



Robertson - Wesley

UNITED CHURCH *Spirited*

An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada

2024 July 7

Pentecost 8



**Go, for your faith
has made you well!**

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, 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: *Suite in G minor*, by Domenico Zipoli
I. Courante II. Sarabande III. Gigue

Dr. Allan Bevan, piano

Embracing Our Spirit

Call to Worship:

Singing bell

Come. Come into the softness and love that is God.

Spirit, gently embrace us, receive our laments, our pain, and our distress.

Our Creator calls us to come to rest in moments of comfort and awe,
declaring to each of us, to express yourself.

Your voice is important to me.

Come into this time of worship.

Come into the softness and love that is God.¹

Hymn: *All the Way My Saviour Leads Me*

Voices United 635

**All the way my Saviour leads me;
what have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt his tender mercy
who through life has been my guide?
Heavenly peace, divinest comfort,
here by faith in him to dwell,
for I know, whate'er befall me,
Jesus doeth all things well.**

**All the way my Saviour leads me,
cheers each winding path I tread,
gives me grace for every trial,
feeds me with the living bread.
Though my weary steps may falter,
and my soul a-thirst may be,
gushing from the Rock before me,
lo, a spring of joy I see!**

**All the way my Saviour leads me;
O the fullness of his love!
Perfect rest to me is promised
in my Father's house above.
When my spirit, clothed immortal,
wings its flight to realms of day,
this my song through endless ages,
"Jesus led me all the way."**

¹ Written by Jani Francis, *Gathering*, Pentecost 1, 2021, p. 40. Used with permission.

Prayer of REST-oration:

We lift our prayerful voices and thoughts to God in praise and gratitude, as we wait with joy to hear the still, quiet voice from heaven.

For inner peace and the joy of being in relationship with our personal selves, we give thanks.

In the moments of solitude we look inward to see God inside so that we can radiate God's presence and light wherever we go.

For inner peace and joy of loving ourselves we give thanks as we learn to be our own best friend.

In the moments of meditation we listen for the voice and wait for the presence of God to begin the healing process that builds on confession and forgiveness.

For inner peace and the awesomeness of being fully present before God, unencumbered by things and deeds, we give thanks.

In the moments of fear and doubt, we still listen for the experience of God, however God chooses to self-reveal to us, toward building a covenant connection with the one who creates, redeems, and heals.

For inner peace and a more integrated self, for being a unique being among all those created by God, we give thanks to God. Amen.²

God's Holy Word

Hymn: *Dance with the Spirit*

More Voices 156

**Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin',
walk with the Spirit throughout the long day.**

**Work and hope for the new life a-bornin',
listen to the Spirit to show you the way.**

**Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin',
move with the Spirit throughout the long day.**

**Work and hope for the new life a-bornin',
listen to the Spirit to show you the way.**

**Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin',
sing with the Spirit throughout the long day.**

**Work and hope for the new life a-bornin',
listen to the Spirit to show you the way.**

**Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin',
pray with the Spirit throughout the long day.**

**Work and hope for the new life a-bornin',
listen to the Spirit to show you the way.**

² Written by Cheryl A. Kirk-Duggan, **The Undivided Soul; Helping Congregations Connect Body and Spirit**, (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2001), p. 164-165.

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.³

Scriptures:

2 Corinthians 8:7-15 • Excel in Generosity

Ilona Bevan

Now as you excel in everything - in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you - so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking. I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. And in this matter I am giving my advice: it is appropriate for you who began last year not only to do something - now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means. For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has - not according to what one does not have. I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. As it is written, "The one who had much did not have too much and the one who had little did not have too little."

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

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw Jesus, fell at his feet and begged him repeatedly, "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live." So he went with him. And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, "If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well." Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my clothes?" And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, "who touched me?" He looked all around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease." While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader's house to say, "your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?" but overhearing what they said, Jesus said the leader of the synagogue, "do not fear, only believe." Jesus allowed no one to follow him

³ Written by Sheryl McLeod, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1 2019, p. 47. Used with permission.

except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. When he has entered, he said to them, “why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.” And they laughed at Jesus. Then he put them all outside, and took the child’s father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. Jesus took her by the hand and said to her, “Talitha koum,” which means, “Little girl, get up!” and immediately the girl stood up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. He strictly ordered them that no one should know this and told them to give her something to eat.

