



An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada

2024 June 23

Sacrament of Communion

Pentecost 6



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 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 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

Friends in Christ

Announcements at 10:15 AM

Prelude: *Voluntary #2 in G Major*, by William Walond Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Call to Worship:

The Spirit is at work in our faith community,
bringing us together in joy, comforting us in sorrow.

The Spirit is discovered in our faith community,
helping those bereaved, listening to those who are troubled.

The Spirit is with any who are downhearted in our faith community,
the voice of hope, the unseen good deed.

The Spirit will not be overcome, because in our faith community,
the Spirit is inspiring, the Spirit is eternal.

Come, let us worship in the presence of the Spirit.¹

Hymn: *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*

Voices United 468

**Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.**

**Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

**Christ is able to make us one,
at the table he set the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express.**

**Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

**Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) everywhere!**

**Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

¹ Written by David Sparks, *Gathering*, Pentecost 1, 2024, p. 37. Used with permission.

Prayer of Hope:

Reviving Spirit, we cry to you:

“Our bones are dried up.”

But we mean:

“Our souls are hungry, and all we have purchased cannot give them strength to live.”

We cry to you:

“Our hope is lost.”

But what we mean:

“We are afraid. If we work to change the world, what will we lose?”

We cry to you:

“We are cut off completely.”

But we mean:

“We are selfish. We resist connection because it may cost us our comfort.”

But you, O Wind of God, have been promised to us. The prophets have spoken truth, and through this truth, we know you, O God.

Breath of Life, tear us from our graves. Clothe our fearful bones and fill us with the wonder of your love and compassion, until we dance the dance of truth, of justice, of peace, and of joy. Spirit, live within us, as we dance the kin-dom into being. Amen.²

Coming into God’s Presence

Rev. Karen Bridges

God’s Holy Word

Prayer of Illumination:

As we hear the scriptures, two questions arise: What is God’s intention? What is our response? As we listen deeply to the reading, as we reflect on what we hear, there will be inspiration, there will be understanding, there will be action. Let us hear the Word.³

Scriptures:

Ezekiel 37:1-14 • Dead Bones Rising

Bob Klakowich

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. The Lord led me all around the bones; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. The Lord said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord God, you know.” Then the Lord said to me, “Prophesy to those bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will

² Written by Anna Atkinson, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2020, p. 35. Used with permission.

^{3&4} Written by David Sparks, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1 2017, p. 37. Used with permission.

cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.” So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then the Lord said to me, “Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then the Lord said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, “Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.” Therefore prophesy, and say to them, “Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act,” says the Lord.

Loving God,

**We listened; we received insight; we will act on what we heard.
Amen.**⁴

Anthem: *Sanctus*, by Gabriel Faure

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

*Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth:
pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.*

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts:
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Sermon: *The Path of Discovery*

Rev. Karen Bridges

Hymn: *We Will Take What You Offer*

More Voices 196

**We will take what you offer,
we will live by your word;
we will love one another
and be fed by you, God. (3x)**

Grateful Response

Pastoral Prayers

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: *O Breath of Life*

Voices United 202 vv. 1 & 3

**O Breath of life, come sweeping through us,
revive your church with life and power;
O Breath of life, come, cleanse, renew us
and fit your church to meet this hour.
O Breath of love, come breathe within us,
renewing thought and will and heart;
come, love of Christ, afresh to win us,
revive your church in every part.**

Offering Prayer:

Holy One, you have given us water to drink,
and we are refreshed;
you have given us bread to eat,
and we are nourished;
you have revived our dead bones,
and we live again;
and so, we thank you with our offerings.
Amen.⁵

⁵ Written by Richard Bott, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1 2024, p. 38. Used with permission.

Duet: *Agnus Dei*, by Leo Delibes Douglas Graham, Jacqueline Hernandez, soloists

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.*

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona nobis pacem.*

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.

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 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.⁶

The Spirit of God be with you.

And also with you.

Turn to God, the source of life.

We lift our hearts in prayer.

Let us give thanks.

We offer joyful thanks to God.

