



*An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada*

2023 November 19

Gratitude Sunday

Pentecost 25



### **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*

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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: *Shalom Chaverim (Peace, My Friend)*, by Susan E. Geschke  
Robertson-Wesley Ringers

Embracing Our Spirit

Introit: *The Church's One Foundation*, arr. by Kurt Meyer  
Robertson-Wesley Ringers

Call to Worship:

The wonders of God's abundant creation call out to us.

**We marvel at the magnificence of God.**

Yet God has entrusted all this to our stewardship.

**We marvel at the immensity of God's trust in us.**

God has given us all we need to live abundantly, joyfully, and generously.

**We come to worship God, creator and lover of all.<sup>1</sup>**

Hymn: *What Can I Do?* **More Voices 191**

**What can I do? What can I bring?**

**What can I say? What can I sing? (3x)**

**I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.**

**I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.**

Coming into God's Presence Sylvia Duffus & Gratitude Team

Gratitude Bucket (Sept/Oct/Nov)

Meditation: *Simple Gifts*, Trad. American Hymn Melody arr. by Patricia Sanders Cota  
Nova Bells

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## *God's Holy Word*

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Prayer of Illumination:

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

Scripture: Bob Klakowich

Psalm 36 • God's Steadfast love extends to the heavens.

**Voices United p. 762**

Sung refrain: **Your steadfast love, O God, extends to the heavens.**

You steadfast love, O God, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.

**Your righteousness is like the mountains, O God,**

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<sup>1</sup> Written by Jean Leckie, **Gathering**, Pentecost 2 2020, p. 27. Used with permission.

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

**your judgements are like the great deep; all living things you save.**

Sung refrain: **Your steadfast love, O God, extends to the heavens.**

How precious is your steadfast love, O God!

All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

**They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delight.**

Sung refrain: **Your steadfast love, O God, extends to the heavens.**

For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light.

**Continue your steadfast love to those who know you, and your salvation to the upright in heart.**

Sung refrain: **Your steadfast love, O God, extends to the heavens.**

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

**Thanks be to God.**

Anthem: *We Will Praise You*, by Praetorius/Wagner

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Reflection: *Share Abundantly*

Rev. Karen Bridges

Hymn: *For the Faithful Who Have Answered*

**Voices United 707**

**For the faithful who have answered  
when they heard your call to serve,  
for the many ways you led them  
testing will and stretching nerve,  
for their work and for their witness  
as they strove against the odds,  
for their courage and obedience  
we give thanks and praise, O God.**

**Many eyes have glimpsed the promise,  
many hearts have yearned to see.  
Many ears have heard you calling  
us to greater liberty.**

**Some have fallen in the struggle,  
others still are fighting on.**

**You are not ashamed to own us.  
We give thanks and praise, O God.**

**For the cloud of faithful witness,  
for the common life we share,  
for the work of peace and justice,  
for the gospel that we bear,  
for the vision that our home-land  
is your love - deep, high and broad  
for the different roads we travel  
we give thanks and  
Praise, O God.**

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## Grateful Response

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Pastoral Prayers

Lord's Prayer:

**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.**

Rev. Dirk Jessen

**Voices United p. 921**

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:

Pat Stewart

Thank you for all the hidden abundance you have given to each of us.  
Help us to recognize that abundance and give thanks for it. We commit  
to using these many gifts to create the kingdom of God here on earth.  
In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

Hymn: *God, as We Rise to Leave*

**Voices United 417**

**God, as we rise to leave this shell of worship,  
called to the risk of unprotected living,  
willing to be at one with all your people,  
we ask for courage.**

**For all the strain with living interwoven,  
for the demands each day will make upon us  
and for the love we owe the modern city,  
God, make us cheerful.**

**Give us an eye for openings to serve you;  
make us alert when calm is interrupted,  
ready and wise to use the unexpected:  
sharpen our insight.**

**Lift from our life the blanket of convention,  
give us the nerve to lose our life to others,  
be with your church in death and resurrection,  
God of all ages!**

A Thanksgiving Blessing & Benediction:

May an abundance of gratitude burst forth as you reflect upon what you have received. May your basket of blessings surprise you with its rich diversity of gifts and its opportunities for growth. May you always be open, willing, and ready to share your blessings with others. May you never forget the Generous One who loves you lavishly and unconditionally.

