



An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada

2024 March 31

Easter Sunday



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: *Easter Carillon*, by Robert Powell Robin Doyon, Kevin Yue, trumpet; Julien Simard, Audrey Ochoa, trombone; David Kelmer, percussion; Allan Bevan, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Introit: *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*, arr. by S. Drummond Wolff
Choir of Robertson-Wesley; Brass Quartet

Call to Worship:

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

God has raised Jesus from the dead.

God welcomes us into a new world filled with grace.

God gives new life and new hope.

Let us sing our alleluias with joy.¹

Hymn: *Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah!*

More Voices 121

Hey now! Singing hallelujah!

Hey now! The morning has come!

Hey now! Singing hallelujah!

The tomb was empty at the rising sun.

Jesus loved people and he made them friends,

Hey now, the tomb was empty.

He called to the children and the women and men.

Hey now, the tomb was empty.

Hey now! Singing hallelujah!

Hey now! The morning has come!

Hey now! Singing hallelujah!

The tomb was empty at the rising sun.

Jesus healed people and he helped them be well.

Hey now, the tomb was empty.

He taught about God in the stories he'd tell.

Hey now, the tomb was empty.

Hey now! Singing hallelujah!

Hey now! The morning has come!

Hey now! Singing hallelujah!

The tomb was empty at the rising sun.

Jesus loved people and they said he was a king.

Hey now, the tomb was empty.

He turned all the tables on everything.

Hey now, the tomb was empty.

¹ Written by Christine Jerrett, Toronto, Ont., *Gathering*, Lent/Easter 2022, p. 42. Used with permission.

Hey now! Singing hallelujah!
Hey now! The morning has come!
Hey now! Singing hallelujah!
The tomb was empty at the rising sun.

Jesus had power and they took him away.
Hey now, the tomb was empty.
They nailed him to a cross and they killed him one day.
Hey now, the tomb was empty.

Jesus loves people and he lives again!
Hey now, the tomb was empty.
Calls us disciples and he calls us his friends.
Hey now, the tomb was empty.

Hey now! Singing hallelujah!
Hey now! The morning has come!
Hey now! Singing hallelujah!
The tomb was empty at the rising sun.

Coming into God's Presence: *Escargot On His Way to Dijon*

Renee Englot, Robertson-Wesley Ringers; Choir of Robertson-Wesley

God's Holy Word

Anthem: *Psalm for Easter Day*, arr. by Richard Proulx Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Prayer of Illumination:

O God for whom there are no barriers, no stones too big to remove, roll away our resistance to you. Let your words fill us with new life and bring us out from the tomb of indifference, alive again in you. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**²

Scripture:

Layla Fox

Mark 16:1-8 • The Resurrection of Jesus

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So they went out

² Chris Ewing, *Celebrate God's Presence: A Book of Services for The United Church of Canada*, United Church Publishing House, 2000, p. 197. Used with permission.

and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid. And all that had been commanded them they told briefly to those around Peter. And afterward Jesus himself sent out through them, from east to west, the sacred and imperishable proclamation of eternal salvation.

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

Thanks be to God.

Motet: *Alleluia*, by W. A. Mozart from *Exultate Jubilate* K. 165

Jacqueline Hernandez, soloist

Sermon: *No Longer Silenced by Fear*

Rev. Dirk Jessen

Hymn: *Christ Is Alive*

Voices United 158

**Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.**

**Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.**

**In every insult, rift and war,
where colour, scorn or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.**

**Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.**

**Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love and praise.**

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.**

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 Music: *The Day of Resurrection*, arr. by Patricia Sanders Cota
Nova Bells and Robertson-Wesley Ringers

Offertory: *The Risen Christ*

Voices United 168 v. 4

**May we, Christ's body, walk and serve and stand
with the oppressed in this and every land,
till all are blessed and can a blessing be,
restored in Christ to true humanity.**

Offering Prayer:

Accept and bless what we offer this morning, O God. Pour out abundantly what we share into our aching world, that your grace may multiply blessing upon blessing, enfolding the world with your transforming power. Amen.³

Hymn: *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

Voices United 155

**Jesus Christ is risen today, hallelujah!
our triumphant holy day, hallelujah!
who did once, upon the cross, hallelujah!
suffer to redeem our loss. Hallelujah!**

**Hymns of praise then let us sing, hallelujah!
unto Christ, our heavenly King, hallelujah!
who endured the cross and grave, hallelujah!
sinners to redeem and save. Hallelujah!**

**But the pains which he endured, hallelujah!
our salvation have procured; hallelujah!
now above the sky he's King, hallelujah!
where the angels ever sing. Hallelujah!**

**Sing we to our God above, hallelujah!
praise eternal as God's love; hallelujah!
praise our God, ye heavenly host, hallelujah!
praise the Son and Holy Ghost. Hallelujah!**

³ Written by Kate Crawford, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2014, p. 37. Used with permission.

