

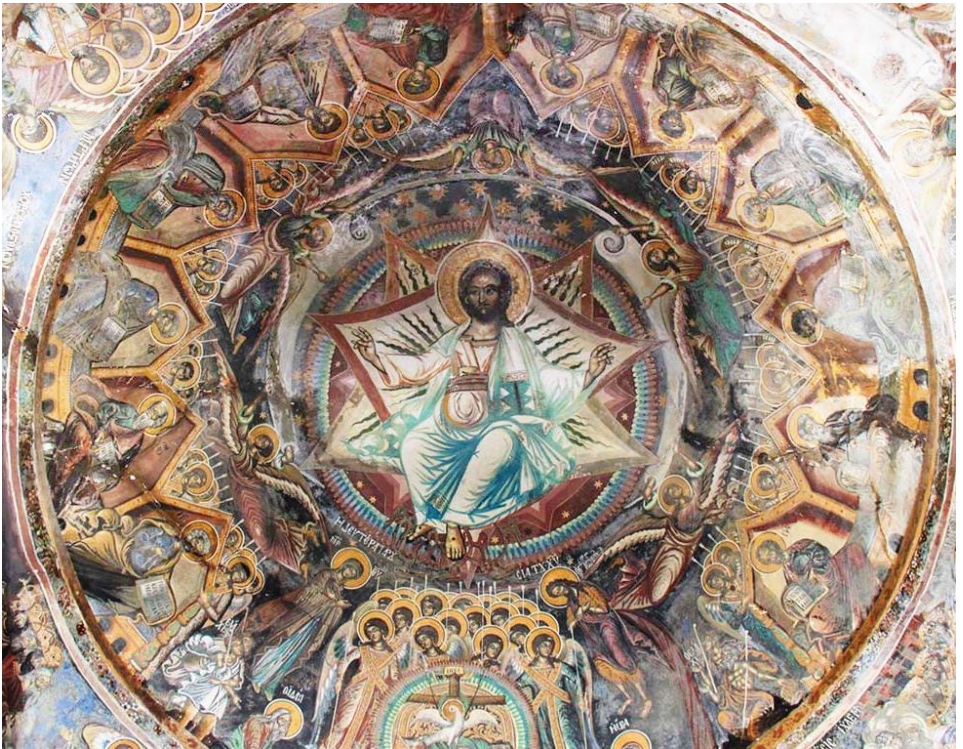


An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada

2023 November 26

Sacrament of Communion

Reign of Christ



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: *Reflections on E'en So, Lord Jesus*, by Paul Manz Dr. Allan Bevan, organ
Embracing Our Spirit

Introit: *The Heavenly Aeroplane*, by John Rutter

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Call to Worship:

Friends, people of God, we gather on this day to worship God. It is the last Sunday before we begin to celebrate Advent, beginning the next church year. It is a little like New Year's Eve. We take time to reflect on who Christ was, is, and will always be. So let's settle in and be a praying people. Let us pray...

God our true leader, we give you thanks for guiding with compassion and sensitivity. For the sake of this confusing, mixed up world, we turn to you as the ultimate ruler, wise and concerned for all people. May all your beloved ones experience the wonder of blessed wholeness. Let your light shine in obscure places. Let hope echo into empty valleys. Let possibility unfold into new life. In the name the reigning Christ, we pray. Amen.¹

Hymn: *Let Us Build a House*

More Voices 1Vv. 1-3

**Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.**

**Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.**

**Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat;
a banquet hall on holy ground, where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.**

Coming into God's Presence

Rev. Dirk Jessen

God's Holy Word

Prayer of Illumination:

May the reading today shed light on a shadowed world yearning for hope. May we be blessed in the receiving of these words of comfort and hope. Amen.²

¹ Laura Turnbull, Penticton, **Gathering**, Pentecost 2, 2021, page 28. Used with permission.

² Written by Sharon Winegarden, **Gathering**, Pentecost 2 2021, p. 36. Used with permission.