Loving God,

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

Musical Reflection: *Blessed Assurance*, arr. by Charles Callahan Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Sermon: *REST-oration and Wellness*

Rev. Karen Bridges

Hymn: *Bathe Me in Your Light*

More Voices 82

**Bathe me in your light, O God of All, Creator;
let it shine upon my soul with healing and with grace.
Be to me a beacon bright through shadows of life’s wounding,
showing me the way to live in faith, in your embrace.**

**Bathe me in your love, O Source of Awe and Wonder;
help me walk the sacred path of harmony and peace.
May I be attentive to the musings of your presence,
drinking from the well of hope that brings the heart release.**

**Bathe me in your grace, O One of Spirit’s longing;
teach me of your gentle ways that fill the soul with strength.
Guide me on the pilgrimage that leads to truth and wholeness,
fill me with your promise of a love that knows no length.**

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.**

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:

Creator of our hearts, Christ of our lives, Spirit of each moment -
**we aren't very good at bending our knee, but we know, God of all, that
we are yours, heart, mind, and soul, to love and protect, and cherish and
challenge. Guide us, O God, as we live our part and give our generous
portion for you. In Christ's name, bless these gifts, we ask it. Amen.⁴**

Hymn: *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*

Voices United 325

**Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord, and precious,
binding all the church in one;
holy Zion's help for ever,
and its confidence alone.**

**To this temple where we call you,
come, O Lord of hosts, today;
with your faithful loving-kindness
hear your servants as they pray,
and your fullest benediction
shed within its walls always.**

**Here bestow on all your servants
what they ask of you to gain;
what they gain from you for ever
with the blessed to retain,
and hereafter in your glory
evermore with you to reign.**

**Laud and honour to the Father,
laud and honour to the Son,
laud and honour to the Spirit,
ever three and ever one,
one in might, and one in glory,
while unending ages run.**

⁴ Written by Richard Bott, *Gathering*, Pentecost 1 2021, p. 52. Used with permission.

Commissioning:

Let us go forth now, into a world that is craving healing and wholeness.

Let us praise God, whose power is working within us and through us.

Let us go now, surrounded by the love of the Spirit who shows us we can do more than we can ever imagine. Let us go now in peace. Amen.⁵

Postlude: *Postlude in G*, by Henry Kihlken

Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Questions for Reflection:

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?

R-W Report

Next Sunday

Sunday, July 14, 2024 Pentecost 9

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

Scriptures: Ephesians 1:3-14 • Adopted through Christ

Mark 6:1-13 • The call of the disciples

Sermon: Embracing bold discipleship in the face of rejection.

There are many times on the faith journey when we are faced with adversity, and rejection. Following the gospel is not simply about what we say but the integrity that comes with acting on what we say. Within Christianity there is a faction of people who feel entitled, and who wield their power to fulfil their own personal agenda, putting aside the call of Jesus to care for the marginalised and powerless, to serve with compassion, and to speak the truth in love while standing up against injustice. What God gives us is freely given, so why do we feel the need to be awarded or given something in return?

Music: Dr. Allan Bevan, organist

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

ON THE HORIZON

Sun July 14	Sunday Worship - Sanctuary & Online	10:30 am
	Fellowship - Memorial Hall	11:30 am
Tues July 16	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
	Labyrinth Walk - Memorial Hall	11:00 am
	Finance Committee - Club Room	7:00 pm
Sat July 20	Spirited Arts Workshop - Lower Hall	10:00 am

⁵ Written by Rosemary Godin, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1 2024, p. 48. Used with permission.

R-W News & Notes

STAFF

Brad Campbell will be away from July 7-11 on vacation.

ART & BOOK SALE

We will have another Book & Art Sale fundraiser on **August 25th**. Please drop off any books and art donations at the church.

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE CLASSES

Lisa Lane will be giving free basic sign language classes every Monday at 6:00 pm starting on **July 15th**, for 1 month. Please email her at alberta.angel10@gmail.com to sign up and confirm that you are interested in the class. If there is none or very little interest, she will still help you.

WRITE FOR BETWEEN THE AISLES

Do you write poetry? Have you read a life-changing book lately? Do you have a faith question you are exploring or a passion you want to share? Then why not submit something for inclusion in the church's quarterly publication *Between the Aisles*? For guidelines and publication requirements, see www.rwuc.org/between-the-aisles. Deadline for Fall Edition submissions is **Aug 11**, Published: Sept 1.

