

The logo features a stylized brown sailboat on the left. To its right are three wavy lines in blue and green. The text "Robertson - Wesley" is in a large, brown, sans-serif font. Below it, "UNITED CHURCH" is in a smaller, brown, sans-serif font. To the right of "UNITED CHURCH", the word "Spirited" is written in a green, cursive font.

Robertson - Wesley

UNITED CHURCH *Spirited*

An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada

2024 January 28

Anniversary Sunday

Epiphany 4

“Through the passing generation,
in their spirit flesh and bone,
Jesus Christ becomes incarnate;
holy hearts are living stone
building here a house of refuge
as a temple, as a home.
So within the city's shadow
Jesus' planted Word has grown.”



Welcome and Inclusion

We open our hearts and our church family to all people in our community regardless of ethnicity, economic circumstances, sexual orientation, age, gender identity, or differing abilities. 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 cell phone 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

The flowers in the sanctuary today are in gratitude for the life of William (Bill) Hutton who was a music director at Wesley United Church and following its closure interim music director, chorister and assistant music director of R-W and also longtime director of Robertson-Wesley Ringers. They are placed there by close friend Clara Dyck.

Announcements at 10:15 AM

Prelude: *We Gather Together*, Trad. Dutch Hymn Melody arr. by Albert Zabel

Nova Bells

Embracing Our Spirit

Introit: *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*, arr. by H. H. Hopson

Choir of Robertson-Wesley, R-W Ringers

Call to Worship:

To share in laughter, to touch and be touched, to cry, to breathe, to move, to be!

The gift of incarnation, our bodies, tangible, real, and free!

To feel Jesus carrying our burdens, to love even as we are loved, to know that our yoke is easy, our burden is light,

Because it is love shared, shared with Christ, shared with others, and shared within community.

This is God's gift, that we might be all that we are.

So, let us celebrate God, with heart, body, mind, and soul!

Alleluia!¹

Hymn: *Jesus, We Are Here*

More Voices 189

Choir:

Jesu tawa pano; Jesu tawa pano;

Jesu tawa pano; tawa pano, mu zita renyu.

All:

Jesu tawa pano; Jesu tawa pano;

Jesu tawa pano; tawa pano, mu zita renyu.

Jesus, we are here; Jesus, we are here;

Jesus, we are here; we are here for you.

Jesus, we are here; Jesus, we are here;

Jesus, we are here; we are here for you.

Prayer for Renewal:

O God, where hearts are fearful and limited:

Grant freedom and daring.

Where anxiety is infectious and widening:

Grant peace and reassurance.

Where impossibilities close every door and window:

¹ Written by Richard Bott, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1, 2020, page 34. Used with permission.

Grant imagination and resistance.

Where distrust reshapes every understanding:

Grant healing and transformation.

Where spirits are daunted and dimmed:

Grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams. Amen.²

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

Coming into God's Presence

Rev. Karen Bridges

God's Holy Word

Prayer of Illumination:

Scripture is our song for the journey, the living word passed on from generation to generation to guide and inspire, that we might wrestle a holy revelation for our time and place from the human experiences and cultural assumptions of another era. God calls us to be doers of the word and not hearers only. **Amen.³**

Scripture:

Angela Glasel

Mark 5:21-43 • Jesus heals those who seek relief.

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw Jesus, fell at his feet and begged him repeatedly, "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live." So Jesus went with him. And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on Jesus. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, "If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well." Immediately her hemorrhages stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my clothes?" And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, "who touched me?" Jesus looked all around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. Jesus said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease." While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the leader's house to say, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?" But over hearing what they said, Jesus said to the

² Written by Keri K. Wehlander, **Joy is our Banquet; Resources for Everyday Worship**, (Etoibicoke: The United Church Publishing House, 1996), p. 33.

³ An excerpt from **A Song of Faith; A Statement of Faith of The United Church of Canada**, 2006, p. 5.

leader of the synagogue, “Do not fear, only believe.” He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they came to the house of the leaders of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. When he had entered, he said to them, “Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.” And they laughed at him. Then Jesus put them all outside, and took the child’s father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. Jesus took her by the hand and said to her, “Talitha cum,” which means, “Little girl, get up!” And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

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

Thanks be to God.

