

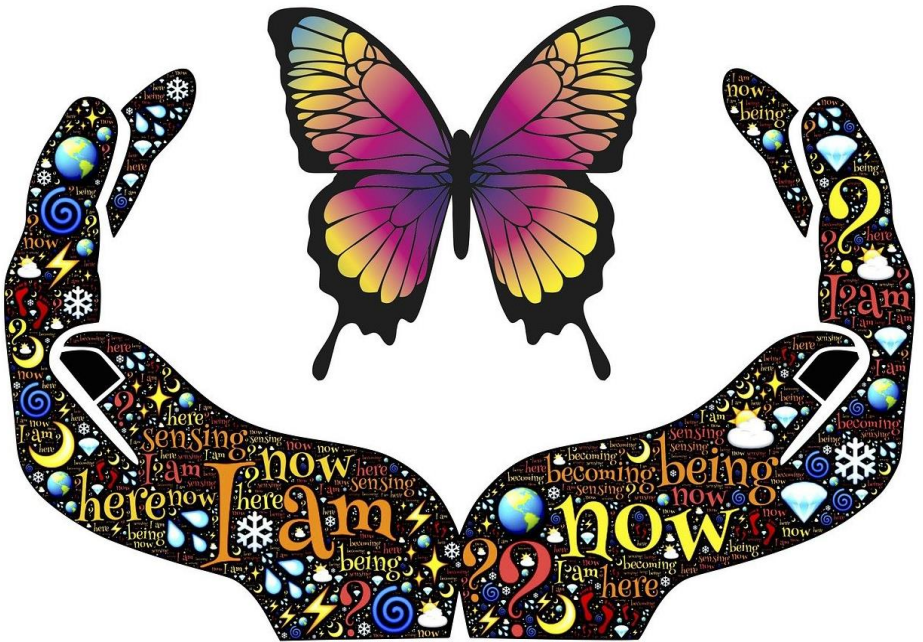


Robertson - Wesley UNITED CHURCH *Spirited*

An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada

2024 February 11

Transfiguration Sunday



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

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 hymnbooks 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: *Fugue in C Major*, by Vincent Luebeck

Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Introit: *Come and Worship the Lord*, by H. H. Hopson

Choir of Robertson-Wesley, Nova Bells

Call to Worship:

Who is Jesus for us?

The continuation of the covenant. The promise of something new.

The presence of God's love.

Who are we for Jesus?

The continuation of the covenant. The promise of something new.

The presence of God's love.

In God's love -

Jesus was changed, transfigured, and transformed.

In God's love -

we are changed, given hope, made new.

As people changed and changing, as disciples of Christ, as followers of Jesus' way -

we worship God!¹

Hymn: *I Have Called You by Your Name*

More Voices 161

I have called you by your name, you are mine;

I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.

I will not abandon you;

all my promises are true.

You are gifted, called, and chosen; you are mine.

I will help you learn my name as you go;

read it written in my people, help them grow.

Pour the water in my name,

speak the word your soul can claim,

offer Jesus' body, given long ago.

I know you will need my touch as you go;

feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.

Like the woman reaching out,

choosing faith in spite of doubt,

hold the hem of Jesus' robe, then let it go.

I have given you a name, it is mine;

I have given you my Spirit as a sign.

With my wonder in your soul,

make my wounded children whole;

go and tell my precious people they are mine.

¹ Written by Richard Bott, **Gathering**, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, 2020/21, p. 53. Used with permission.

Prayer for Renewal:

Dear God, the Creator of all, the Creator of miracles, you are the God with power, with power to do the impossible, with power that is out of our imagination.

Forgive our stubbornness, forgive us for our belief in our own power. Guide us so that we are not complacent in growth. Urge us to explore the impossible through our belief in you. We trust in your unconditional love, always.

Give us the wisdom to understand your teaching and the trust to find the angels you have sent to guide us. Give us strength and courage to act with you and within your love so that we will be a part of you always.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ the transfigured Son of God! Amen.

Coming into God's Presence

Rev. Karen Bridges

God's Holy Word

Hymn: *Take, O Take Me As I Am*

More Voices 85

**Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart and live in me. (2x)**

Prayer of Illumination:

Jesus, friend and sibling, guide and companion, teach us how to travel the road you have walked. Help us to feel the love of God that passes all understanding so that we may be the hearts and spirits that reach out with that love, in service to the world. **Amen.**²

Scripture:

Charles Sabu

Mark 8:27-9:8 • Peter's confession and the transfiguration of Jesus.

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." Jesus asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And Jesus sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. Then he began to teach them that the Son of God must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. Jesus said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." Jesus called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for

² Written by Anna Atkinson, **Gathering**, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, 2021/22, p. 48. Used with permission.

my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of God will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Creator with the holy angels.” And Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see that the kingdom of God has come with power.” Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And Jesus was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my child, the Beloved; listen to him!” Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus.

