



An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada

2023 Aug 27 **Pentecost 13**



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, sexual orientation, or 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: *Largo* from *Violin Sonata #3 in C Major* by J. S. Bach J.S., violin

Embracing Our Spirit

Introit: *I Feel the Spirit!* A Quodlibet of Trad. Spirituals arr. by Don Besig
Douglas Graham and Raydene Koch, soloists

Opening Prayer:

We have awoken to a new day surrounded by God's beauty and abundance.

We come to worship this God.

We start a new week with endless, unfolding possibilities.

We embrace those possibilities knowing that Christ embraces them with us.

With the Spirit among us to give us the courage to act, we open ourselves to God's call to service.

Let us worship God! ¹

Hymn: *Like a Rock*

More Voices 92

Like a rock, like a rock, God is under our feet.

Like the starry night sky God is over our head.

Like the sun on the horizon God is ever before.

Like the river runs to ocean, our home is in God evermore. (3x)

Prayer for Transformation:

Your Spirit calls us into new relationships, Gracious God, relationships of peace and equality. The old ways of inequality, power and privilege lead only to distress and despair. Only the mind of Christ within us can lead us to new understandings of life for ourselves and our world. May we be open to the mind of Christ transforming and renewing both us and our world.

(a time of silent prayer)

With Christ in us and between us, we are raised to new life, and new possibilities. Thanks be to God. Amen.²

Gratitude Bucket (June/July/Aug)

Coming into God's Presence

Rev. Dirk Jessen

God's Holy Word

Hymn: *I Am a Child of God*

More Voices 157

I am a child of God,

I am a glimpse of God's new creation.

I am a child of God,

I am a child of God.

¹Written by Catherine Tovell, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1, 2019, p.34. Used with permission.

²Written by Wanda Winfield, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1, 2023, p.44. Used with permission.

**I am an endless prayer,
I am a yearning for contemplation,
I am an endless prayer,
I am an endless prayer.**

**I am an angry voice,
I am compassion and consternation,
I am an angry voice,
I am an angry voice.**

**I am a cry for peace,
I am commitment and dedication,
I am a cry for peace,
I am a cry for peace.**

**I am a song of joy,
I am the moment of jubilation,
I am a song of joy,
I am a song of joy.**

Prayer of Illumination

It is a challenge, Holy God, to make sense of the scripture on our own. So, we give thanks for this opportunity to share it with each other in the company of your Holy Spirit. Help us to receive it both as an individual address and as a message to us as a community of faith, your church. Make us open in the receiving of it and brave and committed in the living of it. Amen.³

Scriptures:

Romans 12:1-8 • New life in Christ.

I appeal to you therefore, siblings, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God - what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophet, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

³ Written by Karen Boivin, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1, 2019, p. 46. Used with permission.

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

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of God is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." Jesus said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Creator in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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

Thanks be to God.

Solo: *O God of Mercy*, by Felix Mendelssohn

Douglas Graham, soloist

Sermon: *A Good Question*

Rev. Dirk Jessen

Grateful Response

Hymn: *The Church of Christ in Every Age*

Voices United 601

**The Church of Christ in every age
Beset by change but Spirit led,
Must claim and test its heritage
And keep on rising from the dead.**

**Across the world, across the street,
The victims of injustice cry
For shelter and for bread to eat,
And never live until they die.**

**Then let the servant Church arise,
A caring Church that longs to be
A partner in Christ's sacrifice,
And clothed in Christ's humanity.**

**For he alone, whose blood was shed,
Can cure the fever in our blood,
And teach us how to share our bread
And feed the starving multitude.**

**We have no mission but to serve
In full obedience to our Lord:
To care for all, without reserve,
And to spread his liberating Word.**

Pastoral Prayers

Rev. Karen Bridges

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 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.**

Prayer of Gratitude:

God, we bring our gifts to you. We present the work of our hands and our desire to serve. Let our gifts be part of the vision of how your world should be, could be, will be. This we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.⁴

Hymn: *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

Voices United 575

**I'm gonna live so God can use me,
anywhere Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna live so God can use me,
anywhere Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna work so God can use me,
Anywhere Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna work so God can use me,
Anywhere Lord, anytime!**

⁴ Written by Sandy Ferguson, *Gathering*, Pentecost 1, 2019, p. 49. Used with permission.

**I'm gonna pray so God can use me,
Anywhere Lord, anytime!**

**I'm gonna pray so God can use me,
Anywhere Lord, anytime!**

**I'm gonna sing so God can use me
Anywhere Lord, anytime!**

**I'm gonna sing so God can use me
Anywhere Lord, anytime!**

Commissioning:

Go into the world inspired by the Spirit.