Anthem: *Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether*, by Harold Friedell arr. by Sheldon Curry
Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Sermon: *What if we actually got what we wanted?* Rev. Karen Bridges

Hymn: *Creator, We Gather* **Voices United 532**

**Creator, we gather to offer you praise,
the source of our lives and the strength of our days,
recalling our past, yet aspiring in faith,
Lord, accept our thanks.**

**For beauty of building in wood and in stone,
where Christians may gather, approaching your throne,
for faith, hope and love which this edifice raised,
Lord, accept our thanks.**

**For artistry fashioned in lead and in glass,
for love and the talent that brought it to pass,
for colour in nature our eyes can behold,
Lord, accept our thanks.**

**For scriptures directing our lives for today,
for teaching that opens our minds to your way,
for words of salvation received from your Son,
Lord, accept our thanks.**

**For music of spirit that lifts us in song,
for great hymns that urge us in faith to be strong,
for sounds of creation, now heard in our ears,
Lord, accept our thanks.**

**To you, God Creator, the source of all joy,
who gave varied talents, our minds to employ,
our lives in your service we offer anew,
Lord, accept our thanks.**

Grateful Response

Pastoral Prayers

Rev. Dirk Jessen

Lord's Prayer:

Voices United p. 921

**Our Creator, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
thy kin-dom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kin-dom and the power and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Offering:

Your donations today support R-W Church programs and operations, as well as outreach projects and programs in the city and around the world. You can donate by e-transfer to pay@rwuc.org, cheque, debit/credit by speaking to an usher, 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: *Song of Thankfulness and Praise*

Voices United 101 v. 4

**Grant us grace to see you, Lord, mirrored in your holy Word;
with your grace our lives endow, grace to imitate you now,
that we like to you may be at your great epiphany,
anthems be to you addressed, God in flesh made manifest.**

Prayer of Gratitude:

We pray, O God, that you will accept our offerings for the building of your community among us.

We pray that we may be joined together by your spirit into the family and household of Christ, a beautiful and constantly growing temple for God. Amen.⁴

Hymn: *God, Whose Love Is Reigning o'er Us*

Voices United 399

**God, whose love is reigning o'er us,
source of all, the ending true;
hear the universal chorus
raised in joyful praise to you:
Hallelujah, hallelujah, worship ancient, worship new.**

⁴ Written by Fern Gibbard, *Gathering*, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, 2023/24, page 48. Used with permission.

**Word of God from nature bringing
springtime green and autumn gold;
mountain streams like children singing,
ocean waves like thunder bold:
Hallelujah, hallelujah, as creation's tale is told.**

**Holy God of ancient glory,
choosing man and woman, too;
Abr'am's faith and Sarah's story
formed a people bound to you.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, to your covenant keep us true.**

**Covenant, new again in Jesus,
Star-child born to set us free;
sent to heal us, sent to teach us
how love's children we might be.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, risen Christ, our Saviour he!**

**Lift we then our human voices
in the songs that faith would bring;
live we then in human choices
lives that, like our music sing:
Hallelujah, hallelujah, joined in love our praises ring!**

Commissioning:

And now let us go forth boldly to do God's work in the world,
propelled by the strength of the Spirit in us, by the strength of our faith,
and by our great love for God, for creation, and for all God's people.
And most of all, let us go forth overflowing with God's love and God's
peace, bringing comfort, healing, and the peace of Christ to all we meet
along our way.

**And as we go, may the wind of the Creator be at our back, may the
risen Christ journey by our side, and may the Holy Spirit dance
before us, leading us in paths of righteousness. Amen.⁵**

Postlude: *Now Let All the Vault of Heaven Resound*, arr. by James Mansfield
Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Questions for Reflection:

As we celebrate the 110th Anniversary how will we reach out in faith?
What is it that we most want as a community of faith?
How will the wounds of the past be healed, leading to a new vision of
what we value and how we will commit to living out our faith in the
world?

⁵ Written by Robert Cosby, **Gathering**, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, 2023/24 page 48.
Used with permission.

R-W Report

Next Sunday

Sunday, February 4, 2024

Epiphany 5

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

Scripture: Mark 6:1-13 • The Rejection of Jesus and the mission of the 12

Sermon: Cosmic Forces

Best Picture Nominated Movie: Oppenheimer

Resuming a Robertson-Wesley tradition, on Sunday, February 4, the sermon will look at the scripture reading of the day with an Oscar-nominated movie in mind. Both sources deal with powerful forces and how they are dealt with by key, historic individuals—Jesus and J. Robert Oppenheimer. The movie has more than one scene that portrays a cosmic and/or molecular firestorm that might perhaps relate more closely to the cosmic beginning of the Gospel of John. However, in both today's Gospel passage and the movie, one individual is seen as having a particular insight into and responsibility of stewardship of power that lies both within and beyond the normal human realm. Even though they both enlist the help of others around them each of these individuals is challenged as to why they are responsible for and worthy of their weighty roles. With what visual, audible, tactile or literary images do you imagine cosmic forces? Are these forces ultimately constructive or destructive? Who is worthy of exploring and engaging these forces?