Commissioning:

Take this Easter joy into your hearts.

Christ is risen!

Go forth now in hope

that despair and grief are subdued, conquered, vanquished.

Go forth now in joy

that new life awaits us.

Go forth now in love and share God's love every day.

Christ is risen! Hallelujah!⁴

Postlude: *The Strife Is O'er*, Palestrina arr. by Christina Harmon Robin Doyon, Kevin Yue, trumpet: Julien Simard, Audrey Ochoa, trombone: Allan Bevan, organ

Questions for Reflection:

Has anything ever shocked you into silence?

If you have again found your voice, how did this happen?

If not, what would it take?

Honour Hydrangeas

*The Hydrangeas in the Sanctuary during today's service
were placed by and for the following people*

Shelley Anderson and Neil McLennan in honour of **Shirley Andersen**, mom and grandma.

Ruth Belford in honour of **Jody** and **Alf Widmann** (daughter & son in law) passed away Nov 2017 and July 2023.

Louis & Lorna Berlinguette in honour of **Belva & Brian Piercy**, **Anne & Joe Berlinguette**, **Mike Paul**, and **Jonathan Mullins**.

Gwen & Ed Blanchard in memory of Gwen's mother, **Mona Johnson**.

Rhonda, Jeff, Corbin and Eli Black in honour of **Violet Danyluk**, the greatest Great Baba, we miss you. **Anne & Stu Black**, loving and guiding us as we gratefully share family times. (2 bouquets)

Joanne Blondheim in honour of **George Blondheim**, my beloved husband, you are so missed.

Sharon Damery & Family in honour of the **wonderful members of R-W** for the support given to myself in the past 2 years. (2 bouquets)

Doug Densmore in honour of mom and dad, **Jean & Brent Densmore**.

Albert de Vos in loving memory of my youngest brother **Bill**. In memory of **Gail**, my beloved soulmate, still fiercely missed. (2 bouquets)

⁴ Written by **Gill Le Fevre**, Walton Memorial U.C., Oakville, Ont., **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2023, p. 51. Used with permission.

Clara Dyck in memory of my dear brother-in-law, **Myron Belik**.

Curtis and Renée Englot in honour of **Phil Burton**.

Lois Field in memory of my husband, **Derek Field**.

Karen F. Hansen in loving memory of **my parents and brothers**.

Judith Hayman in honour **Sophie, Adam, Jack and Josie**, my grandchildren.

Mark and Nancy Heule in honour of our parents **Win & Margaret Semple, Robert & Dorothy Heule**. (2 bouquets)

Susan Hutson in honour of **Les & Sunny Passmore**.

Ian & Carol Inglis in honour of **Dorothy Oaks**, a special friend. (2 bouquets)

Dirk Jessen in honour of **Rosa and Hans Jessen**.

Norma Johnston in memory of **Thomas Noble Johnston**.

Lothar Landsberg & Frank Kense in memory of a friend, **Denny May and Derek Arscott**, a friend for many years. (2 bouquets)

Kyle Torin Sean Lillo in honour of my father **Brian Lillo**.

Lorne and Joan Langman in remembrance of our **parents and family**.

Lynne Mansell in Memory of my husband **Roland Mansell**.

Debbie McGregor in honour of **Brian & Winifred Sarre**.

Janet Mears in honour of **Katie**.

Brenda Nickols-Sheppard in honour of my mother **Barbara Nickols**.

Trudy Robertson in honour of my mother, **Ivy Robertson**.

Claire Rolheiser in loving memory of **Elizabeth & Denis Rolheiser**.

Charles Sabu in honour of **my Parents and Alefesh**. (2 bouquets)

Bud & Betty Squair in honour of **Aubrey Edworthy**.

Marilee Stephens in memory of **William Douglas Stephens** (father) and **Scott Vernon Stephens** (brother). In memory of **Helen Thompson McLean-Nethercott** (aunt), and **Vernon Thompson** (uncle). (2 bouquets)

Ann & Garnet Thomas in honour of our daughter **Kathryn**, who is currently in hospital.

Margery & Larry Wright in honour of **our parents**.

Susan Yackulic in memory of my **family members**.

Thank you to the hydrangea volunteers

R-W Report

Next Sunday

Sunday, April 7, 2024

Easter 1

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: Acts 1:1-14 • You shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem.

