



An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada

2023 October 15

Pentecost 20



Welcome and Inclusion

We open our hearts and our church family to all people in our community regardless of age, gender identity, differing abilities, ethnicity, economic circumstances, or sexual orientation. 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 on each floor located near the elevator.



For hearing assistance download the Listen Everywhere app on your cellphone and connect to the R-W network by scanning this QR code. Please bring your own headphones to listen on. Classic hearing assists headsets are still 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: *Suite in G Minor*, by Domenico Zipoli

1. Courante 2. Sarabande 3. Gigue

Dr. Allan Bevan, piano

Embracing Our Spirit

Introit: *Cantate Domino*, H. Schütz

Cantilon Chamber Choir

Call to Worship:

God of all, when our days hurt like a wilderness, empty of
nourishment, deserted of hope,

you call us with your Spirit, comforting and sustaining us.

If all around us shadows loom, and our resolve is tested, our faith
challenged,

**you bless us with your presence, strengthening our hearts each
day.**

whenever our troubles appear unyielding, the pain unrelenting in our
world,

**You abide, unyielding, by our side; your love is unrelenting in our
lives. For this we thank you, gracious God, as we come to worship.**

Amen.¹

Hymn: *Jesus, Teacher, Brave and Bold*

Voices United 605

**Jesus, teacher, brave and bold,
let us serve you, young and old.**

**Let us faith-filled workers be,
all around, your wisdom see.**

**Let us play and dance and sing,
your goodness find in everything.**

**Jesus, friend, so strong and true,
show us good, brave work to do.**

**Show us those who need a friend,
all things broken help us mend.**

**Free our minds and stretch our care,
teach us to serve you everywhere.**

Prayer for Transformation:

O God, we stumble into your presence in this time of confession. Too
often, we attempt to hide our brokenness from you and those around
us. We struggle with letting go. We fear the price of healing. This is

¹ Written by **Gil Le Fevre**, Walton Memorial U.C., Oakville, Ont., **Gathering**, Pentecost 2,
2023, p.32. Used with permission.

your invitation to us to be honest with you. Loving God, in this time of silence, we offer to you our brokenness:

(a time of silent prayer)

Amen.

The good news is that we know our gracious God is paying attention. In God's grace and hope, we can begin again, filled with gratitude. Amen.²

Coming into God's Presence

Rev. Dirk Jessen

God's Holy Word

Hymn: *Wherever You May Go*

More Voices 216

**Wherever you may go, I will follow,
and your people shall be my people too.**

**Wherever you may go, I will follow,
for I would be faithful, loyal and true.**

**Say the word and I will stay,
I will never go away,
we will travel side by side
and God's love will be our guide.**

**Wherever you may go, I will follow,
and your people shall be my people too.
Wherever you may go, I will follow,
for I would be faithful, loyal and true.**

**From beginning to the end
I will always be your friend,
When you need me, I'll be there,
You can trust my faithful care.**

**Wherever you may go, I will follow,
and your people shall be my people too.
Wherever you may go, I will follow,
for I would be faithful, loyal and true.**

Prayer of Illumination:

Gracious and compassionate God, we praise you. Open us to the wisdom of your word, the shared trust of generations, the shared longing of your people, the shared work of your followers, the shared call to justice for all people. Thank you for the faith of our

² Written by **Sandy Ferguson**, Stathearn U.C., Edmonton, Alta., **Gathering**, Pentecost 2, 2022, p. 36, Used with permission.

church and those who share with us the stories that connect us to our ancestors and to each other. Amen.³

Scripture:

Charles Sabu

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

In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband. Then she started to return with her daughter-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had considered the people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go back each of you to your mother’s house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband.” Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, “No, we will return with you to your people.” But Naomi said, “Turn back my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me.” Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. So she said, “See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” But Ruth said, “Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die- there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!”

