

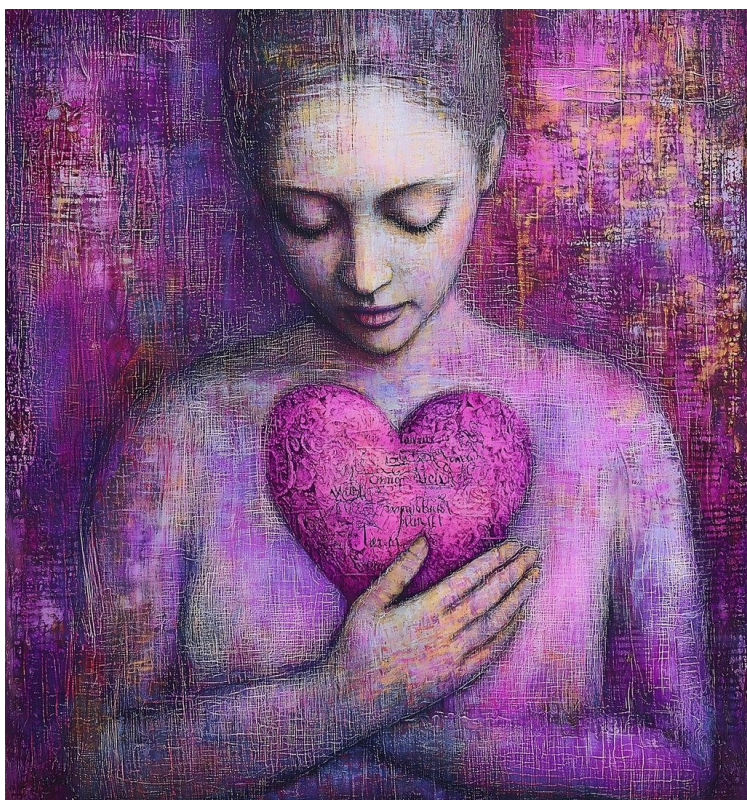


An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada

2024 Aug 18

Sacrament of Communion

Pentecost 14



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 community of faith.

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. 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 activity books available. 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

Dr. Belinda Chiang, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Call to Worship:

Every morning, God calls you to be, and when you rise and as you become, God gives a promise:

as I live and as you live, I will never abandon you.

And each day, we may respond:

as you live and as I live, I will go with you.

And each day, we may say to one another:

as God lives and as I live, let us worship and serve together.¹

Hymn: *Gather Us In*

More Voices 7

Gather us in, ground us in you.

Gather us in, ground us in you.

**Gather us in, gather us in,
ground us, ground us in you. (4X)**

Coming into God's Presence:

Rev. Karen Bridges

Prayer of Discernment:

Loving God in this time together, give us grace to truly seek you. Free us from the cares that claim our thoughts and fill our hearts. Calm the fears that chill us to the core of our being and drive us to despair.

Break through the complacency and the boredom in which we often take refuge. Awaken within us the sweet longing for your holy presence. Fill us with your steadfast love and we will rejoice in you, in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.²

Hymn: *Seek Ye First The Kingdom*

Voices United 356

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and God's righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Hallelu, hallelujah.**

**Ask and it shall be given unto you;
seek and you shall find;
knock and the door shall be opened unto you.
Hallelu, hallelujah.**

¹ Written by Maggie Watts-Hammond, *Gathering*, Pentecost 1, 2017, p. 28. Used with permission.

² Written by John Moses, *Gathering*, Pentecost 1, 2018, p. 37. Used with permission.

**We do not live by bread alone,
but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of God.
Hallelu, hallelujah.**

God's Holy Word

Prayer of Illumination:

Living God, as we listen to these old texts, inspired by you, may we listen with inquisitive minds and compassionate hearts.

May your words of wisdom speak to us in unexpected ways and unexpected places in our lives in today's world.

