



An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada

2024 May 5

Easter 6



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.

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 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 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

Friends in Christ

Announcements at 10:15 AM

Prelude: *All Creatures of Our God and King*, arr. By David N. Johnson

Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Introit: *Alle, Alleluia*, by Bruce W. Tippet

Vox Choir

Call to Worship: (Repeat after me)

God's inspiration is our invitation as we 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 whom we find peace

and a place to refresh our spirits.

Let us rest and rejoice in God here today. Amen!¹

Hymn: *God Loves Me*

More Voices 107

**God loves me, for my God is love,
divine love.**

God protects me: God is great. (3x)

Coming into God's Presence:

Rev. Dirk Jessen

God's Holy Word

Prayer of Illumination:

O God for whom there are no barriers, not 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: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 • The Gift of Love.

Jericho Ferguson

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or

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

²Written by Chris Ewing, in **Celebrate God's Presence**, The United Church Publishing House, 2000, p. 197.

resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

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

Thanks be to God.

Anthem: *Mis on Inimene (What is Human?)* by Pärt Uusberg

Vox Choir

What is Human?
The shadow of an angel?
Or a cry of yearning
towards a union of souls?

Each of us a pipe
For God's wind to whistle:
take care, then you are cared for.

Sermon: *What's love got to do with it?*

Rev. Dirk Jessen

Hymn: *Though I May Speak*

Voices United 372

**Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love;
my words are vain;
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.**

**Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be giv'n
by love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.**

**Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love
guide every deed;
by this we worship, and are freed.**

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: *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:

Loving God, take these offerings that represent the fruits of our love for you, for our community and for ourselves. Use these gifts, as you use us to spread your message of love throughout the world. Amen.³

Hymn: *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

Voices United 333

**Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.**

**Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.**

³ Written by **Deborah Ambridge Fisher**, Forest Hills, U.C., Fredericton, N.B., **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2021, p. 48. Used with permission.

**Finish then thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee,
changed from glory into glory
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

Commissioning:

As you go from here to go about our daily lives,
we will remember the love of God.

Notice and embrace the goodness that God has placed around you
and we will share that blessing with others in our lives.

Let God work in you and bring out the best in you.

We go now to live and serve God with faith, hope and especially love.

Amen⁴

Questions for Reflection:

How did you understand God's love earlier in your life? How has your understanding of God's love changed over time and what contributed to this change? How have you experienced God's love? How have you shared God's love?

R-W Report

Next Sunday

Sunday, May 12, 2024

Christian Family Sunday Easter 7

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: John 17:6-19 • "May my joy be made complete in them."

Sermon: Vulnerable and open!

What does it mean to be in right relationship with God? What does it mean to be in right relationship with others? How do we truly come to know one another and learn about how God is at work in our lives? We need to enter the intimate practices of testimony and prayer. People of faith are not called to escape from the world in which we live, but rather people of faith are called to live directly in this world, in a way that does not succumb to the values and pressures of secular society, or individual pursuit. Christ is calling us into community where we seek to care for one another, and challenge cultural norms. It is time to open the windows of our heart and share the hope we find through our faith with the world.

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

⁴ Written by **Sally Tuffin**, St. Paul's U.C., Prescott, Ont., **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2024, p. 49. Used with permission.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

ON THE HORIZON

Sun May 12	Sunday Worship - Sanctuary & Online Fellowship - Memorial Hall	10:30 am 11:30 am
Mon May 13	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	7:00 pm
Tues May 14	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom Property Committee - Room 11 UCW - Memorial Hall R-W Board - Room 11	12:00 pm 1:00 pm 1:30pm 7:00 pm
Wed May 15	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio R-W Choir - Lower Hall & Sanctuary	1:30 pm 7:30 pm
Thurs May 16	Not Falling For You - Memorial Hall Nova Bells - Lower Hall R-W Ringers - Lower Hall	10:00 am 5:15 pm 6:45 pm

Volunteer Opportunities

COMMUNION SERVER VOLUNTEERS

Sunday, **May 26**, we will celebrate communion, sharing Jesus' meal. All people, all ages, are welcome to serve Communion. If this is your first time, know that someone will assist you in learning how to serve Communion. You only need to come a little earlier (10:00 am). If you are able to serve, sign up on the tablet in the outer office, or visit rwuc.org/volunteer.

R-W News & Notes

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. 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

SEEKING ELECTRIC LAWNMOWER

We are in need of a battery powered lawn mower. For more details please contact Brad at brad.campbell@rwuc.org.

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 information will be available soon!

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.

ICMP LUNCHEON

Blessings and thank you to the volunteers attending the ICPM service and providing lunch this morning.

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)

THE UNITED CHURCH AT 100: Centennial Planning Workshop

The United Church turns 100 in June 2025! Join Regional archivists, Leanne Templeton and Erin Acland, and other resource people, and we'll look at resources for creatively commemorating this anniversary in your context. Wednesday, **May 29** May 2024, 6:30 pm. For more info talk to Regional Rep Lisa Lane, or email her at alberta.angel10@gmail.com

Worship Notes

"Heart" For most of us the meaning of heart is most closely related to emotions, feelings. Because of this the first commandment, "to love God with all your heart" can sound like having a positive feeling toward God, something that while nice is also a bit fleeting. In both the Old Testament and New Testaments "heart" means a lot more than feelings. The ancients had no sense of a brain or mind separate from the body. Instead a person's "heart" was understood first and foremost, to relate to a person's inner life: thoughts, personality, will. Because of this, opening one's heart toward God meant a lot more than simply a warm feeling. It meant a total openness and total commitment to God.

Cover Image

Cover image is from 4freephotos.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