HANDBELLS

Would you like to know more about the handbell program here at the church? Do you know that R-W owns two sets of handbells? Stop by the handbell table immediately after service on **July 14** for an informative session on our instruments. Information about our ringing groups will be available and you can even try out a bell if you wish to. Come find out more about how much fun ringing is. Everyone welcome!

GABRIEL KNEY ORGAN

Did you know that the pipe organ was the highest technical achievement of humankind in the 17th century? R-W is very fortunate to have an instrument crafted by master organ builder Gabriel Kney, which was installed in the church in 1979. This is no ordinary instrument and Allan Bevan is pleased to demonstrate this amazing instrument following the service on **July 21**. Drop by to learn more about how the organ works.

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.

WILD CHURCH

Join Wild Church fireside at Emily Murphy Park Picnic Site 3 on **July 21** at 1:00 pm. We invite you, if you wish, to bring your favourite nature-related prayers, poems, songs, and readings to share during this unstructured worship. Bring a cup for a beverage! Contact wildchurch@rwuc.org for questions or transportation arrangements. Please check our website (wildchurchyeg.org)/Instagram (@wildchurchyeg) for any last-minute location changes. Cancelled if air quality index is 7 or higher.

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.

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 **August 24** from 1:00 - 2:00 pm.

SPIRITED ARTS WORKSHOP: Making Space For Your Spirit

NEW DATE: July 20, 10 – 2 pm. When aspects of our life no longer “bear fruit”, our energy and spirit can feel stagnant. As in nature, paring back can clear space and energy for more fruitful abundance. Using this metaphor as inspiration, we will do some reflective writing and create 3D collages to visually express that which grounds us in our most heartfelt meaning and purpose! No previous experience required. All supplies included. Please register at rwuc.org/workshops

R-W'S 16th ANNUAL WOMEN'S WEEKEND: *Spirited....Still*

This weekend will include: celebration, creativity, friends, laughter, tools for spiritual practice, time outdoors, worship & more. Saturday, **September 14th**, 11:30 am to Sunday, **September 15th**, 3:00 pm at Strawberry Creek Lodge, near Warburg, AB. The cost is \$240.00 per person (1 night shared accommodation and 4 meals) or \$255.00 (1 night single accommodation and 4 meals) Your cheque, payment made payable to Robertson-Wesley United Church, will be your registration. Please register early: limit 20 women. A map and information letter with details about what to bring will be available in August. Contact Carol Anne Inglis: ianandcarolinglis@shaw.ca, Sylvia Duffus: sduffus@shaw.ca or Jill Lambie: jilllambie@shaw.ca for more information. Registration forms can be found in the pamphlet rack by the kitchen.

In the Community

FAREWELL TO CAMP WOHELO

Greetings Friends of Camp Wohelo! Countless women in the region spent many memorable times at beautiful Camp Wohelo and this is the opportunity to share memories and good-byes. The farewell will be at 10:00 am on **July**. Activities are planned for 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. Please RSVP with the number of people attending, ages, allergies, dietary restrictions/preferences to campwohelo@yahoo.ca. 15 years old and up: \$20, Seniors and under 15: \$10, Free for 10 and under.

CARE OF CREATION TOWN AND COUNTRY GARDEN TOUR

July 13, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm, Drayton Valley. Enjoy a day in the sunshine, tour beautiful gardens and celebrate God's creation! Tickets are \$15, all proceeds to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Visit northernspiritrc.ca/event/care-of-creation-town-and-country-garden-tour for more information.

Worship Notes

What is sabbath? Sabbath is the seventh day of the week, a day of rest and worship. The origin of the Hebrew *sabbat* seems to derive from the verb *sabat*, meaning to stop, to cease, or to keep. This is of course rooted in the God's rest on the 7th day of creation. The practice of keeping Sabbath is about making room and space to be with God without distractions. Some faith traditions are very clear about what you can and cannot do on the Sabbath, for others, Sabbath can be kept at a certain time every day. For others it is about being intentional about changing our day to day routine and instead doing things that bring us closer to God and to one another. Over the month of July we will be exploring different aspects of the practice of Sabbath.

Cover Image

Cover image was taken by Rev. Karen Bridges on March 30, 2019 in the Simien Mountains National Park, in Ethiopia.

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