So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When they came together, the Lord made her conceive, and she bore a son. Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without next-of-kin; and may the Lord’s name be renowned in Israel! The Lord shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your

³ Written by **Wendy MacLean**, Brockville, Ont., **Gathering**, Pentecost 2, 2023, p. 37, Used with permission.

daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has borne him.” Then Naomi took the child and laid him in her bosom, and became his nurse. The women of the neighbourhood gave him a name, saying, “A son has been born to Naomi.” They named him Obed; he became the father of Jesse, the father of David.

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: *Loyalties*

Rev. Dirk Jessen

Anthem: *Cantique de Jean Raciné, G. Faure*

Cantilon Chamber Choir

Grateful Response

Hymn: *When Hands Reach Out and Fingers Trace*

More Voices 136

**When hands reach out and fingers trace
the beauty of a loved one's face,
we thank you, God, that love relies
on gifts of grace not seen with eyes.**

**When fingers spell and signs express
our prayer and praise and thankfulness,
we thank you, God, that hands can sing;
you bless the silent songs we bring.**

**When broken bodies will not mend,
we thank you, God, for Christ our Friend.
In him, our healing can begin:
he welcomes all the wounded in.**

**And when the ways we learn and grow
are not the ways that others know,
we thank you, God, that we have learned
your love's a gift, and never earned.**

**Your Spirit gives us differing ways
to serve you well and offer praise.
When all are joined as one, we'll be
your able, strong community.**

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: *For the Gift of Creation*

Voices United 538

**For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,
and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,
we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.
May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.**

Prayer of Gratitude:

**Abundant God, our hearts overflow with love and compassion.
You have blessed us with loved ones who care for us, healers who
show mercy and compassion for the journey. We offer in return a
small portion of our resources and a large amount of gratitude.
Receive all that we offer and transform it into wholeness for our
needy world. Amen. ⁴**

Hymn: *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

Voices United 602

**Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the unity of heart and mind
is like to that above.

Before our Maker's throne
we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.

We share each other's woes,
each other's burdens bear;
and often for each other flows**

⁴ Written by **Laura J. Turnbull**, Penticton, B.C., **Gathering**, Pentecost 2, 2023, p. 39,
Used with permission.

the sympathizing tear.

**The glorious hope revives
our courage on the way;
that we shall live in perfect love
in God's eternal day.**

Commissioning:

We go from here with God's love wrapped around us like a cloak, sheltering us from the storm. We go with God's hope burning inside us like the candle that glows in the night. We go with God's peace resting upon us, like the leaves settling gently upon the ground. Amen!⁵

Postlude: *Trumpet Tune*, by Charles Callahan

Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Question for Reflection:

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

R-W Report

Next Sunday

Sunday, Oct 22, 2023

Pentecost 21 Whole Family Worship

Children & Youth: Children and youth are invited to worship with their families this Sunday.

John 6:1-14 • Loaves and Fishes

Sermon: Hidden Abundance Revealed

As the people gathered to listen to the teachings of Jesus, Jesus felt compassion. Jesus asked Philip, "Where are we to buy enough bread for these people to eat?" This question we are told was to test the disciples. This question comes from a place of scarcity, and a belief that there are limited resources to fulfill what needs to be done. Jesus lived and ministered to the people from a place of abundance. He believed that God has provided the people with all that they need. The challenge that Jesus put before the disciples is the same challenge we face as a community of faith - how will we share what God has provided with each other? How will the hidden abundance be revealed?

Music: Dr. Allan Bevan, organist; R-W Ringers, Nova Bells, R-W Choir

WEEK AT A GLANCE

⁵ Written by **Gill le Fevre**, Walton Memorial U.C., Oakville, Ont., Chatham, Ont., **Gathering**, Pentecost 2, 2022, p. 41. Used with permission.