Scripture:

Donna Krucik

2 Kings 22:1-13, 23:1-3 • Josiah's recovery of scripture, reform and renewal.

Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign; he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jedidah daughter of Adaiah of Bozkath. He did what was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in all the way of his father David; he did not turn aside to the right or to the left. In the eighteenth year of King Josiah, the king sent Shaphan son of Azaliah, son of Meshullam, the secretary, to the house of the Lord, saying, "Go up to the high priest Hilkiah, and have him count the entire sum of the money that has been brought into the house of the LORD, which the keepers of the threshold have collected from the people; let it be given into the hand of the workers who have the oversight of the house of the LORD; let them give it to the workers who are at the house of the LORD, repairing the house, that is, to the carpenters, to the builders, to the masons; and let them use it to buy timber and quarried stone to repair the house. But no accounting shall be asked from them for the money that is delivered into their hand, for they deal honestly." The high priest Hilkiah said to Shaphan the secretary, "I have found the book of law in the house of the LORD." When Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan, he read it. Then Shaphan the secretary came to the king, and reported to the king, "Your servants have emptied out the money that was found in the house, and have delivered it into the hand of the workers who have oversight of the house of the Lord." Shaphan the secretary informed the king, "The priest Hilkiah has given me a book." Shaphan then read it aloud to the king. When the king heard the words of the book of the law, he tore his clothes. Then the king commanded the priest Hilkiah, Ahikam son of Shaphan, Achbor son of Micaiah, Shaphan the secretary, and the king's servant Asiaha, saying, "Go to the prophetess Huldah and inquire of the LORD for me, for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that has been found; for great is the wrath of the LORD that is kindled against us, because our ancestors did not obey the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us." Then the king directed that all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem should be gathered to him. The king went up to the house of the LORD, and with him went all the people of Judah, all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the priests, the prophets, and all the people, both small and great; he read in their hearing all the words of the book of the covenant that had been found in the house of the LORD. The king stood by the pillar and made a covenant before the LORD, to follow the LORD, keeping the LORD's commandments, decrees, and statutes, with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. All the people joined in the covenant.

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

Thanks be to God.

Duet: *He Shall Feed His Flock Like a Shepherd*, by G. F. Handel

Raydene Koch, Claire Rolheiser, soloists

Reflection: *Back on Track*

Rev. Dirk Jessen

Hymn: *All Who Hunger*

Voices United 460

**All who hunger gather gladly;
holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wand'ring.
Here in truth we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness,
all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.**

**All who hunger, never strangers;
seeker, be a welcome guest.
Come from restlessness and roaming.
Here in joy we keep the feast.
We that once were lost and scattered
in communion's love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.**

**All who hunger, sing together,
Jesus Christ is living bread.
Come from loneliness and longing.
Here in peace we have been fed.
Blest are those who from this table
live their days in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.**

Grateful Response

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

A Gratitude Minute

Sylvia Duffus

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 by speaking to an usher, pre-authorized remittance, or PayPal. Tax receipts are issued at the end of the year for donations over \$20 if your name and address are provided.

**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:

Tender God, we pray the gifts of time, talent and treasure that we offer to you will witness to the world that we are a people of faith. We have faith in your love that one day there will be an abundance of your peace, justice, and mercy so all of your creation will share in your blessings. Until that time, these gifts we offer are a sign of our faith that your kingdom will come. Amen.³

Sacrament of Holy Communion

All who worship with us today, regardless of age or church membership, are invited and welcome to partake in this sacrament. For people who worship online, please prepare whatever is available in your house, a cracker, bread, muffin, and juice, wine, or water. People in the sanctuary will be offered bread and grape juice. There is a gluten free option available.

We are invited to this table where our living finds wholeness.

We bring our woundedness to be healed, and we bring our hope for abundant life in Christ.

We are invited to this table where the humble foods of life are offered.

Bread and cup to nourish, love and acceptance to nurture.

We are all one in the body of Christ, joining today with the body of Christ worldwide.

Thanks be to God.⁴

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Eternal God, Maker of heaven and earth, we join with all people to give you thanks and praise. You formed the universe in your wisdom and created all things by your grace. We praise you for all your good gifts: the witness of saints and prophets; the work of faithful people; this earth in all its blessing and promise; and this bread, once scattered, now brought together and made one. In the hope that your people may be brought together from the ends of the earth into your reign of justice and compassion, we gather with those of every time and every place to give you praise and glory:⁵

³ Written by Sandy Ferguson, **Gathering**, Pentecost 2, 2022, p. 50. Used with permission.

⁴ Written by Wanda Burse, **Gathering**, Pentecost 2, 2019, p. 45. Used with permission.

^{5,6,7} **Celebrate God's Presence**, 13O001, 14R002, 14Oa003

Holy, Holy, Holy:

Voices United p. 932-933

**Holy, holy, holy are you, God of power and might;
heaven and earth are filled with your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the one who comes in your name.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest!**

Remembering Jesus at Table:

Blessed is our mentor, Jesus, who, before his suffering, earnestly desired to eat with his companions the Passover of liberation; who, on the night that he was betrayed, took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said:

“This is my body, which is for you. Do this to remember me.”

