



An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada

2024 April 14

Sacrament of Communion

Easter 3



“When you see God in everyone,
everyone will see God in you.”
Anonymous

Welcome and Inclusion

We open our hearts and our church family to all people in our community regardless of ethnicity, economic circumstances, sexual orientation, age, gender identity, or differing abilities. 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.

There is a sensory-friendly worship space in the Club Room every Sunday, where the service is live streamed into the room with reduced lighting and volume.

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 an 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: *Adagio in A Minor*, by J. S. Bach arr. Max Reger

Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Call to Worship and Prayer of Approach:

God's inspiration is our invitation to gather today. God's love is the path we follow that leads through these doors. Believers and seekers, the contented and the dissatisfied, those fleeing excess and those in need, we find in God solid ground, comfort from distress and want, a home in which we find peace and a place to refresh our spirits. Let us rest and rejoice in God here today.

Let us pray:

Loving God, source of our being and home of our hearts, you guide us through our days, our weeks, our months, and our years, eternally available to us in love and power. You are the author of joy and relief and sorrow.

We see renewal in nature and know that we are part of that design. We find goodness in humanity and know that its origin is you. You are the inspiration of our souls, our highest calling. Here and now, we bring you our true selves, gratefully answering your call, as we come to worship in Christ's name. Amen.¹

Hymn: *Jesus Christ Is Waiting*

Voices United 117

**Jesus Christ is waiting, waiting in the streets;
no one is his neighbour, all alone he eats.**

Listen, Lord Jesus, I am lonely too.

Make me, friend or stranger, fit to wait on you.

**Jesus Christ is raging, raging in the streets,
where injustice spirals and real hope retreats.**

Listen, Lord Jesus, I am angry too.

In the Kingdom's causes let me rage with you.

**Jesus Christ is healing, healing in the streets;
curing those who suffer, touching those he greets.**

Listen, Lord Jesus, I have pity too.

Let my care be active, healing just like you.

**Jesus Christ is dancing, dancing in the streets,
where each sign of hatred he, with love, defeats.**

Listen, Lord Jesus, I should triumph too.

On suspicion's graveyard let me dance with you.

**Jesus Christ is calling, calling in the streets,
"Who will join my journey? I will guide their feet."**

Listen, Lord Jesus, let my fears be few.

Walk one step before me; I will follow you.

¹ Written by Cheryl Stenson, *Gathering*, Lent/Easter 2021, p. 43. Used with permission.

God's Holy Word

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:

Michael Peters

Acts 3:1-10 • Healing at the Beautiful Gate.

One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, at three o'clock in the afternoon. And a man lame from birth was being carried in. People would lay him daily at the gate of the temple called the Beautiful Gate so that he could ask for alms from those entering the temple. When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked them for alms. Peter looked intently at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, "I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk." And he took him by the right hand and raised him up; and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. Jumping up he stood and began to walk, and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. All the people saw him walking and praising God and they recognized him as the one who used to sit and ask for alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

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

Thanks be to God.

Anthem: *Lamb of God*, by F. Melius Christiansen

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Sermon: *But what I have, this I give to you!*

Rev. Karen Bridges

Hymn: *Bread of Life, Feed My Soul*

More Voices 194

**Bread of life, feed my soul,
as the presence of the Spirit makes me whole.
Bread of life, fill my heart
with the grace and mercy you impart.**

**I have heard your voice calling,
"Come, my friend, and share
in the feast that is laid out for you
to show how much I care."**

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.

**Bread of life, help me live
a life as pure and true as Jesus did.
Bread of life, help me see
the boundless love of Christ for you and me.**

**I have heard your voice calling,
“Come, my friend, and share
in the feast that is laid out for you
to show how much I care.”**

**Bread of life, feed my soul,
as the presence of the Spirit makes me whole.
Bread of life, fill my heart
with the grace and mercy you impart.**

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.**

A Gratitude Minute

Sylvia Duffus

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: *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:

Gracious God, as we go about our daily tasks, as we share the story of our faith, as we share our bread with the stranger, may we know the presence of the Risen One, and by this presence, may our hearts burn with love within us, so that we may share all of our gifts in gratitude and praise. Amen.³

Sacrament of Holy Communion

All who worship with us today, regardless of age or church membership, are invited and welcome to partake in this sacrament. For those who worship online, prepare whatever is available in your house, a cracker, bread, muffin, and juice, wine, or water. People in the sanctuary will be offered bread and grape juice. There is a gluten free option available.

