



*An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada*

2023 November 12

Pentecost 24



### **Welcome and Inclusion**

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



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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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Announcements at 10:15 AM

Prelude: *God Is Love*, by Mark Andersen

Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Introit: *God So Loved the World*, by John Horman

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Call to Worship:

Come, let us praise our wondrous God!

The God who gives us hope

**when all seems hopeless.**

The God who brings us peace

**when our souls are restless.**

The God who brings us joy

**when all seems lost.**

The God who brings us love

**when we feel most alone.**

The God who brings us Jesus

**when we need God's presence.**

**Come, let us worship our wondrous God!<sup>1</sup>**

Hymn: *Love Us Into Fullness*

*More Voices 81*

**Love us into fullness, touch us with your grace;**

**Jesus in your mercy, draw us to your face.**

**Love us into fullness, hold us in your care,**

**cheer us with your presence here and everywhere.**

**Love us into fullness, and we will be strong;**

**Jesus walk beside us, fill our hearts with song.**

Coming into God's Presence

Jill Lambie & Gratitude Team

Prayer of Transformation:

God, who knows us by name, you know the innermost longing of our hearts, and know that which we carry as a burden. God, whose love persists in our weakness and in our strength, may we become aware of the places of adversity that challenge us and stay true to your good news, even when we are tempted to enter into the midst of evil in the world, tempted down the shadowed path of earthly idols, tempted by our love of wealth and material things, tempted by our love to be right

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<sup>1</sup> Written by Cheryl Henry, **Gathering**, Pentecost 2 2022, p. 31. Used with permission.

or tempted to be the arbiter of judgement, shutting out grace and dismissing your love that has no bounds.

**Help us leave earthly things in their place to follow instead the path you lead. May we turn the other cheek in the face of adversity that tempts us and rest easy in trusting your truth. Amen.<sup>2</sup>**

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*God's Holy Word*

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Hymn: *Like a River of Tears*

*More Voices 98*

**Like a river of tears your love pours upon us;  
like a sunshine of blessing your grace will sustain us;  
like a star-studded sky your spirit shines o'er us,  
renewing our spirits with courage and faith.**

**Like a bird in free flight by windows around us;  
like a wind in the forest that breathes life among us;  
like a phoenix that's rising from ashes around us,  
renewing our spirits with vision and grace.**

**Like a pillar of cloud you promise to guide us;  
like a bright fiery bush you come to speak to us;  
like a calm cooling breeze your spirit breathes in us,  
renewing our spirits with loving embrace.**

**Like a lover's caress your spirit revives us;  
like a song of the soul you come to be with us;  
like a prayer of the heart you heal and restore us,  
renewing our spirits, the future to face.**

Prayer of Illumination:

Gentle God, your spirit touches the deepest places in our being. May your word coming to us through all of our senses provoke us to fall deeply in love with you. Let new insights rest gently within us, that we might be transformed. Open us to your healing, life-giving truth. This we pray in the name of the Liberating Christ. **Amen.<sup>3</sup>**

Scripture:

Jane Chesebrough

Hosea 11:1-9 • God's compassion despite Israel's ingratitude. When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. The more I called them, the more they went from me, they kept sacrificing to the Baals, and offering incense to idols. Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk, I took them up in my arms; but they did not know that I healed them. I led them with cords of human kindness, with bands of love. I was to them like those who lift infants to their cheeks. I

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<sup>2</sup> Written by Gabrielle Heidinger Baerg, **Gathering**, Pentecost 2, 2023, p. 36. Used with permission.

<sup>3</sup> Written by Laura J. Turnbull, **Gathering**, Pentecost 2 2022, p. 37. Used with permission.

bent down to them and fed them. They shall return to the land of Egypt, and Assyria shall be their king, because they have refused to return to me. The sword rages in their cities, it consumes their oracle-priests, and devours because of their schemes. My people are bent on turning away from me. To the Most High they call, but God does not raise them up at all. How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, O Israel? How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim? My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender. I will not execute my fierce anger; I will not again destroy Ephraim; for I am God and no mortal, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath.