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

Thanks be to God.

Solo: *The Lord's Prayer*, by Flor Peeters

Jacqueline Hernandez, soloist

Sermon: *Who do you say that I am?*

Rev. Karen Bridges

Hymn: *We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding*

Voices United 104

**We have come at Christ's own bidding
to this high and holy place,
where we wait with hope and longing
for some token of God's grace.
Here we pray for new assurance
that our faith is not in vain,
searching like those first disciples
for a sign both clear and plain.**

**Light breaks in upon our darkness;
splendour bathes the flesh-joined Word;
Moses and Elijah marvel
as the heavenly voice is heard.
Eyes and hearts behold with wonder
how the Law and Prophets meet:
Christ, with garments drenched in brightness,
stands transfigured and complete.**

**Strengthened by this glimpse of glory,
fearful lest our faith decline,
we like Peter find it tempting
to remain and build a shrine.
But true worship gives us courage
to proclaim what we profess,
that our daily lives may prove us
people of the God we bless.**

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:

Generous God, transform what we offer this morning
for your work in this world.

**Transfigure us in our giving that we might know your joyful Spirit
through the spiritual practice of committed offerings.**

Inspire us to live into your abundance in Jesus' strong name. Amen ³

Hymn: *There's a Spirit in the Air*

Voices United 582

**There's a spirit in the air,
telling Christians everywhere:**

Vv. 1, 2, 4-6

**"Praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working in our world!"**

**Lose your shyness, find your tongue,
tell the world what God has done:**

³ Written by Gord Dunbar, **Gathering**, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, 2023/24, p. 51. Used with permission.

**God in Christ has come to stay.
Live tomorrow's life today!**

**Still the Spirit gives us light,
seeing wrong and setting right:
God in Christ has come to stay.
Live tomorrow's life today!**

**When a stranger's not alone,
where the homeless find a home,
praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working in our world.**

**May the Spirit fill our praise,
guide our thoughts and change our ways.
God in Christ has come to stay.
Live tomorrow's life today!**

Commissioning:

Depart from here renewed in your worship, restored in your mercy, and revitalized in your faith. May you meet the days ahead with transformed vigour and determination and the confidence of God's love planted deep in your heart where it might grow. **Amen.**⁴

Postlude: *Postlude on "St. Denio"*, by Charles Callahan Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Questions for Reflection:

- Who is Jesus? Who are we?
- What is our purpose in the world?
- What are we called to do as followers of Jesus?

R-W Report

Next Sunday

Sunday, February 18, 2024

Lent 1, Communion and A Gratitude Minute

Children & Youth: 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 10:17-31 • Rich man called to sell everything.

Sermon: The relinquishment of privilege brings blessings.

As we enter the season of Lent what are we being called to relinquish in order to return to God? The secular world invites us to live in the spirituality of scarcity, where we allow money to take control. It fosters fear, causing us to hold on tight to what little resources we have, or think we have. As followers of Jesus we are invited into a different spiritual reality, the spirituality of abundance where we act with trust that we can do

⁴ Written by Gill Le Febre, **Gathering**, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, 2023/24 p. 51. Used with permission.

more with less. It is a world where we are called to risk what we have been entrusted with in order to do more. How will the spirit of abundance fuel the cycles of blessings? How will the relinquishing of one's privilege enhance and enliven our lives and sense of purpose and meaning?

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

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun Feb 11	Sunday Worship - Sanctuary & Online	10:30 am
	Youth Discussion - Youth Room	10:30 am
	Kids' Church - Air Room	10:45 am
	Fellowship - Memorial Hall	11:45 am
Mon Feb 12	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	7:00 pm
Tues Feb 13	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
	UCW - Memorial Hall	1:30 pm
	Finance Committee - Club Room & Zoom	7:00 pm
Wed Feb 14	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	1:30 pm
	Ash Wednesday - Sanctuary	7:00 pm
Thurs Feb 15	Not Falling for You - Memorial Hall	10:00 am
	Nova Bells - Lower Hall	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers - Lower Hall	6:45 pm

ON THE HORIZON

Sun Feb 18	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
	Wild Church - Away	1:00 pm
Mon Feb 19	Church Closed	7:00 pm
Tues Feb 20	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
	R-W Board Meeting - Room 11 & Zoom	7:00 pm
Wed Feb 21	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	1:30 pm
	R-W Choir - Lower Hall & Sanctuary	7:30 pm
Thurs Feb 22	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 24	Spirited Art Workshop - Room 11	1:00 pm
	Youth Group - Away	7:00 pm

Volunteer Opportunities

COMMUNION SERVER VOLUNTEERS

Sunday, **February 18**, we will celebrate communion, sharing Jesus' meal. All people, all ages, are welcome to serve Communion. 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 (10:00 am). If you are able to serve, sign up on the tablet in the outer office, or visit rwuc.org/volunteer.