The celebration of communion is always a festival of friends, a pulling together of our lives and our hopes, our moments of agony and our glimpses of success. It is here, where bread is broken and wine is shared, that we can most fully be ourselves and see others for who they truly are: children of the living God.

Here the common things of life - bread and wine, memories and dreams - become holy, touched by God.

Here that which is earthly becomes divine, and that which is human becomes more than it has ever dreamed.⁴

The Holy One is here.

God's Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to God.

We offer joyful thanks to God.

Carrying a vision of creation healed and restored, we welcome all in the name of Christ. Invited to the table where none shall go hungry, we gather as Christ's guests and friends. In holy communion we are commissioned to feed as we have been fed, forgive as we have been forgiven, love as we have been loved. The open table speaks of the shining promise of barriers broken and creation healed.⁵ And so, with the risen Christ, who makes all things new by the power of his resurrection, we join in the song of a new day, to sing your praise:

Holy, Holy, Holy:

Voices United p.941 Setting D

Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might;

heaven and earth are full with your glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God.

Hosanna in the highest.

³ Written by Beth W Johnston, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2020, p. 49. Used with permission.

⁴ **Celebrate God's Presence**, 14A005

⁵ *A Song of Faith*, 2006, p. 8-9.

Remembering Jesus at Table:

As we gather at this table, we remember that on the night before he died, Jesus had supper with his friends. He took a loaf of bread, thanked you as we have thanked you, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying: “Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Each time you do this, remember me.” Then Jesus took a cup, and after giving thanks, passed it to his friends, saying: “Drink. This cup is the promise of God, made in my blood. Each time you drink from this cup, remember me.”⁶

Eternal God, we unite in this covenant of faith, as we break bread and share the cup, giving thanks for your love in Jesus, the Christ. We spread your table with these gifts of the earth and of our labour. We present to you our very lives, committed to your service on behalf of all people.⁷

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Memorial Acclamation: *Voices United* p.942 Setting D
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Holy God, pour your Spirit on us, and upon these communion elements, that we may know Christ in the breaking of bread, and that in word and deed, we may be channels of your love, peace, and justice in the world.⁸

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, God most holy, now and forever.

Great Amen: *Voices United* p.941 Setting D
Amen. Amen. Amen.

Sharing the Bread and the Cup (Instructions)

Meditation: *Variations on “Prospect”*, Trad. American Tune arr. by John Carter
Dr. Allan Bevan, piano

Prayer after Communion:

Eternal and gracious One, though we live in a world of need,
here we have tasted your goodness and hungered for a world more just.

Though afflicted by brokenness and division,
here we have heard your call to be a people of healing community.

Though daily we touch our limits,
here we have received the fullness of your grace.

Send us forth, O God,
in faith, in hope, and in love. Amen.⁹

⁶ *Celebrate God’s Presence*, 14D009

⁷ *Celebrate God’s Presence*, 14R001

⁸ *Celebrate God’s Presence*, 14OA003

⁹ Written by Catherine Tovell, *Gathering*, Pentecost 2, 2023, p. 42. Used with permission.

**How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
in a believer's ear!**

**It soothes the sorrows, heals the wounds,
and drives away all fear.**

**It makes the wounded spirit whole,
and calms the troubled breast;
'tis manna to the hungry soul,
and to the weary, rest.**

**Dear Name! the rock on which I build
my shield and hiding-place,
my never-failing treasury, filled
with boundless stores of grace.**

**Jesus, my Shepherd, Brother, Friend,
my Prophet, Priest, and King,
my Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,
accept the praise I bring.**

**The effort of my heart is weak,
and cold my warmest thought;
but when I see you whom I seek,
I'll praise you as I ought.**

Commissioning:

God is the source of all love;
we are being sent out to live with compassion.

God is the source of all healing;
we are being entrusted with the work of reconciliation.

God is the centre of all peace;
we are being called to live in peace with one another.