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

**Thanks be to God.**

Solo: *The God of Love My Shepherd Is*, by Eric Thiman

Jacqueline Hernandez, soloist

Reflection: *God's Unending Compassion*

Rev. Karen Bridges

Hymn: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

*Voices United 333*

**Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.**

**Come, almighty to deliver,  
let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.**

**Finish then thy new creation;  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee,  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

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*Grateful Response*

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**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](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.*



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:

Bless these gifts that we have given today. Gracious God, accept our offerings. Accept our intentions to give of ourselves.  
**Take our gifts, whether they be monetary or offerings of ourselves stepping out in faith, with our brokenness, our leftovers, our hope, or our lives.**  
Bless and transform all that we offer and all that we hold back, that new life might abound to celebrate and share in Jesus' name.  
**Amen.**<sup>4</sup>

Hymn: *Will Your Anchor Hold*

*Voices United* 675

**Will your anchor hold in the storms of life?  
When the clouds unfold their wings of strife,**

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<sup>4</sup> Written by Tabithya Carey, *Gathering*, Pentecost 2, 2021, p. 38. Used with permission.

**when the strong tides lift and the cables strain,  
will your anchor drift or firm remain?**

**We have an anchor that keeps the soul  
steadfast and sure while the billows roll,  
fastened to the rock which cannot move,  
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!**

**It will surely hold in the straits of fear,  
when the breakers tell and the reef is near;  
though the tempest rave and the wild winds blow,  
not an angry wave shall our bark o'erflow?**

**We have an anchor that keeps the soul  
steadfast and sure while the billows roll,  
fastened to the rock which cannot move,  
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!**

**It will surely hold in the floods of death,  
when the waters cold chill our latest breath;  
on the rising tide you can never fail  
while our hopes abide within the veil.**

**We have an anchor that keeps the soul  
steadfast and sure while the billows roll,  
fastened to the rock which cannot move,  
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!**

**When our eyes behold, through the gathering night,  
the city of gold, our harbour bright,  
we shall anchor fast by the heavenly shore,  
with the storms all past for evermore.**

**We have an anchor that keeps the soul  
steadfast and sure while the billows roll,  
fastened to the rock which cannot move,  
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!**

Commissioning:

Go on from here and forward into this new week, trusting in the love of God to guide and support you. Open your hearts to God's presence and your lives to God's purpose, living each day with hope and thanksgiving. **Amen.**<sup>5</sup>

Postlude: *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* (with 'Wie will ich mich freuden'-Bach), arr. by Sue Mitchell-Wallace

Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Questions for Reflection:

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<sup>5</sup> Written by Gill Le Fevre, **Gathering**, Pentecost 2, 2022, p. 41. Used with permission.

How does this prophetic passage encourage you to return to your spiritual home in God?

What does that look like for you?

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## *R-W Report*

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### Next Sunday

**Sunday, Nov 19, 2023**

### **Pentecost 25 Gratitude Sunday**

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

**Psalm 36 •** God's steadfast love extends to the heavens

**Sermon:** Share Abundantly

We currently have all that we need to live lives of faith in the world. To serve one another is the greatest gift we can offer. We are called to act out of abundance, to trust in God and all that God has provided. Jesus taught us to sow seeds generously, and not to worry about where the seeds fall. The spirit of God is revealed in all that we do, all that we give and all that we are. How is God calling you to share the abundance that you have received in the world?

