



An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada

2024 March 3

Lent 3



Welcome and Inclusion

We open our hearts and our church family to all people in our community regardless of economic circumstances, sexual orientation, age, gender identity, differing abilities, or ethnicity. 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 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: *Fugue in C Major*, by Felix Mendelssohn

Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Introit: *God So Loved the World*, by John Goss

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Call to Worship:

God, our God, you have called us to be a people on the move;
travelling light, dying to live, ready to lose ourselves for the sake of the world.

You have called us to be a people with purpose; travelling without a map, travelling to where we are led, sustained by your spirit, committed to the gospel for the hope of the world.

You have called us, your people, to be the church. To celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil.

We are a community of faith with a purpose! Where faith is nurtured and hearts are comforted, gifts are shared for the good of all.

Where we each have a role to help embody God's love in the world. We come here today because we acknowledge that the community of faith requires the ministry and discipleship of all believers. May our worship and work be one this day!¹

Hymn: *O Jesus, I Have Promised*

Voices United 120

**O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
remain forever near me, my Saviour and my friend:
I shall not fear the journey if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.**

**O let me feel you near me: the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me, around me and within;
but, Jesus, then draw nearer and shield my soul from sin.**

**O let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self will;
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
now speak, and make me listen, O guardian of my soul.**

**O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you,
that where you are in glory your servant shall be too.
And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
O give me grace to follow, my Saviour and my friend.**

¹ Part 1 was written by Ruth Harvey in **Eggs and Ashes**, p. 109. The second part is an excerpt from **A New Creed**, and the third excerpt is adapted from **A Song of Faith**.

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:

Friends, hear the good news that God listens to our prayers, understands our concerns, and holds us close in this time of confession and truth-telling. Know today that we have been given the grace and the courage to go into the world and spread this good news. **Amen.**²

Duet: *O Divine Redeemer*, by Charles Guonod

Jacqueline Hernandez and Raydene Koch, soloists

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 living out your call to us, to make a difference in the world. **Amen.**³

Scripture:

Andrew Hopkyns

Mark 12: 1-17 • Parable of the wicked tenants; paying taxes to Caesar
Then Jesus began to speak to them in parables. "A person planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a pit for the wine press, and built a watchtower; then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the season came, he sent a slave to the tenants to collect from them his share of the produce of the vineyard. But they seized him, and beat him, and sent him away empty-handed. And again he sent another slave to them; this one they beat over the head and insulted. Then he sent another, and that one they killed. And so it was with many others; some they beat and others they killed. The owner had still one other, a beloved son. Finally, he sent his son to them, saying, "They will respect my son." But those tenants said to one another, "This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours. So they seized him, killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard. What then will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the tenants and give the vineyard to others. Have you not read this scripture: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'?" When they realized that Jesus had told this parable against them, they wanted to arrest him, but they feared the

² Written by Julie Hutton, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter, 2021, p. 35. Used with permission.

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

crowd. So they left Jesus and went away. Then they sent to him some Pharisees and some Herodians to trap him in what he said. And they came and said to Jesus, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality, but teach the way of God in accordance with truth. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not? Should we pay them, or should we not?” But knowing their hypocrisy, Jesus said to them, “Why are you putting me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me see it.” And they brought one. Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” They answered, “The emperor’s.” Jesus said to them, “Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are Gods.” And they were utterly amazed at him.

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

Thanks be to God.

Reflection: *Holistic Truth Seeking*

Rev. Karen Bridges

Grateful Response

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. 3

**Take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from thee;
take my intellect, and use
every power as thou shalt choose.**

Prayer of Gratitude:

Loving God, you are always faithful. We turn to you with our hopes and our fears. We turn to you with a song of thanksgiving and a prayer for help. Precious Lord, we give thanks that you have chosen us to serve you as a church, by doing our best to imitate your generosity and to copy your loving devotion by sharing our gifts. Trusting your love to multiply our gifts as we reach out, we pray in Jesus’ name. **Amen.**⁴

Processional Hymn: *We Are Pilgrims*

Voices United 595

**We are pilgrims on a journey,
fellow travellers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.**

⁴ Written by Wendy MacLean, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter, 2021, p. 49. Used with permission.

**Will you let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.**

**I will hold the Christ light for you
in the nighttime of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.**

**I will weep when you are weeping,
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow,
till we've seen this journey through.**

**When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.**

**Will you let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.**

Time of Exploration and Table Conversation:

Question 1: What is your greatest need or challenge in your life?

Question 2: From the values found on your table what does your table believe are the top 3 values here at Robertson-Wesley?

Question 3: Compile examples of how R-W puts these values into action.

