



*An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada*

2024 April 28

Discipleship Sunday

Easter 5



# Discipleship

## Welcome and Inclusion

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

## **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 please contact the office.

There is a sensory-friendly worship space in the Club Room every Sunday, 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

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## *Friends in Christ*

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Announcements at 10:15 AM

Prelude: *Thanks Be to Thee*, by G. F. Handel

Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Introit: *We Will Praise You*, Michael Praetorius arr. by Douglas Wagner

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Call to Worship: (Repeat after me)

With a heart of love

God welcomes us.

With a word of hope

God walks with us.

With a jump for joy

God gives thanks for the people of Robertson-Wesley.

With a heart of love

we welcome God.

With a word of hope

we walk with God.

With a jump for joy

we give thanks to God!<sup>1</sup>

Hymn: *Grateful*

*More Voices 182*

**Grateful for the life you give us,  
thankful for your Holy Son,  
joyful in your Spirit flowing  
over all, O God of Love.**

**Grateful for the Bread of Heaven,  
thankful for your Holy Word,  
joyful in your mercy flowing,  
we will praise you.**

**You are more than we imagine,  
Ancient, Holy, Living God.  
Even when we doubt your presence  
you are faithful to your Word.**

**Grateful for the life you give us,  
thankful for your Holy Son,  
joyful in your Spirit flowing  
over all, O God of Love.  
Grateful for the Bread of Heaven,**

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<sup>1</sup> Written by Keri K. Wehlander, *Circles of Grace; Worship and Prayer in the Everyday*, (Etobicoke: The United Church Publishing House, 1998), p. 54-55.

**thankful for your Holy Word,  
joyful in your mercy flowing,  
we will praise you.**

**May our lives proclaim your justice,  
may our voices sing your praise.  
May our hands work in your service  
to the glory of your name.**

**Grateful for the life you give us,  
thankful for your Holy Son,  
joyful in your Spirit flowing  
over all, O God of Love.**

**Grateful for the Bread of Heaven,  
thankful for your Holy Word,  
joyful in your mercy flowing,  
we will praise you.**

Coming into God's Presence:

Gratitude Team

Here at Robertson-Wesley United Church all people are called by God to be disciples of Jesus. To dare to dream of a world where love reigns. To be a hope filled Community of Faith, united in deep spirituality. Spiritely has invited the Gratitude Team to come to the table.

Hymn of Invitation: *What Can I Do?*

*More Voices 191*

**What can I do? What can I bring?  
What can I say? What can I sing?  
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.  
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.**

Learning about the Gratitude Team:

What do you do at R-W?

Why have you chosen to do this?

How do you see the Holy Spirit at work in what you do?

Giving Thanks:

The sharing of PIE

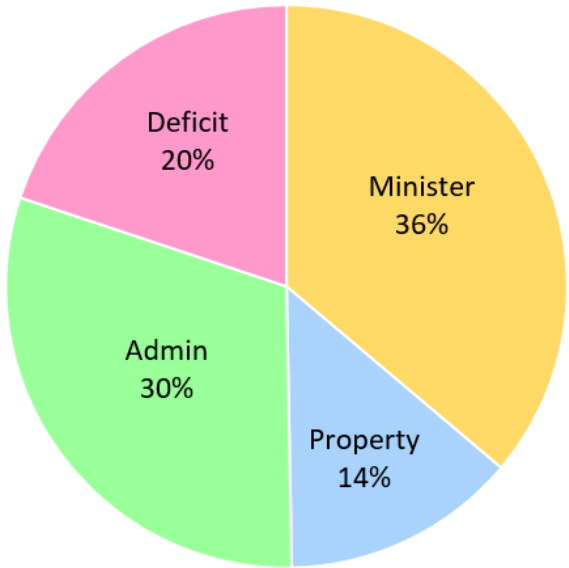
Congregational Blessing:

**We are grateful for your commitment and dedication to living out the call of R-W through the ministry and outreach you do. We thank you for giving us what we need to be grateful. Without you, the body of Christ is incomplete. We recognize that we are all needed. Wanted. Loved! We thank you God for these beloved people. We have been blessed.**

## Gratitude Costs

The total of this pie chart is \$8,342, which is the Gratitude Team cost for 2024.

The slices of the pie represent the cost to fund the Gratitude Team, including overhead costs.



### Minister \$3,015.83

This is the cost of the Minister(s) time working with the Gratitude Team.

### Property \$1,131.27

This is based on the hours of facility usage used by the Gratitude Team and includes the cost of Facility staff time.

### Admin \$2,536.25

This is the administrative costs of the Gratitude Team, including printing, photocopying, materials, postage, etc., and the cost of the Office Administrator time.

All of the staff costs are part of the current staff wages, and these numbers represent the part of those wages allocated to work done with the Gratitude Team during the year.

### Deficit \$1,659.30

This is the Gratitude Teams share of the total projected deficit of the church for this year.