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

### **WEEK AT A GLANCE**

Sun Nov 12	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 Nov 13	Church Closed	
Tues Nov 14	Scripture Reflections - <b>Club Room &amp; Zoom</b>	12:00 pm
	Property Committee Meeting - <b>Room 11</b>	1:00 pm
	UCW- <b>Memorial Hall</b>	1:15 pm
	Finance Meeting - <b>Room 11</b>	7:00 pm
Wed Nov 15	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	1:30 pm
	R-W Choir Rehearsal - <b>Sanctuary/Lower Hall</b>	7:30 pm
Thurs Nov 16	Not Falling for You - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	10:00 am
	Nova Bells - <b>Lower Hall</b>	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers - <b>Lower Hall</b>	6:45 pm
Sat Nov 18	Youth Group - <b>Youth Room</b>	7:00 pm

### **ON THE HORIZON**

Sun Nov 19	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
	Wild Church - <b>Emily Murphy Park</b>	1:00 pm
Mon Nov 20	Spirited Arts Workshop - <b>Room 11</b>	7:00 pm



Tues Nov 21	Scripture Reflections - <b>Club Room &amp; Zoom</b>	12:00 pm
	RWUC Board Meeting - <b>Room 11</b>	7:00 pm
Wed Nov 22	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	1:30 pm
	R-W Choir Rehearsal - <b>Sanctuary/Lower Hall</b>	7:30 pm
Thurs Nov 23	Not Falling for You - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	10:00 am
	Nova Bells - <b>Lower Hall</b>	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers - <b>Lower Hall</b>	6:45 pm

## **Volunteer Opportunities**

### **COMMUNITY DINNER KEY LEADERSHIP VOLUNTEERS**

R-W's Community Dinners are hugely successful. It is a fulfilling act of service and connection. We welcome one time volunteers and regulars with open arms on a sign up basis. At this time what we require are 2-3 people able to commit to join our leadership group. Attending the dinner once per month for approximately 5 hours and occasional email communication. Tasks include kitchen work, volunteer liaison and supporting tasks needed on the day of the dinner.

### **COMMUNION SERVER VOLUNTEERS**

Sunday, **November 26**, we will celebrate communion, sharing Jesus' meal. All people, all ages, are welcome to serve Communion at Robertson-Wesley. If this is your first time, know that someone will assist you in learning how to serve Communion. You only need to come a little earlier. If you are able to serve, add your name to the Communion sign up tablet in the outer office, or [visit rwuc.org/volunteer](http://rwuc.org/volunteer).

### **TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION PROJECT**

There is a new initiative unfolding at Robertson-Wesley focused on Truth and Reconciliation. This emerging project aims to offer workshops, education, conversation, and artistic expression leading to the creation of a communal quilt - a powerful visual representation of the ongoing personal and collective journey towards reconciliation. For those feeling called to this journey, we are seeking a team to deliver this project. Roles could include but are not limited to: building relationships with Indigenous and interfaith spiritual leaders, coordinating workshops, leading conversations and artistic expression, and creating the communal quilt. Please consider reaching out to Julie, Mission + Outreach Pod Coordinator, at [julie.joline@gmail.com](mailto:julie.joline@gmail.com) by **November 30** to learn more and express interest in this leadership opportunity.

## **BETWEEN THE AISLES**

“Let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me...” For the upcoming Advent/Christmas edition of “Between the Aisles”, the theme will be “Peace in the Time of War”. The current world situation has caused a great deal of anxiety at this special time of the year. The editors at Between the Aisles would like the congregation to share their thoughts on how we can improve this situation, if even only at a personal level. Has there been a time in your life where a given scenario or event has brought you peace? Is there a particular activity or situation that aids you in entering a peaceful mind-set, and what would that be? Please feel free to share your thoughts and ideas, via a short text piece, a poem, the recipe for your favorite comfort food, etc. Submissions can be sent to [RWUCnews@rwuc.org](mailto:RWUCnews@rwuc.org) by **November 12**

## **UCW AND FRIENDS**

UCW (United Church Women) and Friends next meeting will be Tuesday, **Nov 14** at 1:30 pm in Memorial Hall. Join us as we talk and pray together, enjoy coffee/tea and goodies. Membership in our local UCW is quite informal. Feel free to drop in and join us for this or any of our gatherings.

