



An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada

2024 February 25

Lent 2



Welcome and Inclusion

We open our hearts and our church family to all people in our community regardless of sexual orientation, age, gender identity, differing abilities, ethnicity, or economic circumstances. 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: “*Winter*” from *The Four Seasons*, by Vivaldi arr. by Martha Lynn Thompson
Robertson-Wesley Ringers

Embracing Our Spirit

Introit: *Come with Hearts and Voices Sounding*, J.S. Bach arr. by K. Lee Scott
Cantilon Primary Choir

Call to Worship:

Along the Lenten way, may our loving God

Give us calm reflection.

Along the Lenten way, may our loving God

give us faithful friends.

Along the Lenten way, may our loving God

give us purpose and direction.

Along the Lenten way, may our loving God

bring us to Jesus Christ and his cross-bound way.

Along the Lenten way, we worship God.¹

Hymn: *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love*

Voices United 593

**Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve
the neighbours we have from you.**

**Kneels at the feet of his friends,
silently washes their feet,
master who acts as a slave to them.**

**Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve
the neighbours we have from you.**

**Neighbours are rich and poor,
varied in colour and race,
neighbours are near and far away.**

**Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve
the neighbours we have from you.**

**These are the ones we should serve,
these are the ones we should love,
all are neighbours to us and you.**

**Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve
the neighbours we have from you.**

¹ Written by **Fern Gibbard**, Summerland, B.C., **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2023, p. 31. Used with permission.

**Kneel at the feet of our friends,
silently washing their feet,
this is the way we should live with you.**

**Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve
the neighbours we have from you.**

Coming into God's Presence

Rev. Dirk Jessen

Meditation: *What Wondrous Love Is This?* Traditional arr. by Andrew Duncan

Nova Bells

Gratitude Bucket (Dec/Jan/Feb)

Hymn: *Kyrie Eleison (Kervin)*

More Voices 69

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

(Silence)

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

Prayer of Affirmation:

Whether we feel it in our hearts today, or not, God loves us infinitely more than we can grasp. God guides us and holds us dearly in a spiritual embrace. This is the good news that Jesus brought.

Thanks be to God! Amen.²

Anthem: *Little Wheel*, Trad. Spiritual arr. by Ruth Artman

Cantlon Primary Choir

God's Holy Word

Prayer of Illumination:

As we continue 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 out your call to us to make a difference in the world. **Amen.³**

Scripture:

Ilona Bevan

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

They were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them; they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them what was to happen to him, saying, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of God will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death; then they will hand him over to the Gentiles; they will mock him, and spit upon him, and flog him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise again." James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to

² Written by **Christine LeBlanc**, East End United Regional, Ministry, Toronto, Ont., **Gathering**, Lent/Easter, 2021, p. 36. Used with permission.

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

him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And Jesus said to them, "What is it you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They replied, "We are able." Then Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of God came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: *Beyond Suffering and Getting it Wrong.*

Rev. Dirk Jessen

Hymn: *Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery*

Voices United 121

**Tree of life and awesome mystery,
in your death we are reborn,
though you die in all of history,
still you rise with every morn,
still you rise with every morn.**

**Seed that dies to rise in glory,
may we see ourselves in you,
if we learn to live your story,
we may die to rise anew,
we may die to rise anew.**

**We remember truth once spoken,
love passed on through act and word,
every person, lost and broken
wears the body of our Lord,
wears the body of our Lord.**

**Christ you lead and we shall follow,
stumbling though our steps may be,
one with you in joy and sorrow,
we the river, you the sea,
we the river, you the sea.**

**In our call to be a blessing,
may we be a blessing true,
may we live and die confessing
Christ as Lord of all we do,
Christ as Lord of all we do.**

Grateful Response

Pastoral Prayers

Rev. Karen Bridges

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.**

Meditation: *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*, Lowell Mason arr. by Martha
Lynn Thompson

Robertson-Wesley Ringers

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. 2

**Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet, and let them be
swift and purposeful for thee.**

Prayer of Gratitude:

**We know there is much need, O God, and we offer what we can to
help. Spread the good we intend where it is needed, we pray, that it
may help our neighbours through Christ, in love. Amen.⁴**

Hymn: *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

Voices United 149

**When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.**

⁴ Written by **George Allan**, Chatham, Ont., **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2023, p. 37. Used with permission.

**Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ, my God:
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.**

**See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small:
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.**

Commissioning:

Go into the world to fulfill your call to Christ's mission. Notice the opportunities to serve others, to do holy work. Be courageous, knowing that Jesus journeys with you. **Amen.**⁵

Postlude: *Jesu, Jesu*, Ghanaian Folk Song arr. by Kevin McChesney

Robertson-Wesley Ringers and Nova Bells

Questions for Reflection:

How do we try to avoid the hard parts of the story of Jesus?

In what ways do we try to get God to meet our own, self-centred needs?

Whom do we choose to serve in and through our lives and why?

R-W Report

Next Sunday

Sunday, February 25, 2024

Lent 3

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 12:1-17 • Parable of the wicked tenants

Sermon: Holistic Truth Seeking

People in power in the secular world tend to live in an either-or dynamic. Powerful leaders are portrayed as people who are able to convince others of the truth. They are often great at debate and never back down. The parable of the wicked tenants is used by Jesus to teach followers a different way of seeking truth - with a holistic approach. Jesus wants us to be curious and calls us to strive for mutual understanding which is found through dialogue, where the powerless are listened to first and multi-perspectives are valued. How would a holistic truth seeking approach help us to shift to a world of equity and diversity? How will this help us to see a new way forward where love is prevalent?