## Volunteer & Staff Time

This pie chart represents the hours worked by staff and volunteers for Gratitude in a year.

<b>Staff:</b>	122 hours
<b>Volunteers:</b>	272 hours
<b>Total:</b>	394 hours/ year

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## God's Holy Word

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Prayer of Illumination:

God, the words you speak have power: power to create, power to disturb, power to heal. Help us to hear your Word for us today. **Amen.**<sup>2</sup>

Scripture:

Kecia Nzeyimana

1 Corinthians 1:4-18 • Divisions in the Church.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind - just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you - so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. God will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by God you were called into the fellowship of Jesus Christ our Lord. Now I appeal to you siblings, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my siblings. What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

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

**Thanks be to God.**

Anthem: *The Peace of God*, by John Rutter

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Sermon: *Grateful for the abundance that draws us together.*

Rev. Karen Bridges

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<sup>2</sup> Celebrate God's Presence, 16M001. Used with permission.

**God, make us servants of your peace:  
where there is hate, may we sow love;  
where there is hurt, may we forgive;  
where there is strife, may we make one.**

**Where all is doubt, may we sow faith;  
where all is gloom, may we sow hope;  
where all is night, may we sow light;  
where all is tears, may we sow joy.**

**Jesus, our Lord, may we not seek  
to be consoled, but to console,  
nor look to understanding hearts,  
but look for hearts to understand.**

**May we not look for love's return,  
but seek to love unselfishly.  
For in our giving we receive,  
and in forgiving are forgiven.**

**Dying, we live, and are reborn  
through death's dark night to endless day;  
God, make us servants of your peace,  
to wake at last in heaven's light.**

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*Grateful Response*

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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](mailto: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:

Take these gifts we offer, O God, and bless them as our hallelujahs!  
May they become hallelujahs for people near and far, our discipleship  
lived in answer to fear, to separation, and to inequity. In our giving,  
may we become hallelujahs for each other and for people we  
encounter, living signs of your love in the world. **Amen.**<sup>3</sup>

Hymn: *Oh a Song Must Rise*

*More Voices 142*

**Oh a song must rise for the spirit to descend  
Oh a song must rise once again  
Singing out God's praises and glory,  
the faithful voices blend,  
Oh a song must rise for the spirit to descend.**

**From the mountains to the valleys,  
from the desert to the sea,  
a song must rise once again.**

**From the voices of our leaders,  
the voice of you and me,  
a song must rise for the spirit to descend.**

**Oh a song must rise for the spirit to descend  
Oh a song must rise once again  
Singing out God's praises and glory,  
the faithful voices blend,  
Oh a song must rise for the spirit to descend.**

**From poverty and riches,  
from the voice of young and old,  
a song must rise once again.**

**From the free and the imprisoned,  
the timid and the bold,  
a song must rise for the spirit to descend.**

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<sup>3</sup> Written by Gord Dunbar, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2024, p. 48. Used with permission.



**Oh a song must rise for the spirit to descend  
Oh a song must rise once again  
Singing out God's praises and glory,  
the faithful voices blend,  
Oh a song must rise for the spirit to descend.**

**From ev'ry house of worship,  
in ev'ry faith and tongue,  
a song must rise once again.  
From the villages and cities  
a new song must be sung,  
a song must rise for the spirit to descend.**

**Oh a song must rise for the spirit to descend  
Oh a song must rise once again  
Singing out God's praises and glory,  
the faithful voices blend,  
Oh a song must rise for the spirit to descend.**

Benediction:

God has chosen us, claimed us, loved us. Let us go forth gladly  
choosing God, to serve, to praise, to love.

**May our hearts be glad in God and may our deeds bring justice  
and love this day, this week, this year, and always. Amen.<sup>4</sup>**

Postlude: *Fugue in G*, by Felix Mendelssohn

Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Questions for Reflection:

How do you live out the call of discipleship?

How do you celebrate God's presence, live with respect in creation,  
love and serve others, and seek justice and resist evil?

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## *R-W Report*

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### Next Sunday

**Sunday, May 5, 2024**

**Easter 6**

**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:** 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 • The Gift of Love

**Sermon:** What's Love Got to Do With It?

Paul's letter to the community of faith in Corinth addresses a number of  
difficult questions about how they are to live and worship together. How

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<sup>4</sup> Written by Michale H. Montgomery and Peggy McClanahan, **Celebrating Covenant; A Resource for Worship**, (St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2001), p. 88. Used with permission.

should they understand and value spiritual gifts like healing and ecstatic speech, both among themselves and in relationships beyond their immediate community? How should they share the Lord's Supper (communion) within their community? What are the standards of sexual morality they should expect of each other? These are complex topics and no easy answers given. Yet, in the midst of it all, Paul pauses the advice and instruction to offer a reflection on the characteristics and effects of love, more specifically God's love. At first it seems like an interruption in the flow of the letter. Taking a closer look, it just may be the perfect way to transform the most difficult of discussions. Have you ever been in a difficult discussion or situation that could have used a reset or reframing? If such a reset happened, how did it take place? What difference did it make?