This week, as you go about God's work of peace, reconciling, and compassion, may you feel surrounded by God's presence and may you always remember that you are loved beyond measure. Go now in peace.¹⁰

Postlude: *Fantasia*, by Johann Pachelbel

Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Questions for Reflection:

In thinking about how you live your faith in the world, what do you offer others? Healing? Teaching? Compassion? Prayer? Shelter? Food? Wisdom? A listening ear?

¹⁰ Written by Joy Cowan, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2019, p. 49. Used with permission.

R-W Report

Next Sunday

Sunday, April 21, 2024

Easter 4

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: Thessalonians 1:1-10 • The Thessalonians' Faith and Example.

Sermon: What was that?

Today's scripture passage is one of the very earliest remaining pieces of writing to a community of followers of Jesus. As was his practice, the Apostle Paul has come into the important trade city of Thessalonica and begun talking about Jesus to whoever would listen. As often happened, the "insiders," those who might have been receptive to the scripture-fulfilling and tradition-transforming life, death and resurrection of Jesus are not moved and in fact are hostile to this message. In the meantime, outsiders find what is being taught so compelling that they form a community to learn more about Jesus and live in a way consistent with his message. We learn from Paul's writing that the community of faith in Thessalonica has already become an important sign of how Jesus' example and teaching is open to all those who would listen. When has a message that might have meant something important to you fallen flat? When have you been struck by a message that might have been intended for someone else?

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

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun April 14	Sunday Worship - Sanctuary & Online	10:30 am
	Fellowship - Memorial Hall	11:30 am
	Newcomer Lunch - Room 11	11:30 am
	Movie - Memorial Hall	1:00 pm
Mon April 15	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	7:00 pm
	Finance Meeting - Club Room	7:00 pm
Tues April 16	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
Wed April 17	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	1:30 pm
	R-W Choir - Lower Hall & Sanctuary	7:30 pm
Thurs April 18	Nova Bells - Lower Hall	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers - Lower Hall	6:45 pm
Sat April 20	Spirited Art Workshop - Room 11	10:00 am
	Youth Group - Away	7:00 pm

ON THE HORIZON

Sun April 21	Sunday Worship - Sanctuary & Online	10:30 am
	Fellowship - Memorial Hall	11:30 am
	Fundraising Meeting - Room 11	11:30 am
	Wild Church - Away	1:00 pm
Mon April 22	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	7:00 pm

Tues April 23	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
	R-W Board Meeting - Room 11	7:00 pm
Wed April 24	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	1:30 pm
	R-W Choir - Lower Hall & Sanctuary	7:30 pm
Thurs April 25	Not Falling for You Registration- Memorial Hall	10:00 am
	Nova Bells - Lower Hall	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers - Lower Hall	6:45 pm

Volunteer Opportunities

INNER CITY PASTORAL MINISTRY LUNCH

We are seeking a coordinator for the yearly ICPM lunch. You would learn from Lois Field, who has been coordinating these lunches for many years. This yearly coordinator role includes communicating with the ICPM, procuring supplies, and organizing volunteers. This year's lunch will be held at Bissell after the ICPM service there on **May 5**. Please contact the office if you are interested in this position, and or interested in helping with the lunch.

R-W News & Notes

JESUS OF MONTREAL FILM SHOWING

Rev. Dirk will be hosting a screening of the film **Jesus of Montreal** **today**, at 1:00 pm. In this award winning film, a small group of actors who are putting on an interpretive Passion Play in Montreal, begin to experience a meshing of their characters and their private lives as the production takes form against the growing opposition of the Catholic Church. This showing is intended for an adult audience, as the film is rated R.

WILD CHURCH

Wild Church will congregate on **April 21** at 1:00 pm; in acknowledgment of Earth Day, our theme will be Earth and Our "Geobiographies." Join us at Emily Murphy Park (look for the Wild Church sign), bring your furry friends, and pack a mug for a provided warm drink! Cancelled below -15C with windchill. All ages and faith traditions are welcome. Follow us online - Instagram @wildchurchyeg, website: wildchurchyeg.org

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 an event is requested to be present at this gathering. If you have questions please speak to Tom Hutchinson.

WORLD LABYRINTH DAY

May 4, 2024 at 1:00 pm in Memorial Hall. Join a prayerful wave of energy for PEACE rolling from time zone to time zone around the globe at 1:00 pm local time. No previous Labyrinth walking experience required.

