



An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada

2024 March 10

Lent 4



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: *O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus*, by Thomas Williams arr. by Larry Shackley
Dr. Allan Bevan, piano

Embracing Our Spirit

Introit: *Teach Me, O Lord*, by Thomas Attwood Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Call to Worship:

As long nights give way to light and winter sleep to fresh beginnings,
we come today to be reminded of God's love for us.

Like green shoots of renewed life, stirring beneath the soil,
we welcome an awakening of God's word in our lives.

In this season of reflection and repentance,
we affirm our identity and claim our security as children of God.

Come, children of God, let us worship God.¹

Hymn: *Love Is the Touch*

More Voices 89

**Love is the touch of intangible joy;
love is the force that no fear can destroy;
love is the goodness we gladly applaud:
God is where love is, for love is of God.**

**Love is the lilt in a lingering voice;
love is the hope that can make us rejoice;
love is the cure for the frightened and flawed:
God is where love is, for love is of God.**

**Love is the light in the tunnel of pain;
love is the will to be whole once again;
love is the trust of a friend on the road:
God is where love is, for love is of God.**

**Love is the Maker and Spirit and Son;
love is the kingdom their will has begun;
love is the path which the saints all have trod:
God is where love is, for love is of God.**

Coming into God's Presence

Rev. Dirk Jessen

Hymn: *Kyrie Eleison (Kervin)*

More Voices 69

Kyrie eleison, kyrie eleison,

¹ Written by **Gill Le Fevre**, Walton Memorial U.C., Oakville, Ont. **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2020, p. 31. Used with permission.

Kyrie eleison, kyrie eleison.

(Silence)

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

Words of Affirmation:

The Good News of the gospel is this: Our God is loving and life-giving.
Always, always. ALWAYS.

**May our God give us hope and strength to be the people we were
created to be. Amen.²**

Solo: *There Is a Balm in Gilead*, Traditional Spiritual arr. by William Dawson

Douglas Graham, soloist

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:

Judy Hayman

Mark 12:28-44 • Great commandment, a poor widow gives all she has.
One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another,
and seeing that Jesus answered them well, he asked Jesus, “Which
commandment is the first of all?” Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O
Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your
God with all your heart and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and
with all your strength.’ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbour
as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” Then the
scribe said to Jesus, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘God
is one, and besides God there is no other’; and ‘to love God with all your
heart, and with all the understanding, and with all your strength,’ and ‘to
love one’s neighbour as oneself,’ – this is much more important than all
whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” When Jesus saw that he answered
wisely, Jesus said to him, “You are not far from the kin-dom of God.” After
that no one dared to ask him any question. While Jesus was teaching in the
temple, he said, ‘How can the scribes say that the Messiah is the son of
David? David himself, by the Holy Spirit, declared, ‘The Lord said to my
Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet.”’
David himself calls him Lord; so how can he be the Lord’s son?’” And the
large crowd was listening to him with delight. As Jesus taught, he said,

² Written by **David Lander**, while at Castleton-Grafton P.C., Grafton, Ont., **Gathering**,
Lent/Easter, 2020, p. 36. Used with permission.

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

“Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honour at banquets! They devour widows’ houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.” He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury, many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then Jesus called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: *Jesus’ Elevator Pitch.*

Rev. Dirk Jessen

Hymn: *God Be in My Head*

Voices United 430

**God be in my head, and in my understanding;
God be in mine eyes, and in my looking;
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;
God be at mine end, and at my departing. (2x)**

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: *Take My Life and Let It Be*

Voices United 506 v. 4

**Take my will, and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mind;
take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.**

Prayer of Gratitude:

Sometimes it doesn't seem like much. Sometimes it doesn't seem like enough. Yet these are the gifts we present to you, O God. They are our commitment to your mission here in the world. Bless these gifts as you bless us for your purpose, we pray. Amen.⁴

Hymn: *How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord*

Voices United 504 vv. 1, 3-4

**How clear is our vocation, Lord,
when once we heed your call:
to live according to your word,
and daily learn, refreshed, restored,
that you are over all,
and will not let us fall.**

**We mark your saints, how they become
in hindrances more sure;
whose joyful virtues put to shame
the casual way we wear your name,
and by our faults obscure
your power to cleanse and cure.**

**In what you give us, here, to do,
together or alone,
in old routines and ventures new,
may we not cease to look to you,
the cross you hung upon -
all you endeavored done.**

Commissioning:

As we go forth from this time of worship, our loving and compassionate
God is with us.

As we become aware of our need to change,

God supports us.

As we find courage to walk the faithful path,

God journeys with us.

