



An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada

2023 October 8

Thanksgiving Sunday



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

Announcements at 10:15 AM

Prelude: Chorale Fughetta on “Monkland”, by David Blackwell

Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Introit: *Fear Not, O Land*, by Edward Elgar

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Opening Prayer:

Creator of all, you fill us with good things:

Joy, peace, grace, hope, love.

In this harvest season, we revel in the events of fall:

crops coming in, colours changing, the land getting ready for rest.

You pour contentment into your people, and also an ache.

we have an emptiness for your kin-dom come

on earth as it is in heaven.

In this season of plenty, give us also hunger, we pray:

hunger for right relations,

hunger for a community of love,

hunger for a world of justice.

Holy One, receive our prayers.

Amen.¹

Hymn: *Ev’ry Day Is a Day of Thanksgiving*

More Voices 185

Ev’ry day is a day of thanksgiving,

God, you’ve been so good to me.

Ev’ry day you’re blessing me.

Ev’ry day is a day of thanksgiving.

I will glorify you, O my Lord, today!

Ev’ry day is a day of thanksgiving,

God, you’ve been so good to me.

Ev’ry day you’re blessing me.

Ev’ry day is a day of thanksgiving.

I will glorify you, O my Lord, today!

You keep blessing me, blessing me, blessing me.

You opened the door that I might see, you’re blessing me.

And you keep blessing me, blessing me, blessing me.

I will glorify you, O my Lord, today!

You keep blessing me, blessing me, blessing me.

You opened the door that I might see, you’re blessing me.

And you keep blessing me, blessing me, blessing me.

I will glorify you, O my Lord, today!

¹ Written by **Robin Wardlaw**, Toronto, Ont., **Gathering**, Pentecost 2, 2023, p. 43. Used with permission.

Prayer for Transformation:

In thanksgiving for God's unlimited outpouring of grace, we open our hearts in trust with God, sharing our hurts and our wounds for healing and for new life.

(a time of silent prayer)

God loves each of us for who we are and for who we are becoming, blessing us with grace upon grace for new life, new possibilities. Thanks be to God! Amen!²

Coming into God's Presence

Rev. Dirk Jessen

God's Holy Word

Hymn: *Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart*

Voices United 378

**Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;
stoop to my weakness, strength to me impart,
and make me love you as I ought to love.**

**I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies,
no sudden rending of the veil of clay,
no angel visitant, no opening skies,
but take the dimness of my soul away.**

**Hast you not bid me love you, God and King;
all, all your own, soul, heart and strength and mind?
I see your cross: there teach my heart to cling.
O let me seek you and O let me find!**

**Teach me to love you as your angels love,
one holy passion filling all my frame,
the baptism of the heaven-descended dove,
my heart an altar and your love the flame.**

Prayer of Illumination:

God of good news, God of revelation, open us to the many ways in which your way is made known to us. In this time of worship, open us to your word, which can be found as we encounter the pages of scripture. Open your way and word to us so that we can live more faithfully the way that you have taught. Amen.³

Scripture:

Lisa Lane

Deuteronomy 5:1-21; 6:4-9 • The 10 Commandments

Moses convened all Israel, and said to them: Hear, O Israel, the statutes and ordinances that I am addressing to you today; you shall learn them and observe them diligently. The Lord our God made a covenant with us

² Written by **Gord Dunbar**, Kincardine P.C., Kincardine, Ont, **Gathering**, Pentecost 2, 2023, p. 44. Used with permission.

³ Written by **Beth W. Johnson**, Bridging Waters P.C., Nipawin, Sask., **Gathering**, Pentecost 2, 2023, p. 37. Used with permission.

at Horeb. Not with our ancestors did the Lord make this covenant, but with us, who are all of us here alive today. The Lord spoke with you face to face at the mountain, out of the fire. (At that time I was standing between the Lord and you to declare to you the words of the Lord; for you were afraid because of the fire and did not go up the mountain.) And the Lord said: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses the Lord's name. Observe the sabbath day and keep it holy, as the Lord your God commanded you. Six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work - you, or your children, or your slave, or your animals, or the resident alien in your towns, so that your slave may rest as well as you. Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the sabbath day. Honour your parents, as the Lord your God commanded you, so that your days may be long and that it may go well with you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. You shall not murder. Neither shall you commit adultery. Neither shall you steal. Neither shall you bear false witness against your neighbour. Neither shall you covet your neighbour's spouse. Neither shall you desire your neighbour's house, or field or slave or animals or anything that belongs to you neighbour.

Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

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

Thanks be to God.

Litany: *God of Abraham Litany*, by Bernadette Farrell

Choir: God of Moses and Aaron.

All: Lead us to your kingdom.

Choir: Out of slavery lead us.

