780-481-0056.

GREEN BITES

The City of Edmonton's revised Waste Management program is now one year old. Accompanying it is the Waste Wise app, which can be downloaded to a cell phone or to a computer. Subscribers will find pick-up dates for blue bags and green and black bins, information regarding such things as invasive weeds, and what items can be recycled. In order to reach as many Edmontonians as possible, the app contents can be accessed in several languages. -The Environmental Stewardship Group

PHOTO DIRECTORY

Stop worrying that you have forgotten someone's name, or never knew their name in the first place! It's time to put a name to the face and compile a new photo directory of people who participate at Robertson-Wesley United. Please consider having your photo included (or updated) in the fall edition. It doesn't matter if you have been here for one week or 90 years... please drop by the Club Room starting at 10:00 am or after the Sunday service starting at 11:30 am to get your photo taken on Sundays: **Sept 17** or **24**. The photo directory is produced right here at R-W – no cost to you, no photos to purchase, you will receive a directory once it has been compiled. Let's learn each other's names together!

CLOTHING SALE FUNDRAISER

Save the date! The New to You Clothing Sale will be held on Saturday **September 30th**. Donations of clothing, shoes, jewelry and other accessories will be accepted one week prior to the sale.

Worship Notes

Thanks today to our vocal leaders Jacqueline Hernandez and Claire Rolheiser and tenor Kwaku Agyemang Dua.

Cover Image

Cover image is The Canaanite Woman from *Très Riches Heures du Duc de Berry*. Thought to be the most important illuminated manuscript of the 15th century. It is a richly decorated Book of Hours containing over 200 folios, half of which are full page illustrations. It was painted sometime between 1412 and 1416 by the Limbourg brothers for their patron Jean, Duc de Berry. They left it unfinished at their (and the Duke's) death in 1416. Charles I, Duke I of Savoy commissioned Jean Colombe to finish the paintings between 1485-1489.

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