When we are tempted to turn back,

⁴ Written by **Gord Dunbar**, Port Nelson, U.C., Burlington, Ont., **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2018
page 34.. Used with permission.

God renews our vision.

When we joyfully follow the way of Jesus,

God celebrates with us!

As we make this Lenten journey,

God's love, courage and peace will be ours!

Thanks be to God! Amen.⁵

Postlude: *Voluntary in A Minor*, Op. 6#8, by John Stanley 1) Largo 2) Vivace

Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Questions for Reflection:

How does Jesus answer the question about the most important commandment?

What would life be like if everyone based their actions on this teaching?

R-W Report

Next Sunday

Sunday, March 17, 2024

Lent 5

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 13: 1-8, 24-37 • The end of the age; call to be watchful

Sermon: It's the end of the world as they know it...

The second Temple in Jerusalem had only recently been completed by Herod the Great. It was an impressive building complex as well as the centre of Israel's religious and political life. Yet, like the prophets of old, Jesus foretells the Temple's destruction as an initial, impending form of divine judgement and the beginning of the all-encompassing and dramatic and deeply mysterious process of God's renewing the world. This process is as inevitable as it is necessary and the faithful are not to be surprised or dismayed at the end of the world as they know it, because God has something better in mind.

Instead, they are to be aware—and hopeful.

How do you understand “the end of the world”? How do you feel about it?

Why might others feel differently? How do you live with this ending in mind?

Music: Dr. Allan Bevan, organist; Cantilon Chamber Choir; Jean Triscott and Margery Wright, flute; J. S., violin

⁵ Written by David Sparks, Summerland, B.C., **Gathering**, Lent/Easter, 2020, p. 38. Used with permission.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun Mar 10	Sunday Worship - Sanctuary & Online	10:30 am
	Youth Discussion - Youth Room	10:30 am
	Kids' Church - Air Room	10:45 am
	Fellowship - Memorial Hall	11:30 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

ON THE HORIZON

Sun Mar 17	Sunday Worship - Sanctuary & Online	10:30 am
	Youth Discussion - Youth Room	10:30 am
	Kids' Church - Air Room	10:45 am
	Fellowship - Memorial Hall	11:30 am
	Wild Church - Emily Murphy Park	1:00 pm
Mon Mar 18	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	7:00 pm
Tues Mar 19	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
Wed Mar 20	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	1:30 pm
	R-W Choir - Lower Hall & Sanctuary	7:30 pm
Thurs Mar 21	Not Falling for You - Memorial Hall	10:00 am
	Nova Bells - Lower Hall	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers - Lower Hall	6:45 pm
	Membership Classes - Zoom	7:00 pm
Sat Mar 23	Youth Group - Lower Hall	7:00 pm

Volunteer Opportunities

SERMON TRANSCRIBER

We are looking for someone to transcribe the sermons into a word document each week for people to read the following week. All you need is a computer, and the ability to listen to the recorded sermons on YouTube. People who have done this before have reflected on how much more they get out of the sermon by doing this. If you are interested in this job, which can be done from the comfort of your home, or have questions about this position please contact Rev. Karen Bridges at karen.bridges@rwuc.org

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

STAFF

Rev. Karen Bridges will be away on holidays from **March 10-23, 2024**

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

Sunday, March 31 10:30 am
Easter Sunday Service



At the Cross

Friday, March 29 10:30 am
Good Friday

HOLY WEEK MUSICAL MEDITATION

Please join us on Sunday, March 24 at noon for a workshop presentation of Gabriel Faure's *Requiem*. This beautiful music will provide a thoughtful and uplifting beginning to Holy Week. Further details from Dr. Allan Bevan, music@rwuc.org

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.

WILD CHURCH

Have you tried Wild Church yet?! We will gather next on **March 17** at 1:00 pm at the Emily Murphy Park fire circle. Our theme for March is “Exploring the Elements: The Inspiration of Air”. All are invited, regardless of religious affiliation. Dress for the weather and bring a mug for a hot drink. We will have a fire for warmth. Cancelled below -15C with windchill. Furry friends welcome! Contact us at wildchurch@rwuc.org or follow us on Instagram @wildchurchyeg

GREEN BITES

Alberta's government website is filled with very interesting information. For instance there are lists of endangered species, species at risk, wildlife conservation, and habitat. Included are dozens of animals, birds, fish, trees, plants, and insects. Examples of disappearing species are several dragonflies (insects), Western Spiderwort (plants), ferruginous hawk (birds), red fox (animals), cutthroat trout (fish), and whitebark pine (trees). Check out open.alberta.ca for more information about our province's plans to save our wildlife.

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.

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 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