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. 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.

R-W News & Notes

INCOME TAX RECEIPTS

Income tax receipts for 2023 are ready. Save R-W postage and pick them up in Memorial Hall after worship. Statements not picked up will be mailed **February 26**.

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, until 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.

WILD CHURCH

On **Feb 18** at 1pm, Wild Church will gather with the theme of “Fire and Ice”. We will meet at the Emily Murphy Park fire circle. Dress for the weather. To keep warm, a fire and hot drinks will be provided (bring a mug) and the gathering will be cancelled if temperatures drop below -15C. All are invited, including our four-legged friends! Follow us on Instagram @wildchurchyeg

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 \$200,000 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”

SPIRITED ART WORKSHOP

Finding Light in the Shadows

February 24, 1 - 4 pm. In her book “The Dark Side of the Light Chasers”, Debbie Ford says that the path to wholeness and healing is through loving embrace of both our light and shadow selves. By creating self-portraits with dry media, we will explore how all form is modelled with light and shadow and reflect on how we may use this as a metaphor for self-awareness, acceptance and healing. Portraits can be realistic or abstracted/expressive! No previous experience required, just an openness to try something new. All supplies included. Please register on rwuc.org/workshops

GREEN BITES

Many of us are grieving the fact that Climate Change is escalating, and without human action, it will continue to do so. But here are some words that encourage hope: Rebecca Solnit writes “Why do we have marriage equality? Why do we have reproductive rights? Why do we have environmental protection? Because someone in the past was hopeful that this could be achieved.” Anonymous “ If you think you’re too small to be effective, you’ve never been in bed with a mosquito”. - The Environmental Stewardship Group

LEARN THE SIGNS OF A SCAM

Phone and internet scams have been making the rounds again. Many scams and frauds attempt to imitate businesses or government services in order to gain access to your personal and financial information. It may be a scam if someone is:

- Demanding immediate payment
- Requesting payment with cryptocurrency like bitcoin or gift cards
- Using threatening language
- Sending you a link to click on
- Asking for personal or financial information

How to protect yourself

- Don't be afraid to say no
- Don't be intimidated by high-pressure tactics
- Watch out for urgent pleas that play on your emotions
- Do your research
- Don't give out personal information
- Beware of unsolicited calls where the caller asks you for personal information, such as: Your name, Your address, Your birthdate, Your Social Insurance Number (SIN), Your credit card or banking information

Recognize spoofing

Spoofing is used by fraudsters to mislead victims and convince them that they are communicating with legitimate people, companies, or organizations.

Caller ID spoofing: Fraudsters have the ability to manipulate the phone number appearing on call display either by call or text message. They can display legitimate phone numbers for law enforcement agencies, financial institutions, government agencies or service providers.

Email spoofing: Fraudsters can manipulate the sender's email address to make you believe that the email you're receiving is from a legitimate source.

Website spoofing: Fraudsters will create fraudulent websites that look legitimate. In many cases, fraudsters will use a similar domain/website URL to the legitimate company or organization with a minor spelling difference.

Protect yourself from spoofing by

- Never assume phone numbers appearing on your call display are accurate
- Hang up and make an outgoing call when someone claims to be contacting you from your financial institution, service provider, law enforcement or government agency. Call the company or agency in question directly. Make sure you research their contact information and don't use the information provided in the first message or call.
- Verify any calls with your bank or credit card company by calling the phone number on the back of your bank or credit card.

- If you've received a call or other contact from a family member in trouble, talk to other family members to confirm the situation.
- Never click on links received via text message or email
- When visiting a website, always verify the URL and domain to make sure you are on the official website

There tips are from <https://antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca>

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, 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.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE

Friday, **March 1** at 1:30pm, Spirit Of Hope United Church (7909 – 82 Ave Nw; Edmonton) The plight of the people of the middle east is in the news and on people's minds. Everyone is welcome to enjoy this special service of story, song and prayer which has been created by the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada and was written by Women of Palestine. There will be a chance for visiting and refreshments afterwards.

Worship Notes

Transfiguration is the day when we recognize that Christ-light spreads as Christ power and presence are made known in the world. Jesus is affirmed on the top of a mountain and then he begins his descent into emptiness. As we prepare for the season of Lent which leads us to Easter and the death and resurrection of Jesus we hear what lies ahead for Jesus. Israel's prophets have been betrayed and Jesus will become the suffering servant.

Cover Image

The cover image by John Hain from pixabay.

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