**Amen.**<sup>3</sup>

Postlude: *Lobe Den Herren*, by Philip Moore

Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Questions for Reflection:

What has been revealed to you today from God?

How will you use what God has given you in the world?

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## *R-W Report*

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### Next Sunday

**Sunday, Nov 26, 2023**

### **Pentecost 26 Honour Sunday & Communion**

**Children & Youth:** Children begin in the sanctuary, then go to Kids' Church. Youth meet in the youth room at the beginning of the service.  
**2 Kings 22:1-13, 22:1-3** • Josiah's recovery of scripture, reform and renewal.

**Sermon:** Back on Track

The Hebrew Bible affirms Josiah as one of very few good kings of ancient Israel. Alongside his desire to have a strong relationship with God which includes restoring the Temple to the worship of the God of Israel. Beyond this, Josiah is humble and actively concerned about the welfare of all his subjects. A scroll is found during renovations that hearkens back to the original covenant with God. After active discernment, Josiah takes this discovery as a sign for a new start with God starting with himself, but including also the religious and legal establishment and all the people.

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<sup>3</sup>Adapted from Joyce Rupp, **Out of the Ordinary; Prayers, Poems, and Reflections for Every Season**, (Notre Dame, Ave Maria Press, 2010), p. 191

Who are especially good leaders that you've experienced and what made them good? How did they inspire you and those around them to make a new beginning?

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

### WEEK AT A GLANCE

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
	Membership Classes - <b>Library</b>	12:30 pm
	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

### ON THE HORIZON

Sun Nov 26	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
	Membership Classes - <b>Library</b>	12:30 pm
	Koinonia - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	5:00 pm
Mon Nov 27	Spirited Arts Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	7:00 pm
Tues Nov 28	Scripture Reflections - <b>Club Room &amp; Zoom</b>	12:00 pm
Wed Nov 29	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	1:30 pm
	Gratitude Team Meeting - <b>Club Room</b>	5:30 pm
	R-W Choir Rehearsal - <b>Sanctuary/Lower Hall</b>	7:30 pm
Thurs Nov 30	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 Dec 2	Family Ministries Christmas Party - <b>Mem. Hall</b>	1:00 pm
	Koinonia Progressive Dinner- <b>Memorial Hall</b>	5:00 pm

### Volunteer Opportunities

#### COMMUNION SERVER VOLUNTEERS

On 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).

## **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.

## **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.

## **CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP SERVICE VOLUNTEERS**

With the Christmas Day Service (Monday, **Dec 25**) just around the corner we are seeking a team of people to organize and lead the service, as the staff are given this day off. This would be done with the help of the ministers. We are also seeking some people who can help with musical support. If you are musical and play an instrument and or sing, we would love for you to share your talents at the service that day. This service will not be live streamed. We will sing some Christmas carols and would love for them to be accompanied by music. If you are interested in volunteering for any of these positions please contact Karen at [karen.bridges@rwuc.org](mailto:karen.bridges@rwuc.org)

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

### **STAFF**

Rev. Karen Bridges will be away from **November 20 to 26**.

### **WILD CHURCH**

You are invited to the next Wild Church gathering **Today** 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**

**Today is the last day** to Order a Poinsettia for Honour Sunday, **November 26** and following the service you can take it home or have it delivered! We will be taking orders for Poinsettias in Memorial Hall following the service.

## **CHURCH MEMBERSHIP CLASSES WITH REV. DIRK.**

Together with other interested people we will: Share faith stories, talk about God and Jesus, discover where The United Church of Canada came from and how it works, learn about Robertson-Wesley and explore becoming a member. Sundays **November 19, November 26, December 3, December 10** from 12:30 - 2:00 pm in the Library.