Sermon: May we be faithful witnesses of Jesus Christ!

After Jesus' resurrection the disciples and those who followed Jesus have now been given the task of witnessing to what Jesus did, who Jesus was, and what Jesus has meant to each and every one of us. In this passage people of faith are told that the Holy Spirit will come upon you. You will receive the power of God to now share the Good News over all the earth. How will we share with others that Christ has been revealed in hope, discovered in faith and recovered in our acts of love?

Music: Dr. Allan Bevan, organist; Cantilon Children's Choir

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun Mar 31	Easter Sunrise Service - Paul Kane Park	7:30 am
	Easter Breakfast - Memorial Hall	8:00 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	Canterbury Worship - Canterbury Manor	10:30 am
	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	1:30 pm
	Gratitude Team - Club Room	5:30 pm
Thurs April 4	Not Falling for You - Memorial Hall	10:00 am

ON THE HORIZON

Sun April 7	Sunday Worship - Sanctuary & Online	10:30 am
	Fellowship - Memorial Hall	11:30 am
Mon April 8	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	7:00 pm
Tues April 9	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
	Property Committee Meeting - Room 11	1:00 pm
	UCW - Memorial Hall	1:30 pm
	Finance Committee Meeting - Club Room	7:00 pm
Wed April 10	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	1:30 pm
	R-W Choir - Lower Hall & Sanctuary	7:30 pm
Thurs April 11	Not Falling for You - Memorial Hall	10:00 am
	Men's Group - Room 11	10:00 am
	Nova Bells - Lower Hall	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers - Lower Hall	6:45 pm
Sat April 13	Community Dinner - Memorial Hall	5:00 pm
	Youth Group - Kitchen & Memorial 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

R-W News & Notes

STAFF & CHURCH HOURS

The Church will be closed on Easter Monday, **April 1**. Rev. Dirk Jessen will be away from **April 1 - 7, 2024**.

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.

FUNDRAISING MEETING

Sunday, **April 21** at 12:00 pm in Room 11. We invite everyone to come and be a part of the fundraising meeting. Anyone who has an idea for an event for the 2024 fundraising year, or is planning a future event is requested to be present at this gathering.

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.

SPIRITED ARTS WORKSHOP: Making Space for Your Spirit

April 20, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. When aspects of our life no longer “bear fruit”, our energy and spirit can feel stagnant. As in nature, paring back can clear space and energy for more fruitful abundance. Using this metaphor as inspiration, we will do some reflective writing and create 3D collages to visually express that which grounds us in our most heartfelt meaning and purpose! No previous experience required. All supplies included. To register visit rwuc.org/workshops

NEWCOMER LUNCH

Robertson-Wesley is hosting a lunch for people who have started participating in the church in the last year. We would like to honour you and give thanks to God for this amazing gift of your presence in the Robertson-Wesley United Community of Faith, thus, you are cordially invited to attend. The lunch is being held at the church in Room 11 on **April 14**, 2024, from 12:00 to 1:30 pm. Please R.S.V.P. with the church office by emailing mail@rwuc.org or calling 780-482-1587 by April 8 if you plan to attend. Please let us know if you have any dietary restrictions.

BETWEEN THE AISLES

Between the Aisles is Robertson-Wesley's quarterly newsletter. Submissions for the next issue are due **April 28**, publication date May 19. For more information check out Between the Aisles on the church's website at rwuc.org. Poetry, book reviews, photographs, recipes, and random articles are all accepted. The next issue would like to feature writing that is about Renewal and/or Spring. Please send submissions to news@rwuc.org.

GREEN BITES

The city of Venice, Italy, has for hundreds of years, practised a tradition that marks the relationship that the islands in the Venetian Lagoon have with the Lagoon itself. A representative of the Islands' inhabitants such as the Archbishop, ceremonially drops a ring into the water, thus symbolizing the deep ties between the islands and the lagoon, as in a marriage. Here in Alberta we have records of Orthodox priests, surrounded by their parishioners, blessing our rivers and lakes for their gifts to us. With Earth Day, **April 22**,

around the corner, perhaps we can each take a moment to thank the North Saskatchewan River for its gifts to us. - 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. Admission by donation at the door. Refreshments will be served.

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

Worship Notes

What a joy it is to celebrate Easter with all the sights and sounds that we are used to. The hydrangeas bring hope and beauty to a world made new in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. These flowers are in honour and remembrance of family and friends of R-W.

A big thank you to our wonderful brass players today: Robin Doyon, Audrey Ochoa, Julien Simard, and Kevin Yue! Robin Doyon, Kevin Yue.

Cover Image

The cover image from pngtree.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