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

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun Jan 28	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
	Koinonia - Memorial Hall	5:30 pm
Mon Jan 29	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	7:00 pm
Tues Jan 30	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
Wed Jan 31	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	1:30 pm
	R-W Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary/Lower Hall	7:30 pm
Thurs Feb 1	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 Feb 3	Every Brilliant Thing - Memorial Hall	2:00 pm
	Youth Group - Away	7:00 pm

ON THE HORIZON

Sun Feb 4	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

	Spiritual Formation Conversation - Club Room	12:00 pm
Mon Feb 5	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	7:00 pm
Tues Feb 6	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
	DEAP - Club Room	5:30 pm
Wed Feb 7	Canterbury Service - Canterbury Court	10:30 am
	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	1:30 pm
	R-W Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary/Lower Hall	7:30 pm
Thurs Feb 8	Not Falling for You - Memorial Hall	10:00 am
	Men's Group - TBC	10:00 am
	Nova Bells - Lower Hall	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers - Lower Hall	6:45 pm
Sat Feb 10	Community Dinner - Memorial Hall	5:00 pm

Volunteer Opportunities

LEADERSHIP SEARCH

We are seeking to fill several positions on the R-W Board as people have finished their two year terms. It is up to the Community of Faith to help discern who amongst us is being called by God to lead R-W in the next few years. In Memorial Hall (and on the website at rwuc.org/leadership-search) there are job descriptions posted, along with a booklet that explains the process for filling these roles. We encourage everyone to prayerfully consider if you are called or if you know of someone who would be great in these positions. We are seeking: Incoming Chair of the Board, Treasurer, Chair of Ministry and Personnel and Northern Spirit Regional Representative. If you are interested, we ask that you fill out an expression of interest found in the Yellow booklet near the poster. Expressions of interest can be given to the office or sent to nominations@rwuc.org. If you have any questions feel free to talk to the people who are presently in the role or the staff of R-W.

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. If you are interested please contact Rhonda at Rljblack@shaw.ca.

EVERY BRILLIANT THING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

R-W will be hosting the play *Every Brilliant Thing* on **Feb 3** in the afternoon. They are looking for volunteers for Set-up (tables/chairs), to prepare coffee, tea, cut pies, work the ticket table, take down/clean up, dishes, and servers for pie and ice cream. If you are interested please sign up online at rwuc.org/volunteer

R-W News & Notes

ANNUAL REPORT

The deadline for reports from the committees, pods and groups of the church is **February 4**. Send your information to mail@rwuc.org with “2023 Annual Report Submission” in the subject line.

NOT FALLING FOR YOU

Not Falling for You is a free physical activity program for adults 50 and above, aimed at reducing the risk of falling through mobility improving exercises. R-W is collaborating with Alberta Health Services to host these classes. Thursdays 10:00 – 11:15 am, **January 25 – April 18**.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, **February 14** at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary and Live Streamed. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. Please join us for a time of reflection, worship and ritual. During the service we will be burning the palm branches from Palm Sunday last year, turning them into ashes and then the congregation will be invited to receive the sign of the cross with ashes on their hand or forehead. It is a very reflective and meaningful service. Everyone is welcome.

KOINONIA

Koinonia will gather **today** in Memorial Hall. We will start with our usual, but always amazing Pot-Luck Supper at 5:30 pm. Following supper we will be having a presentation and discussion on the Remit to grant greater autonomy to the Indigenous community within The United Church of Canada. We will also have some singing and praying.

For basic information about Koinonia, please see our poster on the bulletin board outside Memorial Hall. Looking forward to seeing you!

BETWEEN THE AISLES

The deadline for the next issue of Between the Aisles is **Today**. This year Robertson-Wesley (originally Robertson Presbyterian Church) is celebrating its 110th birthday! Do you have photos taken at Robertson-Wesley? How about a special memory of R-W, perhaps your first visit to this church, an outstanding service? Why not write about it and submit it at news@rwuc.org. When the next issue is available for the public in mid-February, your name will be in print!