## **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.

## **KOINONIA**

The next gathering of Koinonia will be on Sunday, **November 26** in Memorial Hall. The evening starts with a potluck at 5:30 pm, followed by an interesting program created by Garnet Thomas. as a pre-Advent reflection. Through three short plays, you will be taken with Shepherds, Magi and Refugees, on thought provoking journeys to new beginnings. Please join us, and remember that if you are not in a position where you can bring food for the potluck, come anyway, there is always enough.

## **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**

Resilience is an online magazine that is part of the non-profit Post Carbon Institute. Its articles cover various topics regarding energy, the economy, the environment, food and water, and society. Check out [resilience.org](http://resilience.org) but be prepared for several hours of very stimulating and thought-provoking reading! - The Environmental Stewardship Group

## **JOURNEY THROUGH THE LABYRINTH**

How will you prepare for Christmas this year? Come for a reflective walk during Advent. The Labyrinth will be open in Memorial Hall Wednesdays **December 6** and **20** from 6:30-8:00 pm.

## SEARCH TEAM UPDATE

The Board of Robertson-Wesley United Church is pleased to announce that a Search Committee is hard at work to fill the two half-time ministry positions outlined in the Community of Faith profile that the congregation approved earlier this year. Andrew Hopkyns, Lorne Langman, Nova Laurin and Rowan Fox have been named to the Search Committee and have received training from the Northern Spirit Regional Council liaison Llyod Henderson. The Search Committee is excited to be moving forward on this important work and will be sharing periodic updates on their progress. On behalf of the board we are grateful for these individuals taking on this work and we look forward to future updates.

-Jonathan Gregory, acting Chair of the Board.

## WHITE GIFT SUNDAY

On **December 10**, White Gift Sunday, we will be collecting items for the Bissell Centre, they have provided the Wish List of needed items below. Infants & children: musical toys, rattles, shape stackers, board books, picture books, graphic novels, basketball, soccer ball, craft or science set, puzzles, art supplies, dolls, building toys, vehicle toys, animal toys. Youth: gift cards, sporting goods, sealed cosmetics, board games/puzzles and art supplies \*Please no plush toys/ used toys or books/ clothing/ food or candy. These gifts will be collected during Worship and delivered to the Bissell Centre on Sunday, **December 10**.

## A SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

**December 10** at 4:00 pm. This gentle candlelight service is a classic, with a series of scripture readings that take us through the story of God's promise, Israel's longing and waiting, and the fulfilment of the promise in the birth of Christ. In person and online.

## EMAIL SAFETY TIPS

Recently a few folks from the church have been experiencing scam emails, using a method called spoofing. Email spoofing is when a scammer forges (spoofs) the emails *from* address, so the sent message appears to have been sent from someone you know with the intention of infecting your computer with malware, asking for money or stealing information. These addresses can either be created by using alternative numbers or letters to look slightly different than the original, or by disguising the '*from*' field to be the exact email address of someone in your network. If you receive an email that looks like it is from someone you know, requesting gift cards or help and asking for secrecy, please feel free to call Elyse in the church office or the person who sent it to confirm legitimacy, do not reply to the email because the reply will get sent to the scammer.

## In the Community

### **LOVE HURTS, SOMETIMES**

Friday, **November 24** at 7:30 pm 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.

### **NO ROOM IN THE INN**

*The No Room In the Inn* campaign this year is in support of A Safe Place. A Safe Place is a residential facility opened in 1984 for those who are escaping intimate or family violence. It is located in Sherwood Park. A recent review of their facility found major and unexpected issues with the roof. Visit <https://northernspiritrc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/NRII-2023-Poster.pdf> for more information.

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### *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 share in the community that R-W serves?

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### *Cover Image*

The cover image was created by Matthew McGuigan for the Gratitude Team. This is Spiritely, the spirit of Gratitude.

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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

# *Welcome to Robertson-Wesley*

If you would like you can fill out this page, tear it off, and place it in the offering plates at the exits. This form is also available to fill out online at [rwuc.org/infocard](http://rwuc.org/infocard)

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Contact Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred gender pronouns: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to subscribe to the email newsletter

- Yes    No
- I am new in the community
- I am a visitor
- I am interested in speaking with a minister
- I am considering making this my church

Please put in the offering plate. Thank you