In the same way, after supper, he passed the cup, saying:

“This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this whenever you drink it, to remember me.”

O God, Redeemer of all things, with grateful thanks we offer this bread and wine, fruits of your earth and of our labour, signs of your redemptive purpose for our lives and for all your creation.⁶

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Memorial Acclamation:

Voices United p. 933

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Holy God, pour your Spirit on us, that we may know Christ in the breaking of bread, and that in word and deed, we may be channels of your love, peace, and justice in the world.⁷

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, God most holy, now and forever.

Great Amen:

Voices United p. 933

Amen.

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Meditation: *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether* by Howard Friedell arr. Haig Mardirosian

Allan Bevan, organ

Prayer after Communion:

Life-giving God, we have taken our place at your table. We have participated in this remembrance with Christians the world over today. We accept that we are now called to live Christ-like lives, serving others, protecting the earth, and making right our relationships with each other. For this Christ came, for this Christ served, and for this we are grateful, in Christ's name. Amen.⁸

Hymn: *Give Thanks for Life*

Voices United 706

**Give thanks for life,
the measure of our days,
mortal, we pass
through beauty that decays,
yet sing to God**

Tune: Sine Nomine 705

⁸ Written by Catherine Tovell, *Gathering*, Pentecost 2, 2023, p. 42. Used with permission.

**our hope, our love, our praise,
Hallelujah, hallelujah!**

**Give thanks for those
who made their life a light
caught from the Christ-flame,
bursting through the night,
who touched the truth,
who burned for what is right,
Hallelujah, hallelujah!**

**And for our own,
our living and our dead,
thanks for the love
by which our life is fed,
a love not changed
by time or death or dread,
Hallelujah, hallelujah!**

**Give thanks for hope,
that like the wheat, the grain
that lies in darkness
does its life retain
in resurrection
to grow green again,
Hallelujah, hallelujah!**

Commissioning:

**And then, all that has divided us will merge
And then compassion will be wedded to power
And then softness will come to a word that is harsh and unkind
And then all genders will be gentle
And then all genders will be strong
And then no person will be subject to another's will
And then all will be rich and free and varied
And then the greed of some will give way to the needs of many
And then all shall share equally in the Earth's abundance
And then all will care for the sick and the weak and the old
And then all will nourish the young
And then all will cherish life's creatures
And then all will live in harmony with each other and the Earth
And then everywhere will be called Eden once again. Amen.⁹**

Postlude: *God Is Here!* by Cyril Taylor arr. by Robert Powell Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Questions for Reflection: 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?

⁹Judy Chicago. From *Dare to Dream*, compiled and edited by Geoffrey Duncan. Compilation copyright 1995 Geoffrey Duncan. Harper Collins Publishers, London, U.K.

Honour Sunday

Poinsettias in the sanctuary this morning were placed by and in honour of the following people:

Louis and Lorna Berlinguette in honour of **Brian & Belva Piercy, Michael Paul, and Jon Mullins.**

Rhonda & Jeff Black in honour of **Anne Black**- as you move gracefully into the 90's.

Ed and Gwen Blanchard in memory of Ed's **Aunt Margaret.**

Joanne Blondheim in memory of **George Blondheim**, my beloved husband, you are so missed.

Sharon Damery and family in loving memory of **Richard (Dick) Damery.**

Doug Densmore in honour of **Jean & Brent Densmore.**

Wanda Des Jardine in honour of my mom, **Marjorie.**

Hazel Dolphin in honour of **Bob Klapstein**, a dear friend.

Clara Dyck in gratitude for the life of **Peggy Skett**, my friend and travelling companion.

Lois Field in honour of **Margaret & Frank Wolfe**, parents, and **Merrill, Evan and Iris.** (2 bouquets)

Karen F. Hansen in loving memory of my family - **August, Lydia, Chris and Hal Hansen.**

Judy Hayman in honour of Grandad **Holmes**, who served in WWI.

