



An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada

2024 March 24

Life Passages

Palm Sunday



**We receive palm branches
as a reminder of the welcome
offered to Jesus as he travelled
toward the cross.**

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 hymnbooks 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 on "All Glory, Laud, and Honour"* arr. by Matthew Corl

Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Call to Worship:

On this Palm Sunday we remember the crowd that eagerly awaited the coming of Jesus, shouting,

Hosanna!

Fulfilling prophecy, Jesus entered the city riding on a donkey.

Hosanna!

There was joy in that parade of palm branches.

Hosanna!

Holy Week begins today. Let us praise our Saviour.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna!¹

Coming into God's Presence & Palm Parade

Rev. Karen Bridges

Hymn: *We Are Marching (Siyahamba)*

Voices United 646

**We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.**

**We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.**

**We are marching, marching, we are marching,
marching, we are marching in the light of God.**

**We are marching, marching, we are marching,
marching, we are marching in the light of God.**

**Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwen-khos',
siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'.**

**Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwen-khos',
siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'.**

**Siyhamba, hamba, siyahamba,
hamba, siyahamb', ekukhanyen' kwen'-khos'.**

**Siyhamba, hamba, siyahamba,
hamba, siyahamb', ekukhanyen' kwen-khos'.**

**We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.**

**We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.**

¹ Written by Elaine Bidgood Sweet, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2016, p. 35. Used with permission.

**We are marching, marching, we are marching,
marching, we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, marching, we are marching,
marching, we are marching in the light of God.**

Life Passages

Sacrament of Baptism:

Prayer for the Holy Spirit (*in unison*)

**Eternal God, whose Son the Servant-Lord Jesus Christ has
commissioned us to make disciples of people of all nations
baptizing them in your name. May your Spirit be upon us and
what we do, that this water may be a sign for all of new life in
Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

Congregation's Promise (*standing*)

**We will continue to support you, walk with you, and grow with
you. With God's help we will live out our baptism as a loving
community in Jesus Christ: nurturing one another in faith,
upholding one another in prayer, encouraging one another in
God's work.**

Recommitment: *A New Creed*

Voices United 918

Please note that the last line of the creed (omitted in some of the hymn books) is:

**We are not alone.
We live in God's world.
We believe in God who has created and is creating,
Who has come in Jesus the word made flesh,
To reconcile and make new.
Who works in us and others by the Spirit.
We trust in God.
We are called 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
To proclaim Jesus crucified and risen
Our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death
God is with us,
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.**

Blessing: (*sung*)

Voices United 454

**May God who creates you give you light;
May God who sustains you make you wise;
May God who protects you give you joy;
May God who surrounds you give you peace.**

Prayer of Commitment:

As faith energizes us to embrace love and live in community, we rejoice that this day is the Day of God, where we know no fear, frustration, and deceit. In sorrow or in joy, we turn to you gracious Spirit, for you are life. Your gift of faith allows us to count our life as gifts and joy. In thanksgiving we offer our lives to be lived by honouring your call on our lives, and by walking in faith. We commit to following you to Jerusalem in both joy and pain, seeking transformation and hope. **Amen.**²

God's Holy Word

Anthem: *Pueri Hebraeorum*, by Giovanni da Palestrina Choir of Robertson-Wesley
*Pueri Hebraeorum portantes ramos olivarum,
Obvierunt Domino clamantes et dicentes:
Hosanna in excelsis.*

The Hebrew children bearing olive branches,
Went forth to meet the Lord,
Crying out and saying:
Hosanna in the highest.

Prayer of Illumination:

Holy Creator, who loves us so, we have followed Jesus to Jerusalem. It has been a long journey this year. Please help us receive your word today and let it bring hope to us as we continue to stumble along this last part of our Lenten path. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**³

Scripture:

Douglas Graham

Mark 11:1-11 • Triumphal Entry

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, ‘why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” They went away and found a colt tied near a door outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, “Hosanna!

² Written by Cheryl A. Kirk-Duggan, **The Undivided Soul**, (Abingdon Press, 2001), p. 51.

³ Written by Lisa Norman, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter, 2022 p. 39. Used with permission.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kin-dom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: *The value of gracious leadership.*

Rev. Karen Bridges

Hymn: *Alleluia, Praise to God*

More Voices 59

Alleluia, praise to God.

Alleluia, praise to God.

Praises, high praises, we bring you, O God.

Alleluia, praise to God.

Songs of joy sing out to God.

Songs of joy sing out to God.

Dancing and singing, we praise you, O God.

Songs of joy sing out to God.

Beat the drums, sing out to God.

Beat the drums, sing out to God.

Praises, high praises, we bring you, O God.

Beat the drums, sing out to God.

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. 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:

Like palms of rejoicing, like cloaks on the ground, we bring these gifts and offer them here. Let both gifts and givers be lifted up, blessed and sent forth to do your will. **Amen.**⁴

Hymn: *All Glory, Laud and Honour*

Voices United 122

**All glory, laud and honour to you, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.**

**You are the King of Israel, and David's royal son,
now in the Lord's name coming, our King and blessed one.**

**All glory, laud and honour to you, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.**

**The multitude of pilgrims with psalm before you went;
our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present.**

**All glory, laud and honour to you, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.**

**To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise;
to you, now high exalted, our melody we raise.**

**All glory, laud and honour to you, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.**

**Their praises you accepted; accept the prayers we bring,
Great author of all goodness, O good and gracious king.**

**All glory, laud and honour to you, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.**

Commissioning:

Upside-down glory has been revealed in a leader crowned in thorns;
in a new leader who relies not on force but on the power of love.
In Jesus, the grace of God has appeared bringing salvation to all.
Unaware no longer, we are willing to follow the light of this leader.
May upside down become right side up.
In a new day of God dawning for all.

