

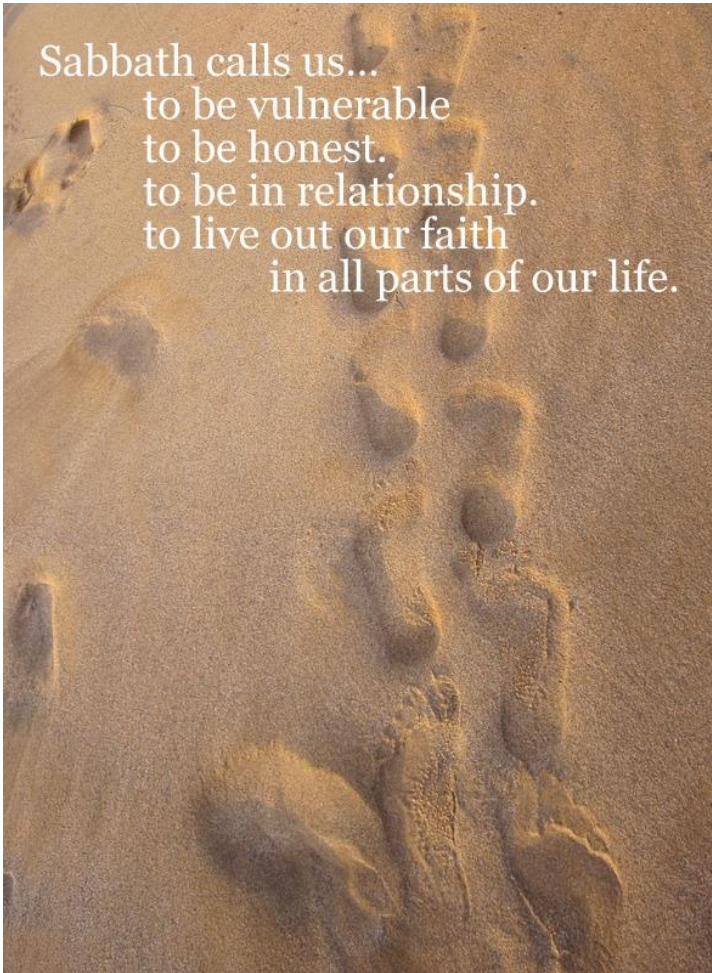
Robertson - Wesley

UNITED CHURCH *Spirited*

An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada

2024 July 14

Pentecost 9



Sabbath calls us...
to be vulnerable
to be honest.
to be in relationship.
to live out our faith
in all parts of our life.

Welcome and Inclusion

We open our hearts and our church family to all people in our community regardless of sexual orientation, age, gender identity, differing abilities, ethnicity, or economic circumstances. 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: *English Suite #2 in A minor*, by J. S. Bach
I. Allemande II. Sarabande III. Bouree 2

Dr. Allan Bevan, piano

Embracing Our Spirit

Call to Worship:

In the midst of a busy season,
we seek Sabbath rest.

In the midst of sweltering heat,
we seek refreshment of spirit, cool water, gentle breezes.

In the midst of an indifferent world,
we long for acceptance, connection, meaning, and purpose.

In the midst of uncertain times,
we hunger for generosity and a shared humanity.

In every moment, we seek the Sacred revealed in our midst,
the blessed One who provides for us.

And so we gather to worship as a community.¹

Hymn: *Jesus Calls Us*

Voices United 562

**Jesus calls us, o'er the tumult
of our life's wild restless sea,
day by day his clear voice sounding,
saying, "Christian, follow me."**

**Long ago apostles heard it
by the Galilean lake,
turned from home and toil and kindred,
leaving all for Jesus' sake.**

**Jesus calls us from the worship
of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us,
saying, "Christian, love me more."**

**In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
"Christian, love me more than these."**

**Jesus calls us: by your mercies,
Saviour, may we hear your call,
give our hearts to your obedience,
serve and love you best of all.**

¹ Written by Karen MacNeill, *Gathering*, Pentecost 1, 2022, p.35. Used with permission.

Prayer of Hope and Confession:

We need forgiveness, God, for we are not always the people you would have us be, and we are not the people we would like to be.

Time and again, the love that lives within us remains unspent.

Time and again, the compassion that stirs inside us remains restrained.

Time and again, the life of abundance you call us to live and share remains only a dream.

Forgive us and set us free to be all we can be...

(silent prayer)²

Words of Assurance:

We shall be set free from a past we cannot change and open to a future in which we can be the change. God will grant us the grace to grow, the courage to act, the wisdom to speak, and daily opportunities to live an honest life.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are healed, restored and forgiven.

Thanks be to God!³

God's Holy Word

Hymn: *Tell Me the Stories of Jesus*

Voices United 357

**Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear,
things I would ask him to tell me if he were here:
scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea,
stories of Jesus, tell them to me.**

**First let me hear how the children stood round his knee,
and I shall fancy his blessing resting on me;
words full of kindness, deeds full of grace,
all in the love-light of Jesus' face.**

**Tell me, in accents of wonder, how rolled the sea
tossing the boat in a tempest on Galilee!
And how the Master, ready and kind,
chided the billows, and hushed the wind.**

**Into the city I'd follow the children's band,
waving a branch of the palm tree high in my hand;
one of his heralds, yes, I would sing
loudest hosannas! Jesus is king!**

**Show me that scene in the garden of bitter pain;
and of the cross where my Saviour for me was slain.
Sad ones or bright ones, so that they be
stories of Jesus, tell them to me.**

² Written by Curtis Tufts, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1, 2024, p. 31. Used with permission.