Mark and Nancy Heule in honour of all our parents **Win & Margaret Semple, Robert & Dorothy Heule.** (2 bouquets)

Andrew Hopkyns and Don Williams in honour of **John & Joan Hopkyns and Tom & Mae Williams.** (2 bouquets)

Carol Inglis in honour of **Evelyn Gant.**

Dirk Jessen in memory of **Rosa & Hans Jessen.**

Norma Johnston in memory of **Thomas Noble Johnston.**

Jill Lambie- May we all honour the humanity in **everyone** we meet (2 bouquets)

Joanne MacQueen in loving memory of my parents, **John & Joyce MacQueen.**

Janet Mears in honour of **Katie Campbell.**

Vital and Colleen Ouellette in honour of our parents, **Sylvio & Gemma, Angus & Audrey.**

Joan Pecknold in memory of **Gary Pecknold.**

Charles Sabu in honour of **my Parents.**

Bud & Betty Squair in honour of **Aubrey Edworthy.**

Marilee Stephens in memory of my brother, **Scott Stephens**, passed away Oct 2023, and my father **William Stephens**, passed away Dec 2017.

Ann & Garnet Thomas in honour of our daughter **Kathryn**, and all the many **doctors and nurses** that have helped her over the years.

R-W Report

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun Nov 26	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
	Membership Classes - Library	12:30 pm
	Koinonia - Memorial Hall	5:00 pm
Mon Nov 27	Spirited Arts Workshop- Room 11	7:00 pm
Tues Nov 28	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
Wed Nov 29	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	1:30 pm
	Gratitude Team - Club Room	5:30 pm
	R-W Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary/Lower Hall	7:30 pm
Thurs Nov 30	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 Dec 2	R-W- Ringers/Nova Bells - Glenrose Hospital	10:30 am
	Family Ministries X-mas Party - Memorial Hall	1:00 pm
	Koinonia Progressive Dinner- Memorial Hall	5:30 pm

ON THE HORIZON

Sun Dec 3	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
	Membership Classes - Library	12:30 pm
	Spiritual Formation Pod Meeting - Room 11	12:00 pm
Mon Dec 4	Spirited Arts Workshop- Room 11	7:00 pm
Tues Dec 5	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
	DEAP - Club Room	5:30 pm
	Circle Singing - Chapel	7:00 pm
Wed Dec 6	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	1:30 pm
	Labyrinth Walk - Memorial Hall	6:30 pm
	R-W Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary/Lower Hall	7:30 pm
Thurs Dec 7	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 Dec 9	Community Dinner- Memorial Hall	5:00 pm

Volunteer Opportunities

COMMUNITY DINNER KEY LEADERSHIP VOLUNTEERS

R-W's Community Dinners are hugely successful. It's 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.

CANDLESTICK POLISHING

Help the R-W Sanctuary shine! Sign-up to help polish the brass candlesticks that are used in Lessons & Carols and Christmas Eve services. Tuesday, **December 5** at 10:30 am in Memorial Hall.

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION PROJECT

There is a new initiative at R-W focused on Truth and Reconciliation. This 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. 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 by **November 30** to learn more and express interest in this opportunity.

R-W News & Notes

KOINONIA

The next gathering of Koinonia will be **Today** 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. The Koinonia Advent/Christmas/Year End Potluck will take place on Saturday, **December 2** starting at 5:30 pm in Memorial Hall. Unlike past years, this will not be a progressive dinner, but you are encouraged to bring a variety of Festive Treats, and wear your favourite or ugliest Christmas sweater.

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**.

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.

GREEN BITES -little tidbits to whet your appetite for change

She stopped in her tracks when she saw a table laden with painted rocks. I've been to a lot of craft sales but I have never seen rocks for sale, she thought. She was especially attracted to one rock that had the Tree of Life painted on it. Below the tree and surrounded by roots were the words Leave the Leaves. A lady bug appeared alongside the words, thus emphasising that the leaves themselves hold insect eggs that will hatch in the spring. Stuffing leaves into a plastic bag is no way to ensure that the eggs will develop into living insects that provide nourishment for many bird species. Piling leaves under trees and other perennials is much better for the health of the earth. Let's work with nature from now on, rather than being destructive when we "tidy" our yards in the fall. Dried leaves make the best mulch ever when spread under trees and atop garden beds. And there are a lot fewer egg deaths too. - The Environmental Stewardship Group

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.

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.

Worship Notes

LORD? Ancient Jewish scribes wanted to prevent anyone from even accidentally saying the name of God aloud when they read the Hebrew Bible, and so they came up with a visual device to remind you to make sure you say "Adonai," in English "the Lord." They took the four consonant letters of the divine name, so that in Hebrew it appears as YHWH. In English, it reads LORD. Some have added vowels to YHWH in English, but, IMO it is not right to do so because it doesn't honour the Jewish tradition. Rev. Dirk

Cover Image

The cover image is titled *Christ in Glory*, 1744. Fresco on a dome of the Katholikon (major church building) of Koutloumousiou Monastery, Mount Athos, Greece.

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