⁴ Written by Kate Crawford, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2014, p. 37. Used with permission.

May we gasp at the glory revealed in Jesus. May we move from our old ways to revel in the promise of new life. May we confront injustice and light the world with renewed vision. And may God bless us all.
Amen.⁵

Postlude: *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*, arr. by Robert Vandall
Dr. Allan Bevan and Raydene Koch, piano

Questions for Reflection:

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?

R-W Report

Next Sunday

Sunday, March 31, 2024

Easter Sunday

Children & Youth: Children & Youth: Children and youth are invited to worship with their families this Sunday.

Scripture: Mark 16: 1-8 • The Resurrection of Jesus

Sermon: No Longer Silenced by Fear

There is good evidence that the Gospel of Mark ends abruptly, not with a resurrected Jesus having consoled his followers, but with fear-filled silence. The fact that we even know the story, reminds us that, at some point, the three women who were the first witnesses of Jesus' resurrection somehow overcame their fear. Not only do they share their account of an empty tomb and an instruction-imparting angel, but also their resulting "terror and amazement." Has anything ever scared you into silence? If you have again found your voice, how did this happen? If not, what would it take?

Music: Dr. Allan Bevan, organist; Robertson-Wesley Choir; Brass Quartet, and Percussion; Nova Bells and Robertson-Wesley Ringers

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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 Mar 26	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
Wed Mar 27	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	1:30 pm

⁵Written by Cheryl Stenson, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter, 2021, p. 40. Used with permission.

Thurs Mar 28	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

ON THE HORIZON

Sun Mar 31	Easter Sunrise Service - Paul Kane Park	7:30 am
	Easter Sunday Worship - Sanctuary & Online	10:30 am
	Fellowship - Memorial Hall	11:30 am
Mon April 1	Church Closed	
Tues April 2	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
	DEAP - Club Room	5:30 pm
Wed April 3	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	1:30 pm
	R-W Choir - Lower Hall & Sanctuary	7:30 pm
Thurs April 4	Not Falling for You - Memorial Hall	10:00 am
	Nova Bells - Lower Hall	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers - Lower Hall	6:45 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

CHURCH HOURS

The Church will be closed on Easter Monday, **April 1**.

EASTER HYDRANGEAS

Today is the last day to order Hydrangeas in Memorial Hall following worship. The cost is \$30.00. Honour a loved one with a symbol of the Resurrection by ordering a Hydrangea to display for the Easter Season. A special Easter Sunday bulletin will include all of the honourees names!

HOLY WEEK MUSICAL MEDITATION

Today at noon. A 40-minute workshop presentation of Gabriel Fauré's *Requiem* provided by the Choir of R-W. 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.

KOINONIA

The March gathering of Koinonia will be **tonight**, beginning with our pot-luck at 5:30 pm. Following dinner, Garnet T. has created a short drama that will lead 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.

EASTER BREAKFAST

Following the Easter Sunrise Service, the Koinonia community will be providing a breakfast of pancakes and sausages in Memorial Hall. Breakfast will be served from shortly after 8:00 am until 9:30 am. Come after the Sunrise Service or come early before the 10:30 Service. There is no charge for the breakfast, but donations to help Koinonia cover their costs will be accepted.

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.



Last Supper

Thursday, March 28 7:00 pm
Maunder Thursday



A Wake for Jesus

Saturday, March 30 7:00 pm
Easter Vigil



At the Cross

Friday, March 29 10:30 am
Good Friday



The Resurrection

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

Sunday, March 31 10:30 am
Easter Sunday Service

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**.

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

The Holocene Age began sometime between 12,000 and 10,000 years ago. In fact many geologists think that we are still living in the Holocene period which began after the last Ice Age. Several scientists have chosen to call our present era the Anthropocene, a word coined around the year 2000. The word Anthropocene is derived from Greek and indicates that it is human beings that have caused the Anthropocene era to develop. It is believed that the vast changes to our biological world are due to human intervention in the cycle of life. Although previous eras of biological time are recognized by artifacts such as fossils and rocks, the Anthropocene can be represented by plastic. A sad story, isn't it? - The Environmental Stewardship Group

In the Community

JAZZ AND REFLECTIONS SERIES

Spirit of Hope United Church presents *Jazz & Reflections*. A series of afternoon jazz and spiritual reflections. Sunday afternoons from 3:30 to 5:00 pm, Spirit of Hope United Church, 7909 82 Ave. NW, Edmonton.

Apr. 7 P.J. Perry Quartet

Apr. 14 Allen Jacobson Trio

Apr. 21 Don Berner Trio

Apr. 28 Shelley Jones Trio

May 5 Joel Cray Trio

Admission by donation at the door. Refreshments will be served.

Worship Notes

As we come to the end of the season of Lent we gather together at the gates of Jerusalem to praise Jesus with the waving of palm branches. In the ancient world, palm leaves were often given to the winners in contests of strength and skill. We wave these branches in acknowledgement of who Jesus was and what Jesus did in his time here on earth. Over the season of Lent we refrained from saying Hallelujah. Today we will cry out with shouts of joy and hallelujah as we prepare for the final week of Jesus' life.

Cover Image

The cover image taken by Rev. Karen Bridges in April 2023.

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