



*An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada*

2023 October 1

Worldwide Communion

Creation 4



### **Welcome and Inclusion**

We open our hearts and our church family to all people in our community regardless of differing abilities, ethnicity, economic circumstance, 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*

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*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

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## *Friends in Christ*

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Prelude: *Preludio*, by Domenico Zipoli arr. by James Gillette Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Introit: *Here, O My Lord*, by Russell Schulz-Widmar

J. S., violin; Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Call to Worship:

Breath of Life: you call forth the rivers of justice  
when hearts grow rigid as stone.

**Who will answer when you call?**

You call forth the bread of compassion  
when society turns into wilderness.

**Who will answer when you call?**

You call forth the seeds of courage  
when thorns of corruption grow rampant.

**Who will answer when you call?**

You call forth the table of hope when greed is the hand that divides us.

**Who will answer when you call?**

You call forth the salt of new vision when hunger is fed with despair.

**Who will answer when you call?**

You call forth and wait in silence:

**May we answer when you call. Amen.<sup>1</sup>**

Hymn: *As Long As We Follow*

**More Voices 140**

Choir:

As long as we follow in the way that God is leading,  
We know God's reign will surely come.

**All:**

**As long as we follow in the way that God is leading,**

**We know God's reign will surely come.**

**We know this, we know this.**

**Yes, God's reign will surely come.**

Choir:

As long as we hope there is a future for creation,  
A future for the universe.

**All:**

**As long as we hope there is a future for creation,**

**A future for the universe.**

**We know this, we know this.**

**Yes, God's reign will surely come.**

Coming into God's Presence

Rev. Karen Bridges

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<sup>1</sup> Keri K. Wehlander, *Joy is our Banquet; Resources for Everyday Worship*, (Etobicoke: The United Church Publishing House, 1996), p. 34-35.

Hymn: *Many and Great, O God Are Your Works*

*Voices United 308*

**Many and great, O God are your works,  
Maker of earth and sky.  
Your hands have set the heavens with stars,  
your fingers spread the mountains and plains.  
Lo, at your word the waters were formed;  
deep seas obey your voice.**

**Grant unto us communion with you,  
O star-abiding one.  
Come unto us and dwell with us,  
with you are found the gifts of life.  
Bless us with life that has no end,  
eternal life with you.**

Prayer of Illumination:

**Open our spirits to receive the stories of your people, O God. Open our hearts to notice our own story within them. Open our minds that we might be transformed by the act of listening and receiving. Amen.<sup>2</sup>**

Scripture:

Judy Hayman

Exodus 1:8-14; 3:1-15 • God calls Moses to bring release.

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labour. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labour. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then the Lord said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are

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<sup>2</sup> Written by Tori Mullin, **Gathering**, Pentecost 2, 2022, p. 37. Used with permission.

standing is holy ground.” God said further, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the Lord said, “I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.” But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” God said, “I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.” But Moses said to God, “If I come to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘what is God’s name?’ what shall I say to them?” God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” God said further, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” God also said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘The Lord the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you’: This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations”.

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

**Thanks be to God.**

Anthem: *Tantum Ergo*, by Gabriel Faure

Jacqueline Hernandez, Raydene Koch, Claire Rolheiser, soloists

*Tantum ergo sacramentum*

*Veneremur cernui, et antiquum documentum novo cedat ritui.*

*Præstet fides supplementum sensuum defectui.*

*Genitori genitoque laus et jubilatio,*

*Salus, honor, virtus quoque*

*sit et benedictio!*

*Procedenti ab utroque compar sit laudatio!*

*Amen.*

Therefore, so great a Sacrament  
Let us venerate with heads bowed  
And let the old practice  
Give way to the new rite;  
Let faith provide a supplement  
For the failure of the senses.

To the Begetter and the Begotten,  
Be praise and jubilation,  
Hail, honour, virtue also,  
And blessing too:  
To the One proceeding from Both  
Let there be equal praise.  
Amen.