May your wisdom move, illuminate, deepen, inspire, and motivate us to act in your world, of which we are a part. Amen.³

Scriptures:

1 Kings 3:3-14 • David's death; Solomon's prayer. Paul Verdin
Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of his father David; only, he sacrificed and offered incense at the high places. The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the principal high place; Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?" It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honour all your life; no other king shall compare with you. If you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your life."

³ Written by Sheryl McLeod, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1 2021, p. 50. Used with permission.

Ephesians 5:15-20 • With thanksgiving, sing songs! Lesley Verdin
Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise,
making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be
foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk
with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, as you
sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing
and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God
the Creator at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord
Jesus Christ.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church,
Thanks be to God.

Sermon: *All I ask is for a discerning heart!*

Rev. Karen Bridges

Hymn: *As We Gather at Your Table*

Voices United 457

**As we gather at your table,
as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence;
let our hearts and minds be stirred.**

**Nourish us with sacred story
till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet
how to make Love's victory known.**

**Turn our worship into witness
in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you,
bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion
to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image
in the world you died to save.**

**Gracious Spirit, help us summon
other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome
those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us
nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels
to repent the sounding joy.**

Grateful Response

Pastoral Prayers

Lord's Prayer:

Our Creator, who art in heaven,

Voices United p. 921

**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

Donna Krucik

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: *For the Gift of Creation*

Voices United 538

**For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,
and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,
we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.
May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.**

Offering Prayer:

Bless these gifts, O God, for they are part of your story. These gifts represent our reaching out into the world, to tell your story in loving-kindness, to tell your story in giving of ourselves, to tell your story in the ways we live for you. Bless us in our giving, that we may live the story. Amen.⁴

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 people who worship online, please 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 loves and our hopes, our moments of agony and our glimpses of hope. It is here, where bread is broken and wine is shared, that we can most fully be ourselves and see others for who

⁴ Written by Gord Dunbar, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1 2018, p. 45. Used with permission.

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.⁵

God is with us.

We are not alone.

Christ is present here.

The Spirit is among us.

Let us give thanks to God,

in memory and in hope.

Most merciful and loving God, we come to this holy meal as people of the covenant. We seek to be more faithful; we seek to live a lifestyle that reflects respect for your teachings. Reconnect us to our biblical past; nourish us in faith and understanding. Guide us in the loving and righteous ways of Jesus, and send us into our homes, our workplaces, and our world as your faithful disciples. With all who abide in your presence and care, we lift our voices to say:⁶

Song of Creation:

Lord of lords, Creator of all things, nature gives thanks, your creatures give thanks. Your praise rises in us like the great river. God of all things, Creator, Provider, we thank you in the name of Jesus Christ.⁷

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, he 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."⁸

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.⁹

⁵ Celebrate God's Presence, 14A005

⁶ Written by Cooper Wiggen and Pamela Barbour, **Celebrating Covenant; A Resource for Worship**, (St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2001), p. 79.

⁷ Celebrate God's Presence, 28Z017

⁸ Celebrate God's Presence, 14D009

⁹ Celebrate God's Presence, 14R001

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We pray to you, God of Love, send your Holy Spirit upon us and what we do here, that we, and these gifts, touched by your Spirit, may be signs of life and love to each other, and to all the world.¹⁰

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

Sharing the Bread and the Cup (Instructions)

Meditation

Dr. Belinda Chiang, organ

Prayer after Communion:

May there be bread for the journey, may there be friends along the way, may we dare to dream and laugh and love, and seek justice every day.

