



An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada

2024 February 18

Sacrament of Communion

Lent 1

The way of Jesus is not
found in world as we know it.



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 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

Announcements at 10:15 AM

Prelude: *Prelude and Fugue in B Flat Major*, by Johann Ludwig Krebs

Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Call to Worship:

We are gathered here on this first Sunday in Lent.

It is a season of mystery.

It marks the time of Jesus' journey in the wilderness.

Can we go with Jesus on this journey?

Yes. Jesus invites us on this journey to discover more about ourselves,
to discover more about his way, and to discover the kin-dom of Heaven.

Come, let us go with Jesus on this journey.¹

Hymn: *Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights*

Voices United 108

**Throughout these Lenten days and nights
we turn to walk the inward way,
where, meeting Christ, our guide and light,
we live in hope 'till Easter Day.**

v. 1-5

**The pilgrim Christ, the Lamb of God,
who found in weakness greater power,
embraces us, though lost and flawed,
and leads us to his Rising Hour.**

**We bear the silence, cross and pain
of human burdens, human strife,
while sisters, brothers help sustain
our courage 'till the Feast of Life.**

**And though the road is hard and steep,
the Spirit ever calls us on
through Calvary's dying, dark and deep,
until we see the coming Dawn.**

**So let us choose the path of One
who wore, for us, the crown of thorn,
and slept in death that we might wake
to life on Resurrection Morn!**

Coming into God's Presence

Rev. Karen Bridges

Hymn: *Kyrie Eleison (Kervin)*

More Voices 69

**Kyrie eleison, kyrie eleison,
Kyrie eleison, kyrie eleison.**

(Silence)

**Kyrie eleison, kyrie eleison,
Kyrie eleison, kyrie eleison.**

¹ Written by Fern Gibbard, *Gathering*, Lent/Easter 2019, p. 29. Used with permission.

Prayer of Affirmation:

On the journey of Lent, we seek a spirit of discernment and wisdom. On the journey of Lent, we move toward relationship with God. Follow Jesus and know new life. Seek the Spirit and know new insight. Move toward God and know grace. Accept God's blessing and go forth in faith, this day and every day. **Amen.**²

Anthem: *Call to Remembrance*, by Richard Farrant

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

God's Holy Word

Prayer of Illumination:

As we embark on this Lenten journey, O God, open our hearts and minds to your words. We ask that these words give us guidance in our living of your call to us to make a difference in the world. **Amen.**³

Scripture:

Pat Austin

Mark 10:17-31 • Rich man called to sell everything.

As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked Jesus, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honour your parents.'" He said to Jesus, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions. Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kin-dom of God!" And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kin-dom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kin-dom of God." They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible." Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you." Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or siblings or parents or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age - houses, siblings, parents and children, and fields with persecutions - and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: *The relinquishment of privilege brings blessings.*

Rev. Karen Bridges

² Written by Eric Hebert-Daly, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter, 2022, p. 34. Used with permission.

³ Written by Fraser Williamson, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter, 2019, p. 34. Used with permission.

**I saw the rich ones I saw what they gave
the widow who offered two pennies she'd saved
and I saw she was smiling I knew she was glad
and I wondered because she gave all that she had**

**But with God the world is turned upside down
the poor are embraced and the lost they are found.
Let's work for a world where all people are free
where it's good to feel good about God loving you and me.**

**I saw Zacheus, a sinner they said but to his house
I saw Jesus go to break bread
and I knew something special had happened that day
when Zacheus gave half of his riches away**

**But with God the world is turned upside down
the poor are embraced and the lost they are found.
Let's work for a world where all people are free
where it's good to feel good about God loving you and me.**

**The men in the vineyards were grumbling one day
I knew they weren't happy with what they'd been paid
for the ones who came later were paid just the same
as the workers who greeted the dawn when they came**

**But with God the world is turned upside down
the poor are embraced and the lost they are found.
Let's work for a world where all people are free
where it's good to feel good about God loving you and me.**

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

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: *Take My Life and Let It Be*

Voices United 506 v. 1

**Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, all for thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

Prayer of Gratitude:

Blessed Healer, you transform lives. The hungry are fed, the lonely are befriended, and the broken are restored to wholeness. May these gifts be part of the transformation. We offer them with humility and hope.

Amen.⁴

Duet: *Let Us Break Bread Together*, Trad. arr. by Craig Courtney

Raydene Koch, Claire Rolheiser, soloists

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, and juice, wine, or water. People in the sanctuary will be offered bread and grape juice. There is a gluten free option available.

The celebration of communion is always a festival of friends, a pulling together of our lives and our hopes, our moments of agony and our glimpses of success. It is here, where bread is broken and wine is shared, that we can most fully be ourselves and see others for who they truly are: children of the living God.

Here the common things of life - bread and wine, memories and dreams - become holy, touched by God.

Here that which is earthly becomes divine, and that which is human becomes more than it has ever dreamed.⁵

The Holy One is here.

God's Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to God

We offer joyful thanks to God.