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
	Worship Committee - Club Room	12:00 pm
	Wild Church - Paul Kane Park	1:00 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	First Aid Training - Memorial Hall	8:00 am
	Women's Weekend - Room 11	12:30 pm
	Youth Group Frisbee Golf - Youth Room	7:00 pm

ON THE HORIZON

Sun Oct 22	Sunday Worship - Sanctuary & Online	10:30 am
	Bell Demonstration - Sanctuary	11:45 am
	Fellowship - Memorial Hall	11:45 am
	Family Ministry Committee - Karen's Office	12:00 pm
	Koinonia - Memorial Hall	5:30 pm
Mon Oct 23	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	7:00 pm
Tues Oct 24	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
Wed Oct 25	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	1:30 pm
	Gratitude Team Meeting - Club Room	5:30 pm
	R-W Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary/Lower Hall	7:30 pm
Thurs Oct 26	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 28	Art Sale Fundraiser - Memorial Hall	9:00 am
	The Shapes Around Us Workshop - Room 11	10:00 am

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.

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

HANDBELL DEMONSTRATION

Have you ever wanted to try one of our handbells? Or are you simply interested in knowing more about them? Join us in the sanctuary directly following the service on **October 22** to find out more! Members of Nova Bells and Robertson-Wesley Ringers will be happy to show you how the bells are played and to answer any questions you may have.

R-W News & Notes

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: wildchurche.org, wildchurch@rwuc.org, [@wildchurche](https://www.instagram.com/wildchurche)

FLU SHOTS

R-W with MedEx Pharmacies will be hosting a FREE drop-in flu shot clinic, **October 18** from 10:00 am - 11:00 am in Room 11. This is an opportunity to help protect yourself, your community, and R-W's community of faith.

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.

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.

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>.

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

SHAKERS AND MAKERS MARKET

Edmonton Grandmothers and Eastside Grannies present their market goods sale in support of the Grandmothers Campaign of the Stephen Lewis Foundation. (Edmgrandmothers.org)

Location: Southminster-Steinhauer United Church

10740 - 19 Avenue NW Edmonton,

\$2.00 Cash Admission - **Saturday Oct 21** -10:00 am-3:00 pm

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHERE RWUC GETS FUNDING

Robertson-Wesley United Church (RWUC) maintains its financial stability through diverse funding sources, ensuring the support of its ministry, operations, and community outreach. With an annual donation income of \$470,000, RWUC has established a robust financial framework comprising of various revenue streams, each playing a pivotal role in sustaining the church's activities and services.

The core of RWUC's financial support comes from its devoted congregation, comprising regular churchgoers and community members who generously contribute to Robertson-Wesley's call. These donations, often offered during weekly services or through online platforms, constitute a substantial portion of the church's annual income, reflecting a sense of community and shared values among members.

For 2023: Bequests, totalling \$16,000 annually, represent another

significant source of support. These funds are received through the wills and estates of individuals dedicated to leaving a lasting legacy to the church, bolstering RWUC's financial confidence for the future. Special events like funerals and weddings contribute to RWUC's income. Funerals contribute \$6,000 annually, while weddings generate \$7,000. RWUC serves as a serene and welcoming venue for these occasions, providing a fitting setting for both remembrance and celebration. Beyond religious functions, RWUC generates \$67,000 annually through facility rentals. Local organizations, businesses, and individuals frequently rent its versatile spaces, fostering financial support and strong community ties.

RWUC also actively engages in fundraising, contributing an additional \$20,000 annually. These efforts may include campaigns, charity events, and special projects designed to actively involve the congregation and the wider community. Fundraising at RWUC goes beyond finances; it embodies a collective commitment to the church's mission.

In conclusion, RWUC's financial sustainability thrives on its diverse funding approach. Donations, bequests, event-related income, rental revenue, and active fundraising contribute to the church's growth and community service. This financial diversity provides a solid foundation and reflects the collaborative spirit of RWUC's vibrant church community. By leveraging these funding sources, RWUC continues to fulfill its mission of faith, service, and community engagement, enriching the lives of its members and the broader community it serves.

-Troy Murray, Treasurer

Worship Notes

Thank you to Cantilon Chamber Choir, Heather Johnson (Director) and Megan Crane (Pianist) for their gift of music today.

Cover Image

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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