All: Lead us together, lead us to freedom.

Choir: Guiding light for our journey,

All: Lead us to your kingdom.

Choir: Out of shadows and darkness,

All: Lead us together, lead us to freedom.

Choir: God of all living people,

All: Lead us to your kingdom.

Choir: Into unity, lead us,

All: Lead us together, lead us to freedom.

Choir: God of humankind, lead us,

All: Lead us to your kingdom.

Choir: Into harmony, lead us,

**All: Lead us together, lead us to freedom,
lead us to freedom now.**

Sermon: *God of Generations*

Rev. Dirk Jessen

Grateful Response

Duet: *O Lovely Peace*, by G. F. Handel (see "Worship Notes" below)

Jacqueline Hernandez and Claire Rolheiser, soloists

Hymn: *Sing to the Lord of Harvest*

Voices United 519

**Sing to the Lord of harvest,
sing songs of love and praise,
with joyful hearts and voices
your hallelujahs raise;
by whom the rolling seasons
in fruitful order move;
sing to the Lord of harvest
a joyous song of love.**

**God makes the clouds drop fatness,
the deserts bloom and spring,
the hills leap up in gladness,
the valleys laugh and sing.
God fills them all with fullness,
all things with large increase;
and crowns the year with goodness,
with plenty and with peace.**

**Bring to this sacred altar
all things God's goodness gave,
the golden sheaves of harvest,
the souls Christ died to save:
your hearts lay down before him
when at his feet you fall,
and with your lives adore him
who gave his life for all.**

**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.**

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: *Touch the Earth Lightly*

Voices United 307 vs 3&4

**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:

As a people who yearn for new opportunities to put our faith into action,
we give for God's presence in our lives.

As a congregation that seeks to build community and to serve with a common purpose,

we give thanks for the Spirit's presence in our lives.

As individuals who seek to follow the teachings of Jesus and to make a difference in our community and in the world,

we give thanks for Christ's presence in our lives.

We seek to share both hope and love through our service and our offerings.

Bless all that we offer, gracious God. Thanks be to you. Amen.⁴

⁴ Written by **Bill Steadman**, Goulais River U.C., Goulais River, Ont., **Gathering**, Pentecost 2, 2022, p. 44. Used with permission.

**Bless now, O God, the journey that all your people make,
the path through noise and silence, the way of give and take.
The trail is found in desert and winds the mountain round,
then leads beside still waters, the road where faith is found.**

**Bless sojourners and pilgrims who share this winding way,
whose hope burns through the terrors, whose love sustains the day.
We yearn for holy freedom while often we are bound.
Together we are seeking the road where faith is found.**

**Divine Eternal Lover, you meet us on the road.
We wait for lands of promise where milk and honey flow.
But waiting not for places, you meet us all around.
Our covenant is written on roads, as faith is found.**

Commissioning:

Go again into our world, God's world, to share God's blessing with those you meet. Share by doing as you would want them to do; share by offering love and mercy; share by extending forgiveness and understanding; share by loving God with your whole heart and your neighbour as yourself. Amen. **Amen!**⁵

Postlude: *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come/Now Thank We All Our God*

arr. by Robert D. Vandall

Allan Bevan and Raydene Koch, piano

Question for Reflection:

What basic principles do you perhaps overlook when things are going well and return to in difficult times?

R-W Report

Next Sunday

Sunday, Oct 15, 2023

Pentecost 20

Children & Youth: Children begin in the sanctuary, then go to Kids' Church. Youth meet in the youth room at the beginning of the service.

Ruth 1:1-17; 4:13-17 • Where you go I will go!

Sermon: Loyalties

The tribes of Israel have settled in the promised land and are becoming established there. Sons of these tribes have often married local women who have not grown up worshipping the God of Israel. Some family bonds are closer than others and choices, like Ruth's, come to have far-reaching consequences.

When have you made a family decision that took a risk, but turned out to be unexpectedly life-giving?

Music: Dr. Allan Bevan, organist; Cantilon Chamber Choir

⁵ Written by **George Allan**, Chatham, Ont., **Gathering**, Pentecost 2, 2022, p. 45. Used with permission.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

ON THE HORIZON

Sun Oct 15	Sunday Worship - Sanctuary & Online	10:30 am
	Youth Discussion - Youth Room	10:30 am
	Kids' Church - Air Room	10:45 am
	Fellowship - Memorial Hall	11:45 am
	Wild Church - Paul Kane Park	1:00 pm
	Worship Committee - Club Room	12:00 pm
Mon Oct 16	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	7:00 pm
Tues Oct 17	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
	R-W Board Meeting - Room 11	7:00 pm
Wed Oct 18	Flu Shot Clinic - Room 11	10:00 am
	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	1:30 pm
	R-W Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary/Lower Hall	7:30 pm
Thurs Oct 19	Not Falling for You - Memorial Hall	10:00 am
	Nova Bells - Lower Hall	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers - Lower Hall	6:45 pm
Sat Oct 21	Women's Weekend - Room 11	12:30 pm

