



An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada

2024 June 30

Pentecost 7



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 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: *Praise to the Lord*, arr. by Chester Alwes

Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Call to Worship:

Come as those Jesus invites to a life of discipleship.

We hear Christ's invitation, but we're not sure we're up to the task.

Come as those equipped by God's grace for love.

We come, grateful and a little relieved at the aid.

Come as those empowered by the Spirit's guiding.

We come, united in the Spirit's passion.

Come and worship as followers of Jesus.¹

Hymn: *Your Work, O God*

Voices United 537

**Your work, O God, needs many hands
to help you everywhere,
and some there are who cannot serve
unless our gifts we share.**

**Because we love you and your work,
our offering now we make:
be pleased to use it as your own,
we ask for Jesus' sake.**

Coming into God's Presence

Rev. Karen Bridges

Prayer of Confession:

Gracious and loving God, we call to you and name you as eternal and ever-present, boundless in the abundance of love that you have for us. Yet there are times, O God, when we fail to recognize that abundance in our lives. Instead we tend to dwell on scarcity, the things we don't have and things we can't do.

We miss the chance to speak from our hearts. We hide our feelings sometimes because we fear a scarcity of acceptance. Doubts invade our hopefulness, and we fail to rejoice in the abundance we receive in your Holy Name. Forgive us, O God, and open us once again to your abundant grace. Amen.²

Words of Assurance:

Jesus came to show us and remind us that, through our daily rounds from sunrise to sunset, the abundance of God's holy presence and love is with us. Jesus came to teach us not to dwell in the scarcity of things and to help us not to live in self-doubt; to show us how to discover God in the moment and to notice the possibilities we have to live an abundant life rooted in our faith in God. Thanks be to God!³

¹ Written by Gord Dunbar, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1, 2019, p. 34. Used with permission.

² Written by Tony Tuck, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1 2021, p. 47. Used with permission.

³ Written by Tony Tuck, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1 2021, p. 47. Used with permission.

God's Holy Word

Hymn: *When I Needed a Neighbour*

Voices United 600

When I needed a neighbour, were you there, were you there?

When I needed a neighbour, were you there?

**And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,
were you there?**

I was hungry and thirsty, were you there, were you there?

I was hungry and thirsty, were you there?

**And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,
were you there?**

I was cold, I was naked, were you there, were you there?

I was cold, I was naked, were you there?

**And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,
were you there?**

When I needed a healer, were you there, were you there?

When I needed a healer, were you there?

**And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,
were you there?**

**Wherever you travel I'll be there, I'll be there,
wherever you travel I'll be there.**

**And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,
I'll be there.**

Prayer of Illumination:

God of Grace, as we receive these words - words inspired by you - may we discover your urgings, may they stir our thoughts, may we be empowered to grow, and may we act in ways that reveal who you are to all who would notice. Amen.⁴

Scriptures:

Matthew 25:34-40 • The Judgement of the Nations Owen Nzeyimana
Then the son of God will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Creator, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the son of God will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

Loving God,

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

Amen.

⁴ Written by Sheryl McLeod, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1 2019, p. 47. Used with permission.

Hymn: *Come Touch Our Hearts*

More Voices 12

**Come touch our hearts that we may know compassion,
from failing embers build a blazing fire;
love strong enough to overturn injustice,
to seek a world more gracious,
come touch and bless our hearts.**

**Come touch our souls that we may know and love you,
your quiet presence all our fears dispel;
create a space for spirit to grow in us,
let life and beauty fill us,
come touch and bless our souls.**

**Come touch our minds and teach us how to reason,
set free our thoughts to wonder and to dream;
help us to open doors of understanding,
to welcome truth and wisdom,
come touch and bless our minds.**

**Come touch us in the moments we are fragile,
and in our weakness your great strength reveal;
that we may rise to follow and to serve,
steady now our nerve,
come touch and bless our wills.**

**Come touch us now, this people who are gathered,
to break the bread and share the cup of peace;
that we may love you with our heart, our soul,
our mind, our strength, our all,
come touch us with your grace.**

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.**

National Anthem:

Voices United 524 v.1

**O Canada! Our home and native land!
True patriot love in all of us command.
Car ton bras sait porter l'épée,
Il sait porter la croix!
Ton histoire est une épopée des plus brillants exploits.
God keep our land glorious and free!
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.**

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:

Take these gifts, Loving God, and receive them as treasures of our commitment to you; take our lives and transform them into your healing power. May we be empowered to bring wholeness to those who need your healing touch.

May we lose ourselves in serving others, not counting the cost, but knowing that you reveal yourself in each gift. May we remember that stewardship is a way of life, our grateful response rooted in our life-giving faith. Bless our givings and our actions, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.⁵

Hymn: *Sent Forth by God's Blessing*

Voices United 481

**Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended, O now be extended
the fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of Christ's teaching, receptive souls reaching
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
God's grace did invite us, God's love shall unite us**

⁵ Written by Bill Steadman, *Gathering*, Pentecost 1 2023, p. 51. Used with permission.

**to work for the kingdom and answer its call.
With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing God's children of each tribe and race.
With your feast you feed us, with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
give honour to Christ and the name that we bear.**

Commissioning:

Go into the world inspired by the Spirit.

We go to breathe the hope of faith into a world of despair.

Go into the world transformed by Jesus.

We go to walk the difficult path of discipleship.

Go into the world blessed by God's grace.

We go to become a blessing for others in relationship.

Go with God's blessing. **Amen.**⁶

Postlude: *Postlude on "Hyfrodol"*, Rowland Pritchard arr. by Jason Payne

Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Questions for Reflection:

Where is God calling you to serve in this world?