³ Written by Heather Tober, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1, 2024, p. 50. Used with permission.

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:

Ephesians 1:3-14 • Adopted through Christ Donna Krucik

Blessed be the God and Creator of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before God in love. God destined us for adoption as children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of God's will, to the praise of God's glorious grace that God freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In God we have redemption through Jesus' blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of God's grace that God lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight God has made known to us the mystery of God's will, according to God's good pleasure that God set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of God who accomplishes all things according to God's counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of God's glory. In God you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in God, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of God's glory.

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

Jesus left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offence at him. Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honour, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house." And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And Jesus was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went about among the villages teaching. Jesus called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. Jesus ordered them to take nothing for their journey

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

except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. Jesus said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

Loving God,

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

Musical Reflection: *Jesus Loves Me*, William Bradbury arr. by Charles Callahan
Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Sermon: *Embracing bold discipleship in the face of rejection*
Rev. Karen Bridges

Hymn: *I, the Lord of Sea and Sky* **Voices United 509**

**I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?**

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.**

**I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain,
I have wept for love of them; they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my words to them. Whom shall I send?**

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.**

**I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them; my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?**

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.**

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:

Caring God, as you receive our offering, remind us how to share your love with the world.

Make us aware of the opportunities to be angels in the lives of another.

Inspire us to seek the needs of our community and to act, that we might lessen the struggle and challenges for each other.

Encourage us to use the ways you've blessed our lives that we might be a blessing for others. Amen.⁵

⁵ Written by Gill Le Fevre, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1 2022, p. 48. Used with permission.

**Forth in your name, O Christ, we go,
our daily labour to pursue,
you, only you, resolved to know
in all we think, or speak, or do.**

**The task your wisdom has assigned
here let us cheerfully fulfil;
in all our works your presence find,
and prove your good and perfect will.**

**You may we set at our right hand,
whose eyes our inmost secrets view,
and labour on at your command
and offer all our works to you.**

**Help us to bear your easy yoke,
in every moment watch and pray,
and still to things eternal look,
and hasten to that glorious day.**

**Then with delight may we employ
all that your bounteous grace has given,
and run our earthly course with joy,
and closely walk with you to heaven.**

Commissioning:

You are disciples of Jesus Christ; go faithfully to work in his name.

We have received God's word and now respond faithfully.

We will pray carefully, praise joyfully and listen attentively.

We will receive the challenges of our leaders and work diligently.

We will notice those who are vulnerable and deny the powerful.

We will search out those who are lonely and offer friendship.

We will offer hospitality to those without shelter.

God will strengthen you as disciples of Jesus!

Thanks be to God!⁶

Postlude: *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise, (St. Denio)* arr. by Jack Jones

Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Questions for Reflection:

What God gives us is freely given, so why do we feel the need to be awarded or given something in return?

What has God called you to do in this world as a disciple of Jesus?

⁶ Written by David Sparks, *Gathering*, Pentecost 1 2023, p. 53. Used with permission.

R-W Report

Next Sunday

Sunday, July 21, 2024

Pentecost 10

Communion and A Gratitude Minute

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

Scriptures: Mark 6:30-34, 45-56 • Jesus walks on water

Sermon: Ceasing our need to be busy.

Like the disciples we can become consumed with doing the work of the church, and the work of justice that we end up neglecting our spiritual nourishment. In the passage from Mark, Jesus shows the disciples the importance of ceasing the work in order to come away and break bread together. The practice of Sabbath is about breaking our routine in order to reconnect with one another and the earth. We need to take time to be less structured so that the Holy Spirit is free to move and be and transform our hearts, our minds, our spirit and our lives. What is it that you need to cease being about?

Music: Dr. Allan Bevan, organist

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

ON THE HORIZON

Sun July 21	Sunday Worship - Sanctuary & Online	10:30 am
	Fellowship - Memorial Hall	11:30 am
	Wild Church - Away	1:00 pm
Tues July 23	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
	R-W Board Meeting - Club Room	7:00 pm

R-W News & Notes

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.

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.

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 **today** 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

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 it for you, and to answer any questions you may have following the service on **July 21**. Drop by to learn more about how our marvellous organ works!

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

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](https://www.instagram.com/wildchurchyeg)) for any last-minute location changes. Cancelled if air quality index is 7 or higher.

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.

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

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.

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

WÎHKWÊNTÔWIN (OLIVER) NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL
Neighbourhood Renewal in Wîhkwêntôwin (Oliver) has begun! The program will reconstruct roads and curbs, replace street lights and sidewalks and, where possible, complete active transportation (walk, roll, bike) links. Opportunities to improve City-owned parks and public spaces will also be explored. This new infrastructure will provide enhancements to the neighbourhood for the next 30 to 50 years. The city is asking citizens to fill out the following survey before July 25. Visit edmonton.ca/transportation/on_your_streets/oliver-neighbourhood-renewal for more information and the survey link.

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 *shabat*, 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 July 9, 2012 in Maui. Words written by Rev. Karen Bridges

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