Volunteer Opportunities

HONOUR POINSETTIA COORDINATOR

Looking for a volunteer to help coordinate the ordering, handing out and delivering of the honour Sunday poinsettias. Honour Sunday will be **November 26**, with orders taken on Nov 5, 12 and 19. The coordinating role includes organising the volunteers ensuring all poinsettias are collected on Nov 26. Elyse in the office would help to teach you the duties of the coordinating role. Please contact Elyse at mail@rwuc.org if you are interested.

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**. To Sign-up Visit 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. 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. To Sign-up visit 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 or use the tablet in the outer office or during fellowship.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LIGHT-UP

Seeking volunteers to help put up all the outdoor Christmas lights in October or early November before it gets too cold. With enough people we should be able to put up all of the Christmas lights in one afternoon. Please sign up for either **Oct 24** or **Nov 4** from 1:00 - 4:00 pm. We will choose the date with the most volunteers. Please sign-up on rwuc.org/volunteer

R-W News & Notes

FLU SHOTS

R-W with MedEx Pharmacies will be hosting a FREE Drop-in flu shot clinic, **October 18** from 12:30 - 2:00 pm in Room 11. This is an opportunity to help protect yourself, your community, and R-W's community of faith.

STAFF

Elyse Munro will be away from October 10 - 20. Christine will be covering the office.

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 to register before October 15.

PHOTO DIRECTORIES

Photo Directories are available starting today in Fellowship. Thank you to everyone who got their photo taken to be included in the directory, and a special thank you to Hal Thiessen for sharing his gift of photography.

THE SHAPES AROUND US

Oct 28, 2023 10:00 am - 2:00 pm in Room 11 at Robertson-Wesley. Facilitated by Julie Kaldenhoven and Brooke Leifso, What shapes, symbols and colours are you attracted to? Do they hold meaning for you? These elements are so hardwired into our psychologies and mythologies that we may overlook how deeply we are influenced by them on a personal level. Through simple visual art and writing exercises, we will explore how our preferences for certain universal shapes, symbols and colours can help us understand ourselves and others on a deeper level. Register at <https://www.rwuc.org/workshops>.

NEEDED ARTWORK

We are collecting art for the Art Sale fundraiser on **October 28**. Do you have paintings, prints, pottery, porcelain, or any goods you think will be suitable for the Art Sale. Please drop off at the church or if you need to have it picked up call Sheila & Pat at 780-481-0056.

WILD CHURCH

Join Wild Church **October 15** at 1:00 pm in Paul Kane Park (wheelchair 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: wildchurchegeg.org, wildchurch@rwuc.org, [@wildchurchegeg](https://www.instagram.com/wildchurchegeg)

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.

PASTORAL CARE VISITING WORKSHOP

Called to be a healing presence

Saturday **November 4** from 1:00 -4:00 pm. Lay leaders who are involved in visiting with parishioners or who are interested in joining the visiting team are invited to an afternoon of reflection and learning about best practices and the joy and purpose of this important ministry. Guest speakers will share stories and learn from their perspectives in hopes of inspiring us to live out our faith caring for people who are unable to attend church regularly or who are in hospital, long term care of palliative care. This workshop is free and open to all people of faith. Coffee/Tea/Juice and refreshments will be served. If you have any questions or would like to register for this event please contact Rev. Karen Bridges at Karen.bridges@rwuc.org

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 evening entertainment will be musician, Martin Kerr and will be catered by Dutch Delicious Bakery. All proceeds will go toward the KHC programs in remote Cambodia. The event will be at Robertson-Wesley United Church, and tickets are only \$20, available at eventbrite.ca or text Leanne Foff 780-278-0603. See you there!

Worship Notes

The “ten commandments” are considered so important that they are listed twice in the Old Testament. Today’s version of the commandments is very similar to the one found in the book of Exodus where the story of their arrival from God is detailed. However, Deuteronomy is set in a very different time, a time when it is crucial that the people return to the very basics of their relationship with God and with each other. However, in Deuteronomy we hear the very epicentre of a faithful life: love God and remember! (6:4-9) Leviticus 19:18 is the complement to the love of God, the love of neighbour as oneself. These are the roots of the faith that Jesus lived, shared and taught.

Cover Image

The cover image is Page from the Tripartite Mahzor from Germany dating c.1300-1329 depicting the Moses receiving the Commandments at Mt. Sinai, Shavuoth.

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