Hymn Response: *Listen, God Is Calling*

More Voices 97

♩ = 92 *One* *All*

(Lis - ten) Lis - ten, God is cal - ling, through the Word in - vi - ting,
of - fer - ing for - give - ness, com - fort and joy. (Lis - ten)

Grace

A Time of Feasting and Fellowship

R-W Business

Covenanting:

Move us on our journey from where we are to where you want us to go.

Open our eyes on the way to the people of different cultures, continents and countries, who can bring colour to our lives.

Take us on our journey from where we are to what you want us to be; so that we become a community where all are welcomed and no one is excluded,

all are valued and no one is made to feel inadequate,

all are forgiven and no one is ashamed to belong,

all are encouraged and no one is too hurt to come among us.

Lead us on our journey from who we are to who you want us to be;

so that patience is built into us, kindness is assumed in us,

gentleness is part of us, compassion flows from us, truth is second nature to us, and the commitment of love is part of us.

Let us go gladly on the journey together as a community of faith. May we support the people we have chosen to lead us, and join together in living out our call and commitment to you O God in the world.

Amen.⁵

Questions for Reflection:

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?

R-W Report

Next Sunday

Sunday, March 10, 2024

Lent 4

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 12:28-44 • The First Commandment and Jesus Denounces the Scribes.

Sermon: Jesus' Elevator Pitch

Jesus and his disciples have arrived in Jerusalem. Religious authorities have taken notice and attempt to trick Jesus into saying something controversial (and hopefully blasphemous) so they can have him detained

⁵ Written by Ruth Harvey, **Eggs and Ashes**, (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publication, 2004), p. 110. Used with permission.

and silenced. Jesus answers yet another potentially entrapping question in such a succinct way that his opponents dare not challenge him any more. Jesus then calls into question those who would make him out to be a military messiah. He goes on to acknowledge the faithfulness of someone most unexpected in contrast to members of the religious elite. How does Jesus answer the question about the most important commandment? What would life be like if everyone based their actions on this teaching?

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

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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 Congregation Meeting - Memorial Hall	11:00 am
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 - Zoom	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

ON THE HORIZON

Sun Mar 10	Sunday Worship - Sanctuary & Online	10:30 am
	Youth Discussion - Youth Room	10:30 am
	Kids' Church - Air Room	10:45 am
Mon Mar 11	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	7:00 pm
Tues Mar 12	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
	Property Meeting - Room 11	1:00 pm
	UCW - Memorial Hall	1:30 pm
	Finance Meeting - Club Room	7:00 pm
Wed Mar 13	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	1:30 pm
	R-W Choir - Lower Hall & Sanctuary	7:30 pm
Thurs Mar 14	Not Falling for You - Memorial Hall	10:00 am
	Men's Group - Club Room	10:00 am
	Nova Bells - Lower Hall	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers - Lower Hall	6:45 pm
	Membership Classes - Zoom	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.

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

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Today after church in Memorial Hall. The Annual Congregational Meeting of R-W will continue from the worship service with a potluck. Annual Reports are available in Memorial Hall for pickup.

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.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Learn the story of Jesus' life and death through a variety of hour-long worshipful experiences. All services will be in person and live streamed with the exception of the Easter Sunrise service which will be in person only.



Palm Parade
Sunday, March 24 10:30 am
Palm Sunday



A Wake for Jesus
Saturday, March 30 7:00 pm
Easter Vigil



Last Supper
Thursday, March 28 7:00 pm
Maundy Thursday



The Resurrection
Sunday, March 31 7:30 am
Easter Sunrise Service
Paul Kane Park



At the Cross
Friday, March 29 10:30 am
Good Friday

Sunday, March 31 10:30 am
Easter Sunday Service

HOLY WEEK MUSICAL MEDITATION

The Choir of Robertson-Wesley, Dr. Allan Bevan, director, invites the congregation to a musical Holy Week Meditation on **Sunday, March 24**, at noon (following the Palm Sunday service). This free workshop-rehearsal will feature Gabriel Faure's beautiful and moving *Requiem* and will run for approximately half an hour. It is intended as a sharing and as a way to contemplate the beginning of Holy Week not as a concert.

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.

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.

GREEN BITES: WHAT IS FOOD SOVEREIGNTY?

“Food Sovereignty is the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agricultural systems.”-Via Campesina

There are seven pillars to food sovereignty. They are:

1. Focuses on food for people
2. Builds knowledge and skills
3. Works with nature
4. Values food providers
5. Localizes food systems
6. Puts control locally
7. Food is sacred

Although most of us have heard of Food Security, Food Sovereignty is the way in which we get there. Imagine a world in which farmers themselves, rather than corporations, are in charge of growing our food. Ideally they work with nature, treat their workers well, grow local crops for local consumers, and most of all, consider that they are doing sacred work.

- The Environmental Stewardship Group

In the Community

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

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 by Geralt from Pixabay words added by Rev. Karen Bridges.

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