Blessed are you, gracious God, Creator of light, Giver of all life, Source of love. From the dust of the earth, you created us in your image. From the bondage and slavery, you deliver us. Through all our wilderness

⁴ Written by Laura Turnbull, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2019, page 35. Used with permission.

⁵ **Celebrate God's Presence**, 14A005

wanderings you guide us. You call us to renewal and repentance, to justice and compassion, to healing and wholeness. We thank you for sending us Jesus, your Chosen One, bread for our journey. Jesus lived and loved this human life, taking upon himself our suffering and sorrow, being tested as we are tested, and reaching out to broken victims and the world's brokenness. In Jesus we come to know your truth, to feel the life that is Christ within us. So it is that throughout these Lenten days and nights we worship you, and bless your name:⁶

Holy, Holy, Holy:

Voices United p.941 Setting D

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

Remembering Jesus at Table:

We do what Jesus did the night before he died. He took bread, gave thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends and said, "Take, eat; remember me." Then he took the cup, and said, "Take, drink; remember."

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.⁷

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Memorial Acclamation:

Voices United p.942 Setting D

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

Holy God, pour your Spirit on us, and upon these communion elements, 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.⁸

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.941 Setting D

Amen. Amen. Amen.

Sharing the Bread and the Cup (Instructions)

Meditation: *Bread of Heaven*, by C. H. Trevor

Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Prayer after Communion:

Eternal and gracious One, though we live in a world of need,

**here we have tasted your goodness and
hungered for a world more just.**

Though afflicted by brokenness and division,

here we have heard your call to be a people of healing community.

Though daily we touch our limits,

here we have received the fullness of your grace.

Send us forth, O God,

In faith, in hope, and in love. Amen.⁹

**O God, how we have wandered and hidden from your face;
in foolishness have squandered your legacy of grace.
But how, in exile dwelling, we turn with fear and shame,
as distant but compelling, you call us each by name.**

**And now at length discerning the evil that we do,
by faith we are returning with hope and trust in you.
In haste you come to meet us, and home rejoicing bring,
in gladness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.**

**O God of all the living, both banished and restored,
compassionate, forgiving, our peace and hope assured.
Grant now that our transgressing, our faithlessness may cease.
Stretch out your hand in blessing, in pardon, and in peace.**

Commissioning:

Go from here to overturn the care-less attitudes.

We go from here to practise compassion.

Go from here to challenge selfish and racist systems.

We go from here to encourage sharing, equality, and justice.

Go from here to share hope in the service of others.

We go from here to create faith community beyond this time of worship.

May God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, bless us as we go. **Amen.**¹⁰

Postlude: *Fugue in E Flat Major*, by Josef Rheinberger

Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Questions for Reflection:

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?

R-W Report

Next Sunday

Sunday, February 25, 2024

Lent 2

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 10:32-45 • Jesus foretells his death and resurrection.

Sermon: Beyond Suffering and Getting it Wrong

The Gospel of Mark, in telling the story of Jesus, is fast-paced and urgent befitting the importance of its message. However, between the end of chapter 8 and the end of chapter 9, no less than three times Jesus raises the same central theme. In part, we are to take from this that following in the way of Jesus will be the cause of opposition, to put it mildly. In part we are reminded that even the core of followers that Jesus had chosen and who walked with him day in and day out lapsed into wrong thinking. But even more

⁹ Written by Catherine Tovell, **Gathering**, Pentecost 2, 2023, p. 42. Used with permission.

¹⁰ Written by David Sparks, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter, 2024, page 38. Used with permission.

importantly, beyond suffering and being in many ways mistaken, we hear again how we go on to live is what truly matters. How do we try to avoid opposition to our faith in Jesus? In what ways do we try to get Jesus to meet our own personal, selfish needs? Whom do we choose to serve in and through our lives and why?

Music: Dr. Allan Bevan, organist; Cantilon Primary Choir

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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 - Emily Murphy Park	1:00 pm
Mon Feb 19	Church Closed	
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
	Membership Class - Club Room	7:00 pm
	R-W Choir - Lower Hall & Sanctuary	7:30 pm
Thurs Feb 22	Not Falling for You - Memorial Hall	10:00 am
	Nova Bells - Sanctuary	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers - Sanctuary	6:45 pm
Sat Feb 24	Spirited Art Workshop - Room 11	1:00 pm
	Youth Group - Away	7:00 pm

ON THE HORIZON

Sun Feb 25	Sunday Worship - Sanctuary & Online	10:30 am
	Youth Discussion - Youth Room	10:30 am
	Kids' Church - Air Room	10:45 am
	Budget Info Session - Memorial Hall	12:00 pm
	Koinonia - Memorial Hall	5:00 pm
Mon Feb 26	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	7:00 pm
Tues Feb 27	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
Wed Feb 28	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	1:30 pm
	Membership Class - Club Room	7:00 pm
	R-W Choir - Lower Hall & Sanctuary	7:30 pm
Thurs Feb 29	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 Mar 2	Youth Group - Away	7:00 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. If you have any questions feel free to talk to the people who are presently in the role or the staff of R-W.