May God's presence give us wisdom, may God's presence grant us peace, may God be the hand that gives us strength, may we hope in the promised feast. Amen.¹¹

Hymn: *Isaiah 55 (You Shall Go Out with Joy)*

Voices United 884

**You shall go out with joy
and be led forth with peace;
the mountains and the hills
will break forth before you;
there'll be shouts of joy,
and all the trees of the field
will clap, will clap their hands!**

**And all the trees of the field will clap their hands,
the trees of the field will clap their hands,
the trees of the field will clap their hands
while you go out with joy.**

**You shall go out with joy
and be led forth with peace;
the mountains and the hills
will break forth before you;
there'll be shouts of joy,
and all the trees of the field
will clap, will clap their hands!**

**And all the trees of the field will clap their hands,
the trees of the field will clap their hands,**

¹⁰ Celebrate God's Presence, 32Oa003

¹¹ Keri K. Wehlander, *Circles of Grace; Worship and Prayer in Everyday*, (Etobicoke: The United Church Publishing House, 1998), p. 79.

**the trees of the field will clap their hands
while you go out with joy.**

Commissioning:

We go forth, knowing that
we are being led by the hand of God;
wherever we go, whatever we do,
we are being led by the hand of God;
in times of trouble, in times of calm,
we are being led by the hand of God;
in life and in death, we know that
**we are being led by the hand of God. We ask for grace to follow
faithfully. Amen.**¹²

Postlude

Dr. Belinda Chiang, organ

Question for reflection:

Who among us has been granted the spiritual gift of wisdom and discernment?

How have we moved from being a welcoming community of faith to a loving community of faith?

What practices do we need to transform in order to live out Jesus' greatest commandment to the fullest?

R-W Report

Next Sunday

Sunday, Aug 25, 2024

Life Passages Pentecost 15

Children and Youth: Children and Youth are invited to worship with their families in the sanctuary.

Scriptures: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18 • Choose whom you will serve.

Ephesians 6:10-20 • Put on the whole armour of God.

Sermon: Peace filled service.

As followers of Christ we have chosen to follow Jesus and serve God with our whole selves. The scriptures remind us that we serve God through peaceful and loving action. The armour that Paul refers to in the letter to the Ephesians is not the typical armour one would wear to go to war. The Spiritual armour that we are called to put on helps us to stand firm against injustice. When we stand firm we are willing to listen, and enter a dialogue in order to reach a non-violent resolution. Jesus came to reconcile and make new. As imitators of Christ how do we help to reconcile within the world and bring about peace for all?

Music: Raydene Koch, guest pianist

¹² Written by Fern Gibbard, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1 2019, p. 51. Used with permission.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun Aug 18	Sunday Worship - Sanctuary & Online	10:30 am
	Fellowship - Memorial Hall	11:30 am
	Pet Blessing - Lawn	12:30 pm
Tues Aug 20	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
Wed Aug 21	Gratitude Meeting - Club Room	5:30 pm

ON THE HORIZON

Sun Aug 25	Sunday Worship - Sanctuary & Online	10:30 am
	Art & Book Sale - Lawn	11:00 am
	Fellowship - Memorial Hall	11:30 am
Tues Aug 27	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm

R-W News & Notes

THANK YOU

We had a terrific bake sale last Sunday and raised \$671.75 for the R-W Anniversary Legacy Fund! A heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported the sale.

STAFF

Elyse Munro, Office Administrator is on vacation and will be back in the office on **August 19**, 2024. Dr. Allan Bevan, Musical Director is on vacation from **August 5-25**, 2024.

Thanks to Dr. Belinda Chiang for helping out at the organ today.

PET BLESSING

Today there will be a pet blessing on the lawn after worship from 12:30 - 1:30 pm. Stop by to get your beloved pet(s) blessed.

MUSIC PROGRAMS

R-W Choir rehearsals will resume on Wednesday, **September 4**, at 7:30.

This is a good time to become a member! Nova Bells (5:30) and R-W Ringers (7 pm) rehearsals resume on Thursday, **September 12**.

