



An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada

2024 March 17

Lent 5



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: *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*, Trad. Irish Melody arr. by Kristin Campbell
J. S., violin; Allan Bevan, piano

Embracing Our Spirit

Introit: *Kyrie*, by Bob Chilcott

Cantilon Chamber Choir

Call to Worship:

Lent is a time for a spiritual spring cleaning,
a chance to take and air out our experiences and thoughts,
time to consider them, organize them, and make decisions.

What have we learned?

What needs to be kept or let go of?

As we prepare to move into a time of new joys and new uncertainties,
what can we use to rest firm in our faith?

Let us worship together, in part because it strengthens our resolve
to trust in God and live our lives in Christ.¹

Hymn: *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

Voices United 651

**Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand;
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more,
feed me till I want no more.**

**Open now the crystal fountain
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield,
be thou still my strength and shield.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.**

¹ Written by **Karen Boivin** Osgoode-Kars. U.C. Ottawa, Ont, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2024, p. 31. Used with permission.

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:

From a loving God, a compassionate Child of God, and a healing Holy Spirit, weeping will turn to laughter. Sorrow will become joy. Death will be life. All who are lost will be redeemed. Those broken will be healed. All that is divided will be reconciled.

May we find the peace of forgiveness, for in Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.²

Anthem: *Fac, ut ardeat cor meum* by G. B. Pergolesi Cantilon Chamber Choir

*Fac, ut ardeat cor meum
In amando Christum Deum
Ut sibi complaceam.*

Make me feel as thou hast felt;
Make my soul to glow and melt
With the love of Christ our Lord.

God's Holy Word

Prayer of Illumination:

As we continue on our 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:

Arleen Drysdale

Mark 13:1-8, 24-37 • The end of the age; call to be watchful
As Jesus came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!" Then Jesus asked him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down." When Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, "Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?" Then Jesus

² Written by **Heather Tober**, St. Paul's U.C., Oxbow, Sask., **Gathering**, Lent/Easter, 2019, p. 33. Used with permission.

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

began to say to them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, “I am he!” and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs. It is written, ‘But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.’ Then they will see ‘the One from God coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then God will send out the angels, and gather God’s elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Creator. beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a person going on a journey, when they leave home and put their slaves in charge, each with their work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else the master may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: *The end of the world as they know it...*

Rev. Dirk Jessen

Hymn: *Spirit, Open My Heart*

More Voices 79

**Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.**

**God, replace my stony heart
with a heart that’s kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear
to your grace I now surrender.**

**Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.**

**Write your love upon my heart
as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed,
may my living bring you glory.**

**Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.**

**May I weep with those who weep,
share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ,
may we welcome one another.**

**Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.**

Grateful Response

Pastoral Prayers

Lord's Prayer:

Rev. Dirk Jessen

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. 5

**Take my love: and I will pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only all for thee.**

Prayer of Gratitude:

Gracious God, you are generous beyond understanding.

You have given us everything good and we thank you.

We ask that you accept our giving to you,

our money, our time, our energy, our talents.

**We ask that you bless every situation where these gifts go to work
in the generous spirit of Jesus Christ. Amen.⁴**

Hymn: *I Bind Unto Myself Today*

Voices United 317

**I bind unto myself today
the strong Name of the Trinity;
by invocation of the same,
the three in one and one in three.**

**I bind this day to me forever,
by power of faith, Christ's incarnation,
his baptism in the Jordan river;
his cross of death for my salvation,
his bursting from the spiced tomb,
his riding up the heavenly way,
his coming at the day of doom:
I bind unto myself today.**

**I bind unto myself today
the virtues of the star-lit heaven,
the glorious sun's life-giving ray,
the whiteness of the moon at even,
the flashing of the lightning free,
the whirling wind's tempestuous shocks,
the stable earth, the deep salt sea
around the old eternal rocks.**

**I bind unto myself today
the power of God to hold and lead,
his eye to watch, his might to stay,
his ear to hearken to my need;
the wisdom of my God to teach,
his hand to guide, his shield to ward,
the word of God to give me speech,
his heavenly host to be my guard.**

Commissioning:

May the blessing of God,

who made us in love, who made us for companionship,

⁴ Written by **David Sparks**, Summerland B.C., **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2019, p. 35. Used with permission.

who made us to enhance and strengthen the world,
**go with us as we leave this place into all the places life calls us to
be. We go, loved and blessed, to be a blessing. Amen.**⁵

Postlude: *It Is Well with My Soul*, by Philip Bliss arr. Sharon Wilson
Jean Triscott and Margery Wright, flute; Allan Bevan, piano

Questions for Reflection:

How do you understand “the end of the world”?