Source and Sustainer of life, we gather at this table to offer thanks, and to taste afresh the wonder of a holy love. In companionship with all creatures, we are one in gratitude for the gift and mystery of life, and one in longing for a world reborn.

Creator and Friend, we praise you for your presence in and with your creation, ever drawing it toward healing and wholeness. In our joy, you are the overflowing cup; in our need, you are the bread by which we journey on. With all who abide in your presence and care, we lift our voices to sing:⁷

^{6,7,8,9,10} **Celebrate God's Presence**, 14A005, 17O001, 14D006, 14R001, 16Oa002, 16V001.

Holy, Holy, Holy:

Voices United p.942 Setting E

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might;
holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might;
Heav'n and earth are full, full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

Remembering Jesus at Table:

Let us remember together that vision of God's reign shown to us in Jesus at table:

he shared food with followers and friends,
with saints and sinners,
with crowds of thousands on the hillside,
and a few friends in an upper room.

On the night before he died, he had supper with his companions.

He took a loaf of bread, and after giving thanks, he broke it, and gave it to them, saying:

"Take, eat. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then, he took a cup, and after giving thanks, he passed it among them, saying:

"Drink this. Do this in remembrance of me."

Through this loaf and cup, Jesus lives within us.

In word and deed, Jesus lives among us."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

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Memorial Acclamation:

Voices United p.943 Setting E

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

By these signs of bread and wine, we recognize the longings of all our hearts for a time when all humanity will be one family - when justice and compassion will be the way we live according to the One we seek. Holy Spirit, hover over our lives, uniting us in these signs and strengthening us to live the resurrected life of Christ in 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.

Great Amen:

Voices United p.943 Setting E

Amen, amen, amen, amen.

Sharing the Bread and the Cup (Instructions)

Meditation: *Brother James' Air*, by James L. M. Bain, arr. by Dale Wood

Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Prayer after Communion:

Gracious God, may your gifts of love transform and enliven us that we may live lives of thanksgiving. May your presence among us provoke such longing for your realm, that we will never be satisfied until the whole earth knows your justice, your peace, and your love. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.¹¹

Hymn: *Praise with Joy the World's Creator*

Voices United 312

**Praise with joy the world's Creator,
God of justice, love, and peace,
source and end of human knowledge,
God whose grace shall never cease.
Celebrate the Maker's glory,
power to rescue and release.**

**Praise to Christ who feeds the hungry,
frees the captive, finds the lost,
heals the sick, upsets religion,
fearless both of fate and cost.
Celebrate Christ's constant presence:
friend and stranger, guest and host.**

**Praise the Spirit sent among us,
liberating truth from pride,
forging bonds where race or gender,
age or nation dare divide.
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure:
foolishness none dare deride.**

**Praise the Maker, Christ, and Spirit,
one God in community,
calling Christians to embody
oneness and diversity.
This the world shall see reflected:
God is One and One in Three.**

Commissioning:

Go out from this place, sure of your place in the good heart of God. Go out from this place, knowing that God loves you and will never leave you or forsake you. Go out from this place, to live your life as fully as you can, that you might bring blessing to others and give thanks to God. Go, knowing that your love for God is enough and that God's presence will be with you always. Go in gratitude. Go in hope. Go in peace.

May you always know Christ is with you. Amen.¹²

¹²Written by Bob Root, *Gathering*, Lent/Easter 2020, p. 39. Used with permission.

Postlude: *Chorale Prelude on "Lauda Anima"*, arr. by Raymond Haan

Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Questions for Reflection:

How is God reviving your wearied spirit?

How has God already done this?

R-W Report

Next Sunday

Sunday, June 30, 2024

Pentecost 7

Children & Youth: Children begin in the sanctuary, then go to Kids' Church. Youth meet in the youth room at the beginning of the service.