Music: Dr. Allan Bevan, organist; Jacqueline Hernandez, Raydene Koch, soloists; Robertson-Wesley Choir

⁵ Written by **Donnie Morrison**, The United Protestant Church of Sydney River, Sydney River, N.S., **Gathering**, Lent/Easter, 2023, p. 38. Used with permission.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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 - Sanctuary	12:00 pm
	Koinonia - Memorial Hall	5:30 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 Classes - Club Room	7:00 pm
	R-W Choir - Lower Hall & Sanctuary	7:30 pm
	Not Falling for You - Memorial Hall	10:00 am
Thurs Feb 29	Nova Bells - Lower Hall	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers - Lower Hall	6:45 pm
	Youth Group - Away	7:00 pm
Sat Mar 2		

ON THE HORIZON

Sun Mar 3	Sunday Worship - Sanctuary & Online	10:30 am
	Youth Discussion - Youth Room	10:30 am
	Kids' Church - Air Room	10:45 am
	Annual Congregational Meeting - Memorial Hall	12:00pm
Mon Mar 4	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	7:00 pm
Tues Mar 5	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
	DEAP - Club Room	5:30 pm
Wed Mar 6	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	1:30 pm
	Gratitude Team Meeting - Club Room	5:30 pm
	Membership Classes - Club Room	7:00 pm
	R-W Choir - Lower Hall & Sanctuary	7:30 pm
Thurs Mar 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 Mar 9	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 Representatives (3). 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.

NEWCOMER LUNCH

The Spiritual Formation Pod is planning a newcomers lunch for **April 14** at noon. The lunch is intended to make people who have joined the church in the past year feel more welcome. We are looking for a couple of people who want to help organize the lunch starting at 11:30 am. If you are interested visit rwuc.org/volunteer to sign up.

R-W News & Notes

BUDGET INFORMATION SESSION

Today after church in the Sanctuary and livestreamed. 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.

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**.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, **March 3** after church in Memorial Hall. The Annual Congregational Meeting of R-W will continue from the worship service with a potluck, so if you are able please bring something to share. For those who are unable to attend, as this will not be online, we will host a zoom gathering the following week to discuss what happened at the meeting, for those that are interested.

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>.

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.

MEMBERSHIP CLASS

For 5 weeks from **Wednesdays** 12:00 - 1:30 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.

KOINONIA

Koinonia will be gathering this Sunday, **February 25** at 5:30 - approx 9:00 pm for our monthly pot-luck supper. We will follow supper with a hymn sing. And, as Black History Month is drawing to a close, we will focus on music that has come to us from the enslaved people in America and is now included in our United Church hymn books. We will also hear some of the history of the hymns we will be singing. Join us if you can.

GREEN BITES

George Orwell, the author of 1984, loved books, but when he worked in a bookstore as a young man, he was overwhelmed by the large volume of paper used by the publishing industry. Yesterday as I sat staring at one of the many bookshelves in my home, it hit me that perhaps I should swear off buying books and make better use of my library card. In ancient times, the number 4 was especially valued because it represented the four directions. Once Christianity, with its doctrine of the Trinity took hold, the number 3 became more meaningful than 4, as in “three strikes you’re out,” “three Acts in a play”, and “all good things come in threes”. Can we, in our attempt to deal with Climate Change, somehow expand the 3 R’s, Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle to Refuse, Reduce.....etc? Let’s try it and see!! And Good Luck. - The Environmental Stewardship Group

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Tuesdays at 12:00 pm on Zoom and in the Club Room. Reflect on the scripture passages for the upcoming Sunday. We are using the practice of Lectio Divina which means we read through the scripture three times. You will be invited into some moments of silence, and if you are willing you are invited to share with the group. You don’t need to be a Biblical Scholar. God speaks through the scriptures and it is wonderful to hear the diversity of messages that are received. Contact the office for the Zoom link. Come with a bible and a journal, or simply yourself! Tune in when you can.

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 RWUC 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 tool 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

SPIRITED ART STUDIO

Spirited Art Studio is a free secular community art program providing an informal, welcoming and inclusive space where we come together to nurture our creative spirit through art and craft activities. There are as many pathways to creativity as there are individuals! Come see what adventures await you as you create, learn and make new connections.

Mondays from 7:00 - 8:30 pm and **Wednesdays** 1:30 - 3:00 pm.

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. Thank you guest vocalists Victoria Biel, Olivia Mitchell, and Rose Mellor. Thanks also to the Cantlon Primary Choir and the Robertson-Wesley Ringers and Nova Bells for their musical contributions to this morning's service.

Cover Image

The cover image is from wallpapers.com.

Minister of Faith Development and Intergenerational Ministry: Vacant

Minister of Social Justice and Outreach: Vacant

Lead Minister of Congregation and Community Development: Rev. Karen Bridges

Bridging Minister: Rev. Dirk Jessen

Music Director: Dr. Allan Bevan

Office Administrator: Elyse Munro

Facilities Manager: Brad Campbell

Financial Manager: Garth van Herwaarden

Welcome to Robertson-Wesley

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

Today's Date: _____

Contact Information:

Name: _____

Preferred gender pronouns: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____

Postal Code: _____ Phone #: _____

Email: _____

I would like to subscribe to the email newsletter

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

Please put in the offering plate. Thank you

