



An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada

2023 October 22

Pentecost 21



Welcome and Inclusion

We open our hearts and our church family to all people in our community regardless of sexual orientation, age, gender identity, differing abilities, ethnicity, or economic circumstances. 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: Two Selections for Handbell Ensemble

1. *Amazing Grace*, arr. By Patricia Sanders Cota

Nova Bells

2. *Fughetta, in C Major* by G. F. Handel arr. by David Bridges

Robertson-Wesley Ringers

Embracing Our Spirit

Introit: *We Gather Together*, Trad. Dutch Melody arr. by Alfred Zabel

Nova Bells, Margery Wright, piano

Call to Worship:

God of abundance we gather ready to be filled with the Good News!

Fill our spirits and let them overflow with love.

God of mystery we gather ready to seek your wisdom and guidance.

Fill our spirits and let them overflow with love.

God of love we gather to connect with others of faith.

Fill our spirits and let them overflow with love.

God of healing we gather to share our sadness and grief.

Fill our spirits and let them overflow with love.

God of life we gather to share all that you have provided.

May our spirits overflow with love. Amen.

Hymn: *Your Love Is Amazing (Hallelujah)*

More Voices 26

Your love is amazing, steady and unchanging,

your love is a mountain, firm beneath my feet.

Your love is a myst'ry, how you gently lift me.

When I am surrounded, your love carries me.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah

your love makes me sing.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah

your love makes me sing.

Your love is surprising, I can feel it rising,

all the joy that's growing deep inside of me.

Ev'ry time I see you all your goodness shines through.

I can feel this God song rising up in me.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah

your love makes me sing.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah

your love makes me sing.

Your love is amazing, steady and unchanging,

**your love is a mountain, firm beneath my feet.
Your love is a myst'ry, how you gently lift me.
When I am surrounded, your love carries me.**

**Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah
your love makes me sing.**

**Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah
your love makes me sing. Hallelujah.**

Coming into God's Presence

God's Holy Word

Hymn: *For the Crowd of Thousands*

Voices United 355

**For the crowd of thousands sitting on the ground,
Seven is sufficient, seven will go around.**

**seven is sufficient, fish and loaves of bread;
Jesus, for our hunger, gives us life instead.**

**Jesus makes his offer: fish and bread as food.
Make us truly thankful, make our living good.**

**If we give to Jesus, bread to bless and break,
five and two will feed us seven days a week.**

**What we give to Jesus, and with others share,
will at last be gathered: over and to spare!**

Prayer of Illumination:

**O God, reveal to us the abundance of your wisdom and love as we
listen and reflect on the stories shared in the bible. May your
generous spirit guide us to live the teachings of Jesus as we walk
together in faith.**

Scripture:

John 6:1-14 • Loaves and Fishes

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great

deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, ‘Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.’ So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, “This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.”

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

Thanks be to God.

Anthem: *Amen, Sing Praises to the Lord*, arr. by H. H. Hopson

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Reflection: *Hidden Abundance Revealed*

Rev. Karen Bridges

Grateful Response

Meditation: *Speak, O Lord*, by Stuart Townend and Keith Getty arr. by Fred and Ruth Coleman

Ilona Bevan soloist, Jean Triscott, flute

Hymn: *We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky (Abundant Life)* **More Voices 143**

**We cannot own the sunlit sky,
the moon, the wildflow'rs growing,
for we are part of all that is
within life's river flowing.
With open hands receive and share
the gifts of God's creation,
that all may have abundant life
in ev'ry earthly nation.**

**When bodies shiver in the night
and weary, wait for morning,
when children have no bread but tears,
and warhorns sound their warning,
God calls humanity to wake,
to join in common labour,
that all may have abundant life
in oneness with their neighbour.**

**God calls humanity to join
as partners in creating
a future free from want or fear,
life's goodness celebrating,
that new world beckons from afar,
invites our shared endeavour,
that all may have abundant life**

and peace endure forever.

Pastoral Prayers

Lord's Prayer:

Rev. Dirk Jessen

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:

The fruit of our hands,
the fruit of our hands,
the fruit of our minds,
the fruit of our minds,
the fruit of our hearts,
the fruit of our hearts.

Help us to offer you these things, O God, in gratitude for the grace you have poured out on us, and may these fruits be a means of extending your grace within and beyond these walls of all of creation. **Amen.**¹

Hymn: *Christ Has No Body Now but Yours*

More Voices 171

¹ Written by Laura Rousseau, **Gathering**, Pentecost 2, 2020, p. 30, Used with permission.