Sermon: *Face to face with God.*

Rev. Karen Bridges

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## Grateful Response

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Meditation: *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*, Trad. Irish Melody arr. by Kristin Campbell  
J. S. violin, Allan Bevan, piano

Hymn: *God Bless to Us Our Bread*

*More Voices 193*

**God bless to us our bread,  
and give bread to all those who are hungry,  
and hunger for justice to those who are fed;  
God bless to us our bread.**

**Bendice, Señor, nuestro pan,  
y da pan a los que tienen hambre y hambre de justicia  
a los que tienen; bendice, Señor nuestro pan.**

**Dieu, bénis notre pain: donne du pain à ceux qui ont faim,  
donne faim de justice à ceux qui ont du pain;  
Dieu, bénis notre pain.**

**God bless to us our bread,  
and give bread to all those who are hungry,  
and hunger for justice to those who are fed;  
God bless to us our bread.**

Pastoral Prayers

Andrew Hopkyns

Sung Lord's Prayer:

*Voices United p. 959*

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come,  
your will be done on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil  
for the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,  
now and forever.**

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](mailto: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.*



**Let there be greening, birth from the burning,  
water that blesses and air that is sweet,  
health in God's garden, hope in God's children,  
regeneration that peace will complete.**

**God of all living, God of all loving,  
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,  
teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us,  
using us gently and making us one.**

Prayer of Gratitude:

**Abundant God, full of surprises! A simple loaf of bread becomes food for a hungry world. A chalice of unfermented wine becomes hope for the young and not so young. Today, we join hands with siblings in Christ all around the world. Today, we share our offerings, knowing that they, like the loaf and cup, will help to bring new life to this community of faith and to the world that you so love. Receive them with delight, we pray. Amen.<sup>3</sup>**

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### *Sacrament of Holy Communion*

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*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.*

We are invited to this table where our living finds wholeness.

**We bring our woundedness to be healed,  
and we bring our hope for abundant life in Christ.**

We are invited to this table where the humble foods of life are offered.

**Bread and cup to nourish, love and acceptance to nurture.**

We are all one in the body of Christ, joining today with the body of Christ worldwide.

**Thanks be to God.<sup>4</sup>**

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.**

Eternal God, Maker of heaven and earth, we join with all people to give you thanks and praise. You formed the universe in your wisdom

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<sup>3</sup> Written by Laura Turnbull, **Gathering**, Pentecost 2, 2019, p.45. Used with permission.

<sup>4</sup> Written by Wanda Burse, **Gathering**, Pentecost 2, 2019, p. 45. Used with permission.

and created all things by your grace. We praise you for all your good gifts: the witness of saints and prophets; the work of faithful people; this earth in all its blessing and promise; and this bread, once scattered, now brought together and made one. In the hope that your people may be brought together from the ends of the earth into your reign of justice and compassion, we gather with those of every time and every place to give you praise and glory.<sup>5</sup>

Holy, Holy, Holy:

*Voices United p. 932-933*

**Holy, holy, holy are you, God of power and might;  
heaven and earth are filled with your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed is the one who comes in your name.  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest!**

Remembering Jesus at Table:

Blessed is our mentor, Jesus, who, before his suffering, earnestly desired to eat with his companions the Passover of liberation; who, on the night that he was betrayed, took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said:

**“This is my body, which is for you. Do this to remember me.”**

In the same way, after supper, he passed the cup, saying:

**“This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this whenever you drink it, to remember me.”**

O God, Redeemer of all things, with grateful thanks we offer this bread and wine, fruits of your earth and of our labour, signs of your redemptive purpose for our lives and for all your creation.<sup>6</sup>

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Memorial Acclamation:

*Voices United p. 933*

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

Holy God, pour your Spirit on us, that we may know Christ in the breaking of bread, and that in word and deed, we may be channels of your love, peace, and justice in the world.<sup>7</sup>

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

Great Amen:

*Voices United p. 933*

**Amen.**

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Meditation: *Improvisation on “Let Us Break Bread”*, by David Lasky

Allan Bevan, organ

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<sup>5</sup> Celebrate God’s Presence, 13O001

<sup>6</sup> Celebrate God’s Presence, 14R002

<sup>7</sup> Celebrate God’s Presence, 14Oa003



Prayer after Communion:

**Life-giving God, we have taken our place at your table. We have participated in this remembrance with Christians the world over today. We accept that we are now called to live Christ-like lives, serving others, protecting the earth, and making right our relationships with each other. For this Christ came, for this Christ served, and for this we are grateful, in Christ's name. Amen.<sup>8</sup>**

Hymn: *Lead On, O Cloud of Presence*

*Voices United 421*

**Lead on, O cloud of Presence, the exodus is come.  
In wilderness and desert our tribe shall make its home.  
Our slavery left behind us, new hopes within us grow.  
We seek the land of promise where milk and honey flow.**

**Lead on, O fiery Pillar, we follow yet with fears,  
but we shall come rejoicing though joy be born of tears.  
We are not lost, though wandering, for by your light we come,  
and we are still God's people. The journey is our home.**

**Lead on, O God of freedom, and guide us on our way,  
and help us trust the promise through struggle and delay.  
We pray our sons and daughters may journey to that land  
where justice dwells with mercy, and love is law's demand.**

Commissioning:

The light of God is shining on us and on everyone in this world, not just today but every day. Go from here today in hope and in love, taking with you the promise of a better tomorrow and the conviction of faith to make it happen. May God bless and keep you until we meet again. Amen.<sup>9</sup>

Question for Reflection:

How has your relationship with God changed the course of your life?  
When have you been tentative in your faith journey?

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## *R-W Report*

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### Next Sunday Sunday, Oct 8, 2023 Creation 5 Thanksgiving

**Children & Youth:** Children begin in the sanctuary, then go to Kids' Church. Youth meet in the youth room at the beginning of the service.  
**Deuteronomy 5:1-21, 6:4-9 • The 10 Commandments**

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<sup>8</sup> Written by Catherine Tovell, **Gathering**, Pentecost 2, 2023, p. 42. Used with permission.

<sup>9</sup> Written by Sharon Winegarden, **Gathering**, Pentecost 2, 2023, p. 40. Used with permission.

**Sermon:** God of Generations.

The history of the descendants of Abraham and Sarah is one that is marked by many highs and lows, but especially lows. Today's rendition of the story of the giving of the ten commandments is set with one occupying empire gradually loosening its grip on the Israelites with another poised to take its turn. The people turn their imaginations back to the crucial liberating figure of Moses and how, in the wilderness, God spoke directly to Moses and the people to assure them of the divine presence. They reconstruct in their minds eye God's steadfast words that remind them that they are God's and God is theirs. They also remember that God does care about how they live together, how they order their community life. Surely these timeless principles are ones to continue to follow regardless of whatever else is going on around them. What basic principles do you perhaps overlook when things are going well and return to in difficult times?

**Music:** Dr. Allan Bevan, organist; Robertson-Wesley Choir

**WEEK AT A GLANCE**

Sun Oct 1	Sunday Worship - <b>Sanctuary &amp; Online</b>	10:30 am
	Youth Discussion - <b>Youth Room</b>	10:30 am
	Kids' Church - <b>Air Room</b>	10:45 am
	Fellowship - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	11:45 am
	Fire Drill - <b>Whole Church</b>	11:30 am
Mon Oct 2	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	7:00 pm
Tues Oct 3	Scripture Reflections - <b>Club Room &amp; Zoom</b>	12:00 pm
	DEAP - <b>Club Room</b>	6:30 pm
Wed Oct 4	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	1:30 pm
	R-W Choir Rehearsal - <b>Sanctuary/Lower Hall</b>	7:30 pm
Thurs Oct 5	Nova Bells - <b>Lower Hall</b>	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers - <b>Lower Hall</b>	6:45 pm