More information at: music@rwuc.org

YOUTH LEADERS NEEDED

Do you remember back when you were in Jr. High and High School, how important it was to have adults that cared about you, who were not your parents? We are creating a Youth Leader Team who are willing to spend time with the youth of the church, building relationships, talking about faith, and willing to have fun, and deep conversations. The youth program runs from September to early June. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity and the time commitment please contact Rev. Karen Bridges at karen.bridges@rwuc.org

MISSION AND SERVICE OF THE UNITED CHURCH

Today is Communion Sunday and there will be a collection of our special offerings for Mission and Service. R-W is committed to financially supporting the Mission and Service of The United Church of Canada. On each Sunday when Communion is served we highlight some aspect of the work and mission of the National Church. At this time we also take up a special collection designated for Mission and Service. Blue envelopes are provided for this purpose in the bulletin.

ART & BOOK SALE VOLUNTEERS

We are having another Book & Art Sale fundraiser on **August 25th** and are seeking volunteers to help with setup, teardown, and general assistance throughout the sale. To sign up, visit rwuc.org/volunteer/ or use the tablet in the outer office.

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 at mail@rwuc.org for the Zoom link. Come with a bible and a journal, or simply yourself! Tune in when you can.

WILD CHURCH

Wild Church is taking a small break for the month of August, but will be back in September! For more information, check out wildchurhyeg.org or [@wildchurhyeg](https://www.instagram.com/wildchurhyeg) on Instagram.

UCW FALL RALLY

The United Church Women's Fall Rally is fast approaching. Gather with us at Stony Plain United Church (5012 51 Ave, Stony Plain), Saturday, **September 14, 2024**. Registration 9:15 AM. Cost \$10, bring a bag lunch. The theme is "Living with Respect in Creation." Theme speaker, Tracey Smith "Ecology of Bees". With a background in bee keeping, she is now researching bees at the U of A. Please let the office know if you are interested in attending before **September 10, 2024**.

CLOTHING SALE

Save the date! The New to You Clothing Sale will be held on Saturday **September 28th**. Donations of clothing, shoes, jewellery and other accessories can be dropped off at the church, prior to the sale. Unsold items will be donated to the Bissell Centre.

In the Community

MARTIN KERR CONCERT

On Friday **August 23** at 7:00 pm, the Spirit of Hope United Church will be hosting singer Martin Kerr live in concert at 7909 82 Avenue NW. Tickets are \$27 and can be purchased from EventBrite at www.eventbrite.ca/e/youre-amazing-martin-kerr-in-concert-tickets-884596450797

FREE COMMUNITY CONCERT

There will be a free ethnocultural concert held by the Kirk Community Centre (13525-122 Ave NW) on Saturday, **August 24** from 2:00 - 4:30 pm. The event includes children's activities, free snacks and drinks, and a photo booth!

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 partnering with Alberta Health Services to host these classes on **Thursday mornings** at 10:00 am from **September 19** to **December 12**. To register, email Injury.PreventionEdmonton@ahs.ca or for more information go to findingbalancealberta.ca/nffy/

Worship Notes

On this Sunday we are participating in one of the two sacraments of The United Church of Canada, that being the sacrament of Communion, the other sacrament being Baptism. In the Protestant tradition a sacrament is an act in which Jesus himself participated. Anthony Robinson writes, "a sacrament is something God does; a ritual is something we do. In baptism and communion, God is present and active." I have also heard sacraments defined as the invisible love of God made visible. There are many meanings associated with the sacrament of Communion. Anthony Robinson writes: "Forgiveness, Christ's presence, penance, community, hunger, feeding, Christ's body and blood, memorial, and sustenance are among the many dimensions of the meal Christians share." Like the disciples who followed Jesus, we the faithful followers are also asked to receive the body and blood of Christ in the symbolic ritual of eating bread and drinking wine (grape juice) as an act of remembrance.

Cover Image

Cover image is from Pixaby by Alana Jordan

Lead Minister of Congregation and Community Development: Rev. Karen Bridges
Minister of Faith Development and Intergenerational Ministry: Vacant
Minister of Social Justice and Outreach: Vacant
Music Director: Dr. Allan Bevan
Office Administrator: Elyse Munro
Facilities Manager: Brad Campbell