We go to breathe the hope of faith into a world of despair.

Go into the world transformed by Jesus, the Christ.

We go to walk the challenging path of discipleship.

Go into the world blessed by God's grace.

We go to become a blessing for others in relationship.

Go with God's blessing. Amen. **Amen.**⁵

Postlude: *Kanon*, by Johann Pachelbel arr. Denes Agay

Allan Bevan, and Raydene Koch, piano

Questions for Reflection:

When have you had a sudden, deep insight regarding a person, event or situation? How has this insight affected your life?

R-W Report

Next Sunday

Sunday, Sept 3, 2023

Pentecost 14

Sacrament of Communion and A Gratitude Moment

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

Romans 12:9-21 • Let love be genuine; overcome evil with good.

Matthew 16:21-28 • “Take up the cross and follow me”

Sermon Title: Making Sense

Last week we heard Simon Peter's breakthrough insight into who Jesus is: no less than God's anointed and appointed one, the one who will redefine and reshape the world in the image of God. The expectations of the Messiah include both political and religious dimensions. There is the feeling that the dark night of Roman occupation combined with the weight of the religious establishment will finally come to an end.

However, God apparently has other plans, ones that defy expectations

⁵ Written by Gord Dunbar, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1, 2019, p. 50. Used with permission.

and perhaps even human logic. From being lauded as a cornerstone of the church by Jesus, Peter is now called out by Jesus as being like Satan, one who opposes God and God's ways. The Apostle Paul writes about hallmarks of a community who lives in light of Jesus the Christ. Neither the Gospel reading, nor Paul's letter seem to be recipes for anything like success.

What ideas, principles or practices were you taught to live by in order to find success in life? Which ones have you had to re-evaluate or even abandon?

Music: Dr. Allan Bevan, organist; Douglas Graham, Jacqueline Hernandez, soloists

WEEK AT A GLANCE

| | | |
|-------------|---|----------|
| Sun Aug 27 | Sunday Worship - Sanctuary & Online | 10:30 am |
| | Fellowship - Memorial Hall | 11:45 am |
| | Koinonia - Away | 5:00 pm |
| Tues Aug 29 | Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom | 12:00 pm |
| Wed Aug 30 | Gratitude Team Meeting - Club Room | 6:30 pm |

ON THE HORIZON

| | | |
|-------------|---|----------|
| Sun Sept 3 | Sunday Worship - Sanctuary & Online | 10:30 am |
| | Fellowship - Memorial Hall | 11:45 am |
| Tues Sept 5 | Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom | 12:00 pm |
| Wed Sept 6 | R-W Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary | 7:30 pm |
| Sat Sept 9 | Community Dinner - Memorial Hall | 5:00 pm |

Volunteer Opportunities

COMMUNION SERVERS

Next Sunday, **September 3**, we will celebrate Communion, sharing Jesus' meal. All people, all ages, are welcome to serve Communion at Robertson-Wesley. If this is your first time, know that someone will assist you in learning how to serve Communion. You only need to come a little earlier. If you are able to serve, add your name to the Communion sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in Memorial Hall.

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: 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 on vacation from August 14-24 and September 3-8, so expect a response once he returns.

R-W News & Notes

STAFF

Brad continues to be on vacation until **August 24** and will be on vacation from **September 3-8**.

UPCOMING CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On Sunday **Sept 17th** immediately after the worship service (11:30 am) in the sanctuary there will be a Congregational Meeting to vote on the recommendation of the R-W Board to have Rev. Karen Bridges move into the *Lead Minister of the Community of Faith and Community Development* position as outlined in the new ministry model which was approved on June 4, 2023. This will be the only agenda item. If you would like a copy of the Community of Faith Profile which outlines the Minister Job Descriptions please contact the Church office or download a copy from www.rwuc.org/cofp. If you have questions please speak with Rev. Dirk Jessen or Charl Els.- Robertson-Wesley Board

THANK YOU

Thank you to all you donated books and set up/took down tables for the books on Sunday. Our sale on Sunday raised \$1108.95. Great funding for RWUC and its programs. - Sheila, Pat, & Sylvia.

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.

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!

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.

CLOTHING SALE FUNDRAISER

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

Worship Notes

Thanks today to our vocal leaders Douglas Graham and Raydene Koch and to our instrumentalists J.S., Raydene Koch and Jacqueline Hernandez

Cover Image

Cover image is from wallpapercave.com

Minister of Social Justice and Outreach: Vacant

Minister of Faith Development and Intergenerational Ministry: 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