How have others shown love to you?

R-W Report

Next Sunday

Sunday, July 7, 2024

Pentecost 8

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

Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 8:7-15 • Excel in Generosity

Mark 5:21-43 • Young girl raised; woman healed

Sermon: REST-oration and Wellness

We have all heard the statements, "It is the cycle of life", or "what goes around comes around." Right from the start of creation God added an important step in the cycle of life and the rhythm of daily living, which is a day to rest. God calls us to enter a time of Sabbath, which allows not only humans but all of creation an opportunity to rest and be restored, to move back to a place of wellness. Taking a break in our patterns of behaviour or breaking off from our usual path brings restoration, new life and new opportunities. In a world that seems to be increasing in speed and destruction of creation, what can we learn from the story of a woman who reached out to Jesus in trust of being healed? How will a spirit of generosity bring hope and healing to the broken world?

Music: Dr. Allan Bevan, organist

⁶ Written by Gord Dunbar, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1 2019, p. 50. Used with permission.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

ON THE HORIZON

Sun July 7	Sunday Worship - Sanctuary & Online	10:30 am
	Fellowship - Memorial Hall	11:30 am
Tues July 9	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
Sat July 13	Community Dinner - Memorial Hall	5:00 pm

Volunteer Opportunities

LEADERSHIP ROLES

Robertson-Wesley is seeking to fill some leadership roles. Most key leadership roles are a two year term with the possibility of renewing for another 2 years. Each year different roles become vacant after a person has severed their term. This year we are seeking the following leadership roles:

Incoming Chair of the Board

Treasurer

Chair of Ministry and Personnel

Two Northern Spirit Regional Representatives

If you want to know more please visit www.rwuc.org/leadership-search

R-W News & Notes

ART & BOOK SALE

Are you ready for it? The book and art sale on June 23 raised **\$2,050!** We were so happy. Thank you to everyone who donated books and art (even from last year that was left over) to those who sorted and boxed, to those who set-up tables and took out books, to those who helped sell and to those who put away the leftovers. Because of you it went smoothly and was a success. We will have another Art & Book Sale on **August 18**, please drop off any books and art donations at the church.

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Search Committee has now completed their interviews with the candidates for the two part time minister positions. We are now spending the time reviewing the skills and gifts of the candidates along with our ministerial priorities and the Community of Faith Profile. Please keep the committee in your prayers as we continue our final steps of the process.

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 Saturday **July 6** and **August 24** from 1:00 - 2:00 pm.

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 can 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.

GREEN BITES

For the past two weeks, many Canadians have been following the news of water restrictions in Calgary. Some of us have wondered about the availability of clean water in Canada and whether or not other municipalities have had restrictions too. We have heard about the lack of clean water on several First Nations reserves, and wondered about other restrictions throughout our history. When the newly formed North West Mounted Police began their cross-Canada trek using horses and wagons, in 1774, clean water was seldom available. Most water was filthy because of mud and buffalo dung in rivers and streams. In fact many of the men would pour water through their woolen socks in order to have cleaner water for their tea when they set up camp each night. Nearly seventy-five years later, in the early months of World War II, a relative who was a young recruit in rural Nova Scotia, did what many recruits did; he saved some of his tea from the evening meal and used it to brush his teeth that night, and to shave his face the next morning!! - The Environmental Stewardship Group

EMAIL SAFETY TIPS

Recently people from the church have been experiencing scam emails, using a method called spoofing. Email spoofing is when a scammer forges (spoofs) the email's from address, so the sent message appears to have been sent from someone you know with the intention of infecting your computer with malware, asking for money or stealing information. These addresses can

either be created by using alternative numbers or letters to look slightly different than the original, or by disguising the 'from' field to be the exact email address of someone in your network. If you receive an email that looks like it is from someone you know, requesting gift cards or help and asking for secrecy, please feel free to call Elyse in the church office or the person who sent it to confirm legitimacy, do not reply to the email because the reply will get sent to the scammer.

What to do if your email has been spoofed:

- Don't panic, spoofing does not mean that the scammer has access to your account, they are only making it appear as though they do. You have not been hacked. Spoofing is a temporary issue that will often be resolved in a few weeks when the scammer will move on.
- Email everyone in your contacts to let them know to disregard any suspicious emails from you.
- Just to be safe, run a full virus scan on your computer. This ensures that you have not experienced a malware or virus infection and helps eliminate the possibility that you have a compromised account.
- Update your email password, making sure that you have a robust and secure password.

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 Amazing Workshops, 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

The word "Mission" comes with a lot of baggage and hurt. Missionaries were known for swooping into communities because they believed that the people needed faith and needed Jesus in their lives. This came at the expense of the people's culture and traditions, which caused much hurt. In the work that The United Church of Canada is doing with Truth and Reconciliation, some of the Indigenous elders have asked the church to stop using the word *mission*. They have suggested that we instead speak about our *call and commitment* from God. Mission has often been used interchangeably with the word outreach. The point of outreach is to live our faith in the world serving and loving all people. How are we called by God to serve and love others in this neighbourhood? This is what the Board is working on presently.

Cover Image

Cover image was taken by Rev. Karen Bridges on June 2, 2024.

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

Welcome to Robertson-Wesley

If you would like you can fill out this page, tear it off, and place it in the offering plates at the exits. This form is also available to fill out online at rwuc.org/infocard

Today's Date: _____

Contact Information:

Name: _____

Preferred gender pronouns: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____

Postal Code: _____ Phone #: _____

Email: _____

I would like to subscribe to the email newsletter

Yes No

I am new in the community

I am a visitor

I am interested in speaking with a minister

I am considering making this my church

Please put in the offering plate. Thank you