**Music:** Dr. Allan Bevan, organist; Vox Choir

### WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun April 28	Sunday Worship - <b>Sanctuary &amp; Online</b>	10:30 am
	Fellowship - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	11:30 am
	Koinonia - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	5:30 pm
Mon April 29	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	7:00 pm
Tues April 30	Scripture Reflections - <b>Club Room &amp; Zoom</b>	12:00 pm
Wed May 1	Canterbury Worship - <b>Canterbury Court</b>	10:30 am
	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	1:30 pm
	R-W Choir - <b>Lower Hall &amp; Sanctuary</b>	7:30 pm
Thurs May 2	Not Falling for You - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	10:00 am
	Nova Bells - <b>Lower Hall</b>	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers - <b>Lower Hall</b>	6:45 pm
Sat May 4	Labyrinth Walk - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	12:00 pm

### ON THE HORIZON

Sun May 5	Sunday Worship - <b>Sanctuary &amp; Online</b>	10:30 am
	Fellowship - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	11:30 am
Mon May 6	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	7:00 pm
Tues May 7	Scripture Reflections - <b>Club Room &amp; Zoom</b>	12:00 pm
	DEAP - <b>Club Room</b>	5:30 pm
Wed May 8	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	1:30 pm
	R-W Choir - <b>Lower Hall &amp; Sanctuary</b>	7:30 pm
Thurs May 9	Men's Group Speaker - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	11:00 am
	Nova Bells - <b>Lower Hall</b>	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers - <b>Lower Hall</b>	6:45 pm
Sat May 11	Writing Workshop - <b>Room 11</b>	9:00 am
	Community Dinner - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	5:00 pm

## R-W News & Notes

### STAFF

Rev. Karen Bridges will be on holidays from **April 29** to **May 3**.

### BETWEEN THE AISLES

Ever wanted to be published? A consensus was reached that we should keep publishing BTA, so we need your help to keep it up. Send us your poems, favourite recipes, book reviews, pictures or 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](mailto:news@rwuc.org), Thanks and Happy Springtime!

### KOINONIA

Join us for Koinonia **this evening** in Memorial Hall. After our potluck at 5:30 pm, we will be celebrating spring and new life. Bring a story, reading or poem about spring to share. We will also be singing some hymns that speak of spring and new life.

### WORLD LABYRINTH DAY

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

### 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](http://rwuc.org/writingworkshop)

### GREEN BITES

Are you wondering what to do today and tomorrow? Why not participate in our city's Nature Challenge and include your children and grandchildren in the activity. All you need to do is take a photo of something in nature (eg. turn over a rock and photograph the wildlife), then post it on the free iNaturalist app. For more information check out City of Edmonton Nature Challenge, or [NatureAlberta.ca](http://NatureAlberta.ca). about how and when to post a photo so it can be viewed during the worldwide Nature Challenge. There are at least 25 Canadian cities that are taking part in this event, and 500 cities around the world. Winners of the photo contest will be announced on May 6. Meanwhile the world will have an idea about the numbers of wildlife in all participating cities. - the Environmental Stewardship Group

## **TALENT SHOW**

Please mark your calendar for Saturday, **June 1**. Robertson-Wesley Music Society will be sponsoring a Talent Show in Memorial Hall featuring our choirs, talented soloists and members of the congregation. This will be a fun evening so please plan to attend. More info will be available soon!

## **SEEKING DRYER & LAWNMOWER**

We are in need of a new dryer to dry the towels, rags, linens etc that we use at the church, and also in need of a battery powered lawn mower. For more details please contact Brad at [brad.campbell@rwuc.org](mailto:brad.campbell@rwuc.org).

## **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, CDs and DVDs, please donate them to the church. You can drop books off at your convenience.

## **In the Community**

### **LARRE'S BARBER SHOP DISCOUNT**

Our neighbour Larre's Barber shop, open since 1948, is under new management, the son of the original barber has taken over the shop, and he is offering the R-W church community 25% off all haircuts. They are open 9:00 am - 6:00 pm, 7 days a week and accept walk-ins. (10325 124 st)

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## *Worship Notes*

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As we move forward in the new ministry model at the church we will be having Discipleship Sunday's once a month where we will work toward even more lay leadership. The Gratitude Team over the next year will be inviting different groups and committees to share the news of what they do and how the Spirit is at work in our midst. After worship, the group will be at a table in Memorial Hall during fellowship to answer questions about what they do. People who are potentially interested in getting involved in that ministry can inquire about how they can help while eating pie! We are all called to be disciples. We are grateful for all that people do both here at Robertson-Wesley and in the world. Your generosity is helping to make the world a better place.

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## *Cover Image*

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Cover image by Peggy Marco on Pixabay. Words added by Rev. Karen Bridges

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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