HYDRANGEA COORDINATOR

Looking for a volunteer to help coordinate the ordering, handing out and delivering of the Easter Hydrangeas. Easter Sunday will be **March 31**, with orders taken on **March 10, 17 and 24**. The coordinating role includes organising the volunteers ensuring all hydrangeas are collected on March 31. Elyse in the office would help to teach you the duties of the coordinating role. Please contact Elyse at mail@rwuc.org if you are interested.

R-W News & Notes

CHURCH HOURS

The church will be closed on Monday, **February 19** for Family Day.

SUPPORTING THE WORK OF THE WIDER UNITED CHURCH

Today is Communion Sunday and there will be a collection of our special offerings for M&S. R-W is committed to financially supporting the work of The United Church of Canada. On each Sunday when communion is served we highlight some aspect of the work and ministry of the National Church. At this time, we also take up a special collection. Blue envelopes are provided for this purpose in the bulletin.

BUDGET INFORMATION SESSION

February 25 after church in Memorial Hall. This will include time to look at the proposed budget for 2024 and ask questions about the 2023 finances. Printed copies of the Annual Report will be available.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, **March 3** after church. The Annual Congregational Meeting of R-W will take place in after the service.

WILD CHURCH

Today 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

BETWEEN THE AISLES

Hot off the presses, a new issue of *Between the Aisles* featuring remembrances of R-W on the 110th Anniversary of the church building, musings, poetry, recipes, and church activity listings for Holy Week and Easter, grab your copy today from the racks near the entrances.

KOINONIA

This is your invitation to be part of Koinonia on the fourth Sunday of each month. We gather next on Sunday, **February 25** at 5:30 in Memorial Hall. We start with a pot-luck supper, and this month the pot-luck will be followed by a hymn sing led by Phyllis H. In March, Koinonia falls on Palm Sunday, **March 24**. On that date, Garnet T. will be guiding us through a reflection on Lent and Easter.

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.

BISSELL CENTRE: COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR

On **February 24** Edmontonians will brave the February cold, joining thousands across Canada and the US for a 2 or 5 km winter walk to support people facing poverty and houselessness 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. If you're interested, head to the event page and join the R-W Team:
<https://cnoy.org/edmontondowntown>. Click on "register to walk + fundraise"

SPIRITED ARTS 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

SPIRITED ARTS WRITING WORKSHOP: Charting the Wilderness

Throughout the season of Lent, Rachel Frey will be leading a writing journey, inviting you to explore your life's stories - through creative activities, spiritual practices, writing prompts, and guided reflection. Each week, Rachel will send an email with an activity to help you to recall stories from your life and writing prompts to assist in moving those stories from your memory to paper. The writing journey will conclude after Easter with an in-person writing workshop. If you'd like to participate in this writing journey, receiving the weekly emails from Rachel, please sign up at <https://rachelfreysd.wordpress.com/charting-the-wilderness>.

MEMBERSHIP CLASS

For 5 weeks from **Wednesdays 7:00 - 8:30 pm (Feb 21, 28, & March 6, and Thursdays March 14 & 21)** in the Club Room. This is an opportunity to talk about your faith, to learn about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. It is also an opportunity to learn about the history, polity and faith practice of The United

Church of Canada, and how we live out our faith in the world. After the class you will be asked to discern for yourselves whether or not you wish to publicly proclaim your commitment in this dynamic faith organisation. If you wish to participate in the group please contact Rev. Karen at karen.bridges@rwuc.org to register.

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

As announced by the RWUC Board in November, our four-member Search Committee was established in late fall. We are tasked with searching for, interviewing and selecting personnel for the positions approved as part of the R-W Community of Faith profile in 2023. The Minister of Faith Development & Intergenerational Ministry and the Minister of Social Justice and Outreach are both half-time positions. In The United Church of Canada, ministry personnel searches are done through ChurchHub, a specialized, secure website which the Search Committee had to learn before beginning to use it. We have identified some candidates; if you are aware of anyone who might be interested in a half-time Ministry position as an ordered ministry, lay ministry or student in ministry (eligible in the UCC), please encourage them to update their profile on ChurchHub or reach out to the Search Committee at searchteam@rwuc.org. -From the Search Committee: Andrew Hopkyns, Lorne Langman, Nova Laurin & Rowan Fox

In the Community

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE

Friday, **March 1** at 1:30pm, Spirit Of Hope United Church (7909 – 82 Ave 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

As we continue the season of Lent which lasts for 40 days and nights we follow Jesus into the wilderness and into a time of reflection and turning toward God. For this season, we will engage in more silence and reflection, thus we will not be singing after the offering. We will sing the Lord's prayer to hear these words anew. We will refrain from saying Hallelujah, until Palm Sunday. This is a time to explore new ways of prayer and contemplation while renewing our commitment to God and to living out our faith in the world.

Cover Image

The cover image taken by Rev. Karen Bridges in May 2008 in Vancouver BC

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