Scriptures: Matthew 25:34-40 • The Judgement of the Nations

Sermon: The Path of Empowerment

The path of empowerment is when we see eye to eye. Looking someone in the eye connects people. They say that the eye is the window to the soul. When you look into the eyes of someone who is vulnerable, a baby, a senior, someone who is hurt, an animal in distress, the eyes indicate the need for compassion and help. Jesus is reminding followers that we are not called to ignore or overlook anyone, but instead we are to see the face of Jesus Christ in all people. When we do this, and serve the other as we would serve Jesus then we are living out the new commandment, to love one another as I have loved you. Salvation is found in our care for one another. Redemption comes through acts of service, not awards or one's station in life.

Music: Dr. Allan Bevan, organist; Jacqueline Hernandez, soloist

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun June 23	Sunday Worship - Sanctuary & Online	10:30 am
	Book & Art Sale - Lawn	10:00 am
	Fellowship - Memorial Hall	11:30 am
	Membership Class - Club Room	12:00 pm
	Koinonia - Away	5:30 pm
Mon June 24	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	7:00 pm
Tues June 25	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
	Parent Support Group - Club Room	4:00 pm
	R-W Board Meeting - Room 11	7:00 pm
Wed June 26	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	1:30 pm
Thurs June 27	Not Falling For You - Memorial Hall	10:00 am

ON THE HORIZON

Sun June 30	Sunday Worship - Sanctuary & Online	10:30 am
	Fellowship - Memorial Hall	11:30 am
Mon July 1	Church Closed	

Tues July 2	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
	Parent Support Group - Club Room	4:00 pm
	DEAP Meeting - Club Room	5:30 pm
Wed July 3	Canterbury Worship - Away	10:30 am
Sat July 6	Labyrinth Walk - Memorial Hall	1:00 pm

R-W News & Notes

THANK YOU

Thanks very much for making last Sunday's bake sale a success. We raised \$514.60 for the R-W Anniversary Legacy Fund. Your interest, support and generosity are appreciated – thank-you!

YEG FAMILY COUNSELLING SERVICES

We are pleased to be working with YEG Family Counselling services to provide mental health support to community members. We have a student therapist who provides free to low cost therapy **Wednesdays** 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm by walk in or appointments. To register email Lindsay@yegfamilycounselling.com

LABYRINTH: TAKE TIME FOR RENEWAL

Walk the Labyrinth this Summer in Memorial Hall at Robertson-Wesley United Church. Tuesdays **July 16** and **August 6** from 11:00 am - 12:30 pm and Saturdays **July 6** and **August 24** from 1:00 - 2:00 pm.

GREEN THUMBS AND PERENNIALS WANTED

Do you miss having a garden or want to get outside and learn about gardens hands on? R-W needs help in keeping up our gardens for everyone to enjoy. Individual beds are available for any greenthumbs to plant and maintain e.g., weed. Please call Lea at 780-451-1684 OR 780-905-4861 (cell). NOTE: We also need perennial plants, so if you have any perennials that need splitting we will gladly accept them to be planted in the church flowerbeds. Hoping to hear from you soon.

In the Community

QUEER FAMILY RETREAT

It's back! The Queer Family Retreat is back at Naramata Centre this summer, **August 26 - 30** and it's going to be the perfect ending to your summer! A week in Queer community of all ages, featuring Friends and Family, Amazing Workshops (Celebrating Our Queerness! Prayer Beads! Loving Beyond The Binary! Remember Your Childhood! Soul Collage! Yoga Chapel! and more!), lots of time to play at the Beach, wander the Village, and hang out with some really cool people. Register Online at naramatacentre.secure.retreat.guru/program/queer-family-retreat-august-26-30/

NEW PARKING AREA

The Parkade in the new Mercury Block building across the street from R-W is open to public parking and until October 13th they are reducing the daytime parking rate to \$5.00 flat from 5:00 am - 6:00 pm.

Worship Notes

Ezekiel is both a priest and a prophet. Ezekiel was an exile in Babylon who had a series of visionary messages both for fellow exiles and for those left in Jerusalem. Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dead bones proclaims that God has promised to restore the people. After Ezekiel's warnings about what will happen to the people in Jerusalem, this promise brings with it hope, for God will forgive and give the people new life.

Cover Image

Cover image is by Gerd Altmann from Pixabay. Words added by Rev. Karen Bridges from Ezekiel 37:14

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