How do you feel about it? Might others feel differently?

How do you live in light of “the end of the world”?

R-W Report

Next Sunday

Sunday, March 24, 2024

Palm Sunday & Life Passages

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 11:1-11 • Triumphal entry

Sermon: The Value of Gracious Leadership

While the Roman Army entered the city of Jerusalem, Jesus approached the city by another way. Jesus approached the city as a leader filled with grace. Jesus’s ministry was one of mutual sharing of power. Jesus’ leadership was not about self-interest but rather the community’s well-being. This passage demonstrates the difference between leaders who judge, control and seek to withhold information, with leaders who seek and share information, who are not about holding power over others but rather empowering others to share their gifts and experiences to do what is beneficial to the community. They do not ask who has the power, but instead ask the question, ‘Whom should we empower to do what is right?’ How will Jesus show us a new way of relating to one another? How will we seek to empower others rather than grabbing power for ourselves?

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

Noon: Holy Week Musical Meditation

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

⁵ Written by **Bob Root**, Peterborough, Ont., **Gathering**, Lent/Easter, 2022, p. 36. Used with permission.

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

ON THE HORIZON

Sun Mar 24	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
	Musical Meditation - Sanctuary	12:00 pm
	Koinonia - Memorial Hall	5:00 pm
Mon Mar 25	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
Thurs Feb 29	Not Falling for You - Memorial Hall	10:00 am
	Maundy Thursday - Sanctuary & Online	7:00 pm
Fri Mar 29	Good Friday Service - Sanctuary & Online	10:30 am
Sat Mar 30	Easter Vigil - Sanctuary & Online	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

R-W News & Notes

EASTER HYDRANGEAS

Honour a loved one with a symbol of the Resurrection by ordering a Hydrangea to display for the Easter Season. You can order in Memorial Hall following worship **today** and **March 24**. The cost is \$30.00. A special Easter Sunday bulletin will include all of the honourees names!

WILD CHURCH

Have you tried Wild Church yet?! We will gather **today** 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 @wildchurhyeg

THANK YOU

Thanks so much for supporting last Sunday’s bake sale. We raised \$545 for the R-W Anniversary Legacy Fund! Your interest and enthusiasm is appreciated.

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 a 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

Please join us on Sunday, **March 24** at noon for a 40-minute workshop presentation of Gabriel Fauré’s *Requiem* provided by the Choir of Robertson-Wesley. This is intended as an offering and a type of spiritual meditation to begin Holy Week. It is not a concert *per se*, so there is no admission charge and everyone is welcome. The *Requiem* sets to music traditional (pre-Reformation) Latin liturgical texts. Printed translation and explanatory materials will be provided. Further details from Dr. Allan Bevan, music@rwuc.org

KOINONIA

The March gathering of Koinonia will be on Palm Sunday, **March 24** beginning with our pot-luck at 5:30 pm. Following dinner, Garnet T. will be leading us to a new perspective on the events of the "first" Palm Sunday through the eyes of one of those present as Jesus rode into Jerusalem. All are welcome.

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.

BROADVIEW MAGAZINE

Previously called The United Church Observer, Broadview remains committed to highlighting stories about spirituality, ethical living, and social justice from a progressive Christian perspective. R-W has a group subscription rate of \$30/year. If you are already a subscriber and have not yet confirmed your resubscription, or if you would like to subscribe to Broadview please speak to Elyse in the office at 780-482-1587 or email mail@rwuc.org before **April 5**.

GREEN BITES

The month of March brings a yearning to touch soil once again. Those of us who are excited by the prospect of new life may be interested in attending Seedy Sunday on **March 24th** from 11 am - 4 pm. The event takes place in the Alberta Avenue Hall located at 9210 118th Avenue. For many years, prior to the industrialization of agriculture, people all over the world shared their seeds and their knowledge. Attendees at Seedy Sunday will have a chance to purchase or share seeds, swap gardening books and magazines, and talk to others interested in growing gardens.

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 Western Wall" in Jerusalem is all that remains of the Temple at the time of Jesus. The cover image is from vecteezy.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