## **SPIRITED ARTS WORKSHOP: BODY MAPPING**

**Nov 20**, 2023 7:00 - 9:00 pm in Room 11 at Robertson-Wesley  
Brooke Leifso will lead a simple experience using basic art supplies to tell the stories of our physical bodies. We will move our bodies, draw and share. Visit [rwuc.org/workshops](http://rwuc.org/workshops) for more information or to register.

## **WILD CHURCH**

You are invited to the next Wild Church gathering **Nov 26** at 1:00 pm at Emily Murphy Park, Fire Circle at Picnic Site #3. We will explore the theme, “The Wonder of Wandering”. All are welcome, including pets and folks of all faith traditions. Dress for the weather; cancelled below -15°C with windchill. For questions or transportation support, contact [wildchurch@rwuc.org](mailto:wildchurch@rwuc.org).

## **HONOUR SUNDAY POINSETTIAS**

Order a Poinsettia for Honour Sunday, **November 26** and following the service you can take it home or have it delivered! You can choose to honour a family member who has passed away or perhaps a best friend who is always there for you! We will be taking orders for Poinsettias in Memorial Hall following the service, and on Sundays, **November 12** and **19**. If you aren't attending church physically and would like to order, please contact Elyse in the office at 780-482-1587 or mail@[rwuc.org](mailto:rwuc.org) to order and arrange delivery.

## **TOILET PAPER NEEDED FOR FOOD BANK**

Quite often we are asked by Food Bank clients if we have toilet paper, while it is available by request from the Food Bank, people don't always remember to request it in advance. If you can help with donations of toilet paper, you can drop it off anytime during office hours 8:30-4:30 Monday to Friday or on Sundays. Thanks so much.

## **GREEN BITES -little tidbits to whet your appetite for change**

If you are planning a renovation of your home, finishing a basement, adding another room, why not check out Edmonton's Architectural Clearing House. Located at 11518 - 119 Street. It was established more than 25 years ago in order to re-use building materials and keep them out of the landfill. The facebook page features many photos of cupboards, carpeting, windows, doors, and other useful items. Phone 780-436-1222. Their website is currently under revision.

## **ART SHOW - RESULTS**

We are pleased to announce that the Art Show raised \$1570.00. On a wet chilly Saturday we did well. Thank you for all those that set up and later put away the tables we displayed art on - your efforts keep the show in business. Thank you for all your donations.

## **In the Community**

### **CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**

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

### **LOVE HURTS, SOMETIMES**

Friday, **November 24** at Robertson-Wesley. An evening of Opera and Musical scenes about love, heartbreak, and wishful thinking. From La Traviata, The Magic Flute, The Music Man, and more. Featuring singers - Douglas Graham, Nansee Hughes, and pianist Shannon Hiebert. Admission by donation.

### **CROWNS FOR KIDS FUNDRAISER**

Saturday, **November 25** at Robertson-Wesley. Crowns for kids is an annual dinner and drag show fundraiser presented by drag queen Dee Luv. This event raises funds for various children's charities, the charities this year are Ronald McDonald House, Kids Kottage, and MS Canada. Doors open 5:00 pm with dinner served at 6:00 pm and the show starting at 7:15 pm. Tickets are \$20.00 for dinner and a show or \$10.00 for dessert and a show. Dinner Tickets must be purchased in advance by contacting Dee Luv at [Ddiamonds\\_44@hotmail.com](mailto:Ddiamonds_44@hotmail.com). They also ask that you please bring a new unwrapped toy for a child in need!

## SEWING MACHINE DONATIONS

Calling all sewing enthusiasts! Elizabeth Fry Society of Northern Alberta is on a mission to empower through sewing, but they need your help. Donate a sewing machine or contribute towards one, and together they'll stitch a brighter future! Email: [destiny.desjarlais@efrynorthernalberta.com](mailto:destiny.desjarlais@efrynorthernalberta.com) or call 780-784-2206

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### *Worship Notes*

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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?

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### *Cover Image*

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The cover image was taken by Rev. Karen Bridges in Lake O'Hara August 2023.

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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