BETWEEN THE AISLES

Ever wanted to be published? A consensus was reached that we should keep publishing BTA, so we need your brilliant help to keep it up. Send us your poems, favourite recipes, book reviews, pictures or even factual information you have on things. The next edition is all about spring and renewal. If you don't have anything that fits the theme...send it anyway! We can fit it into another edition. Submissions for the next issue are due **April 28 and** articles can be sent to news@rwuc.org, Thanks and Happy Springtime!

MINISTER(S) SEARCH TEAM UPDATE

We have spent time reviewing the skills and gifts of a number of applicants, have established our interview process, and have decided to go ahead with our first round of interviews. Stay tuned, as there is more to come. In the meantime, please pray for the interviewees that they will come prepared and confident—and for us, that we are able to provide a safe and welcoming environment in which each interviewee feels able to shine. - The Robertson-Wesley Search Committee

GREEN BITES

Most people would agree that LED lights are preferable to incandescent lights. They are energy efficient, fewer LED lights are needed, and they have a much longer lifespan. But like most things, there are unintended consequences when they are used. First of all, disposal and recycling of LED lights is onerous, as their manufacture includes heavy metals and toxic chemicals that are difficult to remove. In the last few years, research re: the effect of LED lights demonstrates that with increasing light pollution (because LED lights are much brighter and whiter than their aged relatives the Incandescents), there is considerable reduction in the insect population. Most affected are the family Lepidoptera/moths, whose roles include pollination and provision of food for both vertebrates and invertebrates. In some parts of the world, current policy dictates that yard lights must be turned off during the night in order for valuable insects to reproduce in significant numbers rather than declining because of too much light. More food for thought, Indeed!

BOOK SALE: DONATIONS WANTED

With two great book sales last summer we are going to do the same this summer - one in June and the second in August. If you have any children's and/or adult books as well as magazines please donate them to the church. You can drop books off at your convenience or if you need us to pick up the books please give Pat or Sheila a call at 780-481-0056.

MEN'S GROUP SPEAKER: DOUGLAS ROCHE

Chris Gowers has been able to arrange a presentation from Douglas Roche, a retired Canadian Parliamentarian and Diplomat, who was involved with the United Nations Association in Canada, founding president of Parliamentarians for Global Action, chairman of the Canadian Pugwash Group which is dedicated to peace and security issues, as well as as nuclear

disarmament. **May 9** at 10:00 am, in Memorial Hall. This is promising to be a major occasion at R-W, everyone is welcome.

WRITING OUR SACRED STORIES

Rachel Frey is leading a writing workshop exploring sacred story and spiritual autobiography. The workshop is open to all people who are interested in exploring personal, reflective writing as a spiritual practice. For those who participated in the Lenten *Charting the Wilderness* writing program, this workshop is the culmination of that journey, though participation in the Lenten program is not required to attend the workshop. Please bring a notebook, a writing implement, and a willingness to be honest with yourself. **May 11** at 9:00 am - 12:00 pm in Room 11. Register at rwuc.org/writingworkshop

In the Community

WAIT - IS THIS RACIST?

Co-creating Anti-Racist Communities of Faith

This six-session series is offered between April 2024 and May 2025 will engage an online community of people who are exploring anti-racist practices, in their churches. The online sessions are designed for congregational teams (ideally three–four people from each congregation) to be able to gather with other congregations to deepen anti-racist awareness together. It will be an opportunity to engage in self-examination, explore practical ways to deepen your anti-racist work, and accompany one another on your journeys of learning and change. You can read the full description on churchx.ca/local/shop/product.php?id=140. Contact the church office or speak to Lorna Berlinguette if you are interested.

Worship Notes

We have moved into the season of Easter which lasts for 7 weeks. The season of Easter prepares us for receiving the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. In the season of Easter we explore the stories of the various encounters with Jesus after he had risen from the tomb. In this season we are transformed for sacred friendship with Christ and one another in community. We will spend the season exploring how God is making all things new. May we see the holy in new ways and in all places and people.

Cover Image

The cover image taken by Rev. Karen Bridges June 23, 2013 at Yale University.

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