**ON THE HORIZON**

Sun Oct 8	Sunday Worship - <b>Sanctuary &amp; Online</b>	10:30 am
	Youth Discussion - <b>Youth Room</b>	10:30 am
	Kids' Church - <b>Air Room</b>	10:45 am
	Fellowship - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	11:45 am
Mon Oct 9	Church Closed	
Tues Oct 10	Scripture Reflections - <b>Club Room &amp; Zoom</b>	12:00 pm
	UCW- <b>Memorial Hall</b>	1:30 pm
	Finance Meeting - <b>Club Room</b>	7:00 pm
Wed Oct 11	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	1:30 pm
	R-W Choir Rehearsal - <b>Sanctuary/Lower Hall</b>	7:30 pm
Thurs Oct 12	Not Falling for You - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	10:00 am
	Men's Group - <b>Room 11</b>	10:00 am
	Nova Bells - <b>Lower Hall</b>	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers - <b>Lower Hall</b>	6:45 pm
Sat Oct 14	Community Dinner - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	5:00 pm

## Volunteer Opportunities

### **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. 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](mailto:karen.bridges@rwuc.org) if you are interested in leading over the next program year **Sept 2023 – June 2024**. To Sign-up Visit [rwuc.org/volunteer](http://rwuc.org/volunteer) or use the tablet in the outer office or during fellowship.

### **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. 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](mailto:karen.bridges@rwuc.org). To Sign-up visit [rwuc.org/volunteer](http://rwuc.org/volunteer) or use the tablet in the outer office or during fellowship.

### **COMMUNITY DINNER**

We are in need of some more folks to volunteer for the Thanksgiving Community Dinner on Saturday, **October 14**. To Sign-up visit [rwuc.org/volunteer](http://rwuc.org/volunteer) or use the tablet in the outer office or during fellowship.

### **R-W News & Notes**

### **NEW NAMETAGS**

Please take a moment during fellowship to put your name down should you want a nametag, Elyse will then make typed nametags, so please print clearly. Your nametag can be found in the chapel.

### **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.

## **UCW (United Church Women)**

R-W UCW and Friends will be meeting on Tuesday, **October 10** (the day after Thanksgiving) at 1:30 pm in Memorial Hall. Come, and let's talk together about what we are thankful for. We will also continue the discussion we had last month about what we want to do as a UCW, and Margery will tell us about the national UCW meeting, which was held in Mississauga from September 18 to 22. Membership in our local UCW is quite informal, feel free to drop in for this or any of our gatherings.

## **WILD CHURCH**

Wild Church is **October 15th** 1:00 pm at Paul Kane Park (wheelchair/stroller accessible) as we explore the theme, "Learning from the Animal People". Rain, snow, or shine! All ages are invited to check out this monthly outdoor worship, during which we connect with the Creator and the natural world. Contact: [wildchurchyeg.org](http://wildchurchyeg.org), [wildchurch@rwuc.org](mailto:wildchurch@rwuc.org), @wildchurchyeg in Instagram.

## **WOMEN'S WEEKEND 2023**

Theme: DEEP Spirituality. Right from the beginning, the purpose of the annual Women's Weekend has been to provide an opportunity for women from R-W to get to know each other better and to experience our Faith. Women of R-W are invited to an afternoon gathering on Saturday, **October 21, 2023, 12:30 – 3:00 pm** in Room 11. Light Lunch will be provided. Visit [www.rwuc.org/womens-weekend](http://www.rwuc.org/womens-weekend) to register before October 15.

## **In the Community**

### **KINDRED HEARTS CAMBODIA FOUNDATION**

Please join Kindred Hearts Cambodia Foundation at their 9th annual Wine and Cheese and Silent Auction fundraiser on Friday, **October 13, 2023!** The event will be at Robertson-Wesley. tickets available at [eventbrite.ca](http://eventbrite.ca)

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## *Worship Notes*

We are in the season of creation which lasts for 5 Sundays beginning the Sunday after Labour Day and continuing through Thanksgiving Sunday. This is the season where we create, and honour that which has been created. This season is symbolized by the colour orange. Orange is a warm colour and is associated with enthusiasm, creativity, fruitfulness, endurance and strength.

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## *Cover Image*

The cover image is of one of R-W's stained glass windows. Taken by Rev. Karen Bridges.

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Minister of Faith Development and Intergenerational Ministry: Vacant  
Minister of Social Justice and Outreach: Vacant  
Lead 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