BISSELL CENTRE: COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR

On **February 24** Edmontonians will brave the February cold, joining thousands in 150+ locations across Canada and the US for a 2 or 5 km winter walk to support people facing poverty and homelessness in their cities. Funds raised will support Bissell’s Community Space, which gives folks a place to come in out of the cold, access basic needs and connect with life-changing supports to help empower them to move from poverty to

prosperity. The Bissell Centres goal for CNOY 2024 is to raise \$120,000 with the support of 60+ teams and 400+ walkers. If you're interested, head to the Edmonton Downtown event page here and join the Robertson-Wesley United Team: <https://cnoy.org/edmontondowntown>. Click on "register to walk + fundraise"

GREEN BITES

The Madaster Foundation is an organization that understands the Earth to be a closed system, and hence, there should be no waste. Members of Madaster register all materials and products that are used to build structures such as bridges, homes, and large office buildings. Madaster functions very much like a complex recipe, but rather than specifying the amounts of foodstuffs, members provide info such as the number of screws gallons of paint that were needed for each project. The volumes or amounts of "ingredients" used are then recorded as to toxicity and embedded carbon per item. Begun in the Netherlands, Madaster promotes the re-use of those materials that went into the original building. A new building is then built and becomes part of the circular, rather than the linear, economy. See madaster.com for more information. -The Environmental Stewardship Group.

EVERY BRILLIANT THING

Saturday, **February 3** at 2:00 pm at Robertson-Wesley church. Tickets are \$10 and include tea and coffee, with apple pie and ice cream. *Every Brilliant Thing* was an off-Broadway hit – a one-actor play with an element of audience involvement. Starting as a child when his mother who battles chronic depression attempts suicide, the narrator builds a list of the brilliant things that make life worth living. Although it deals with heavy material, the play is touching, funny and life affirming. Come on this inspiring journey with actor Trevor McTavish, directed by Rayna Pohorelic.

In the Community

JESUS LOVES 2SLGBTQ+ PEOPLE (AND HERE'S WHY)

What does the Bible actually say - and not say - about gay relationships and equal marriage? Rev. Michael Coren will outline Christian arguments for love and equality as well as provide a critique of the hypocrisy and inconsistency of conservative Christianity and its homophobia as part of Queer Horizons: A Speaker Series Exploring 2SLGBTQ+ Research and Community Work. The Queer Horizons speaker series, presented by the MacEwan Centre for Sexual and Gender Diversity, profiles research and community work focused on 2SLGBTQ+ identities, issues, and topics. All events are free and open to everyone in the community. Monday, **February 12** from 5:00-6:00 pm, 5-142 CN Conference Theatre, at Grant MacEwan.

AMIGO'S BLUE GUITAR

Walterdale Theatre is presenting *Amigo's Blue Guitar* by Canadian playwright Joan MacLeod, and directed by R-W member Bob Klakowich. It is a sensitive play about a family living off the BC coast that sponsors a refugee from El Salvador. Set in 1990, while a devastating civil war raged in that country, this award winning play explores what it means and feels like to relate to someone of a different culture who has endured intense personal grief. The story is told with warmth and humour, and invites us to consider how we ourselves would react. The Sunday matinee on **February 11** at 2 pm will feature an audience talk back following the performance moderated by David Goa, a U of A professor and expert on immigration and new Canadians. For further information, and ticket purchase, go to the Walterdale website at <https://walterdaletheatre.square.site>. Tickets can also be purchased at the door pending availability.

Worship Notes

Thank you to the artists today for sharing their gifts; Garnet Thomas, Julie Kladenhoven, Katrina Loo. The artistic depictions are to celebrate Robertson-Wesley over the years. The building in which we worship and serve the world was first a Presbyterian church that came into union with The United Church of Canada in 1925. Back in 1912, plans were under way to build a new church for the growing Robertson congregation, with the purchase of the land upon which the building sits today. Construction was to begin in 1913, but all was not well in Edmonton. The real estate market was in a steep decline and money markets all over the world had collapsed, making the borrowing of money very difficult. The congregation had no choice but to look for a less grand building design and chose the First Baptist Church in Calgary as a model. The opening service was held on January 24, 1914 and people came each evening during that week. R-W was declared a Historic Heritage building in 1989. The 100-foot steeple of the church is a landmark and an important symbol of the community of faith. Combined with stylized wind representing the Spirit, it was incorporated into a new church logo in 2008.

Cover Image

The cover image was taken by Xanthianna McMahon from the MacLaren Building in Jan 2024. The words come from the Hymn "Through the Heart of Every City" in Voices United 584. Words written by Sylvia Dunstan, 1987.

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