**Christ has no body now but yours,
no hands but yours.**

**Here on this earth, yours is the work,
to serve with the joy of compassion.**

**No hands but yours to heal the wounded world,
no hands but yours to soothe all its suffering,
no touch but yours to bind the broken hope
of the people of God.**

**Christ has no body now but yours,
no hands but yours.**

**Here on this earth, yours is the work,
to serve with the joy of compassion.**

**No eyes but yours to see as Christ would see,
to find the lost, to gaze with compassion;
no eyes but yours to glimpse the holy joy
of the city of God.**

**Christ has no body now but yours,
no hands but yours.**

**Here on this earth, yours is the work,
to serve with the joy of compassion.**

**No feet but yours to journey with the poor,
to walk this world with mercy and justice.
Yours are the steps to build a lasting peace
for the children of God.**

**Christ has no body now but yours,
no hands but yours.**

**Here on this earth, yours is the work,
to serve with the joy of compassion.**

**Through ev'ry gift, give back to those in need:
as Christ has blessed, so now be his blessing,
with ev'ry gift a benediction, be
to the people of God.**

**Christ has no body now but yours,
no hands but yours.**

**Here on this earth, yours is the work,
to serve with the joy of compassion.**

Commissioning:

We may have arrived here today consumed with worries.

Let us leave with gratitude for our blessings.

We may have arrived filled with sorrows.

Let us leave with joy for the gifts of our lives.

We may have arrived spiritually hungry.

Let us leave ready to live thanksgiving for God's abundant creation.

Go in gratitude, in joy, and with thanksgiving!²

Postlude: *Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands*, Trad. French melody arr. by
Martha Lynn Thomson

Robertson-Wesley Ringers, Jacqueline Hernandez, percussion

Question for Reflection:

What hidden abundance has been revealed to you in your life?

How do you plan to share what God has provided you?

R-W Report

Next Sunday

Sunday, Oct 29, 2023

Pentecost 21

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

1 Kings 12:1-17; 25-29 • A kingdom divided.

Sermon: Servant Leadership

In a time when there is much violence, and unrest, negativity, and division, as people of faith we are called to serve, and to live our lives in love. What happens when we do not listen to the wise ones in our midst? What happens when we ignore the advice of our elders? When a leader is willing to serve and is motivated by love, people are brought together. How do we learn from Rehoboam and his decision to be served rather than to serve?

How will the teachings of Jesus inspire us all to serve in love?

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

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun Oct 22	Sunday Worship - Sanctuary & Online	10:30 am
	Handbell Demonstration - Sanctuary	11:30 am
	Fellowship - Memorial Hall	11:45 am
	Bake Sale Fundraiser - Memorial Hall	11:45 am
	Family Ministry - Club Room	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
	Christmas Light-up - Lawn of R-W	1:00 pm
Wed Oct 25	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	1:30 pm

² Written by Marie Slivocka, **Gathering**, Pentecost 2, 2023, p. 44. Used with permission.

	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

ON THE HORIZON

Sun Oct 29	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 30	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	7:00 pm
Tues Oct 31	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
Wed Nov 1	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	1:30 pm
	R-W Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary/Lower Hall	7:30 pm
Thurs Nov 2	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 Nov 4	Pastoral Care Workshop - Memorial Hall	1:00 pm

HANDBELL DEMONSTRATION

Have you ever wanted to try one of our handbells? Or are you simply interested in knowing more about them? Join us **today** in the chancel directly following the service. 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.

Volunteer Opportunities

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 volunteers present 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

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.

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.

R-W News & Notes

KOINONIA

Koinonia will meet Sunday, **October 22** in Memorial Hall for our Pot-Luck Dinner. We will say grace at 5:30 pm. Remember, if you are in a position where you are not able to bring food for the dinner, come anyway. Koinonia means sharing. The supper will be followed by a time of conversation and reflection that we are calling "Expressions of gratitude in a broken world." We are asking you, if you wish, to bring and share with the group a poem, short reading, or personal story that has spoken to you of gratitude and hope. We will also have some singing and prayer. Come, join us, everyone is welcome! Contact Larry Wright if you have any questions.

ART SALE FUNDRAISER

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.

PHOTO DIRECTORIES

Photo Directories are available 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 skills with us.

THE SHAPES AROUND US

Saturday **October 28**, 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 pm - 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 or 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

PRAYERS FOR PEACE

We are sometimes reminded that our community includes the rest of the world. Recent events in the Middle East are one example of this. The following link will take you to a website with statements regarding this catastrophe from our regional United Church in conjunction with other Christian churches, the national United Church of Canada and the World Council of Churches: <https://northernspiritrc.ca/oct-17-fast-and-pray-for-peace-in-palestine-and-israel/>

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Grace United Church, 6215-104 Ave, Sat **Nov 18**, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
New and “new to you” gifts, crafts, Christmas items, baking, preserves, food products. Santa will arrive 11:00 am.

Worship Notes

The Gratitude Team will be leading the community of faith in an exploration of the theme: Hidden Abundance Revealed. God has provided each and everyone of us with all that we need to live out our call in the world. Our call is to love and serve others with all that we have and all that we are. Everyone has skills and resources they can share. During the next month people are asked to consider their financial contribution to the life and work of Robertson-Wesley. Spiritely, the spirit of gratitude, is a seeker of spiritual gifts. Spiritely sees what we humans sometimes miss. Spiritely sees the potential in the collective community of faith. How will this shared abundance be revealed and shared in the community that R-W serves?

Cover Image

The cover image was taken by Albert deVos, in June 2016 at the Oliver Community Festival.

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