



An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada

2024 Aug 4

Pentecost 12



Welcome and Inclusion

We open our hearts and our church family to all people in our community regardless of differing abilities, ethnicity, economic circumstances, sexual orientation, age, or gender identity. 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: “*Kingsfold*” *Chorale*, English Traditional Melody arr. by Franklin Ashdown
Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Call to Worship:

We have gathered to worship God.

**We have come seeking comfort,
inspiration, community, and insight.**

We have come to open ourselves
to the power of God’s presence in our midst.

**We have come to offer up the seasons
and the turnings in our lives,
and to ask God’s help in our learning and in our growing.¹**

Hymn: *Come, Let Us Sing*

Voices United 222

**Come, let us sing to the Lord our song,
we have stood silently too long;
surely the Lord deserves our praise,
so joyfully thank God for our days.**

**O thirsty soul, come drink at the well;
God’s living waters will never fail.
Surely the Lord will help you to stand,
strengthened and comforted by God’s hand.**

**You dwell among us and cause us to pray,
and walk with each other following your way;
our precious family members will grow
in the fulfilling love they know.**

**Deserts shall bloom and mountains shall sing
to the desire of all living things.
Come, all you creatures, high and low,
let your praises endlessly flow.**

Coming into God’s Presence

Rev. Larry Wright

Prayer of Confession:

From self-righteousness that will not compromise, and from
selfishness that gains from the manipulation of others,
deliver us, O God.

From the lust for money or power that drives to kill,
deliver us, O God.

¹ Celebrate God’s Presence, 32F002

From the arrogance and thoughtlessness
that abuses your good creation,

deliver us, O God.

From trusting in the weapons of war,
and mistrusting the councils of peace,

deliver us, O God.

From hearing, believing, and speaking lies about others,

deliver us, O God.

From suspicions and fears
that stand in the way of reconciliation,

deliver us, O God.

From words and deeds that encourage discord, perpetuate false
assumptions, negative stereotypes, and divisive attitudes; from
everything that contributes to oppression,

deliver us, O God. Amen.²

Words of Assurance:

The God who challenges us is also the God who encourages us.

The God who confronts us is also the God who accepts us.

**Be assured that God is with us even now, accepting, guiding, and
forgiving.³**

God's Holy Word

Hymn: *There Is Room for All*

More Voices 62

**There is room for all in the shadow of God's wing;
there is room for all, sheltered in God's love.**

**And I rejoice and sing, "My refuge and my rock, in whom I trust."
There is room for all, there is room for all!**

Chacun a sa place à l'abri sous l'aile de Dieu;

Chacun a sa place en l'amour de Dieu.

De joie, je chanterai: 'Mon refuge en lequel je me confie.'

Chacun a sa place, chacun a sa place.

**There is room for all in the shadow of God's wing;
there is room for all, sheltered in God's love.**

**And I rejoice and sing, "My refuge and my rock, in whom I trust."
There is room for all, there is room for all!**

Prayer of Illumination:

O God, your Word is a lamp to our feet, and a light to our path. Give
us grace to receive your truth in faith and love. Amen.⁴

² Celebrate God's Presence, 19J001

³ Celebrate God's Presence, 0K004

⁴ Celebrate God's Presence, 20M001

Other Voices:

Rebecca Wright

Surah Al-Hujurat Ayah 13 (Qur'an 49:13) trans. Abdel Haleem
People, We created you all from a single man and single woman, and made you into races and tribes so that you should recognize one another. In God's eyes, the most honoured of you are the ones most mindful of Him: God is all knowing and all aware.

Surah Al-Baqarah 256 (Qur'an 2:256) trans: Abdel Haleem
There is no compulsion in religion: true guidance has become distinct from error, so whoever rejects false gods and believes in God has grasped the firmest hand-hold, one that will never break. God is all hearing and all knowing.

Our Scriptures:

Psalms 15 • A guest in God's house.

Voices United 736

God, who may be a guest in your house,
or who may dwell on your holy mountain?

Sung Refrain:

Within your holy place, O God, who shall a dweller be?

One who leads a blameless life,
who does what is right,
who speaks truthfully from the heart;
one whose tongue is free from malice,
who never wrongs a friend,
who utters no reproach against a neighbour,
one who cannot respect the unworthy,
but honours those who fear God;
who stands by a promise given,
though it be to personal disadvantage;
one who will not take interest on a loan,
nor accepts a bribe to testify against the innocent.
Whoever does this shall never be overthrown.

Sung Refrain:

Within your holy place, O God, who shall a dweller be?

John 4:5-24 • Woman at the well.

So Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him,

and he would have given you living water.” The woman said to him, “Sir you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get the living water. Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flock drank from it?” Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” The woman said to Jesus, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.” Jesus said to her, ‘Go, call your husband, and come back.’ The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, ‘You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!’ The woman said to Jesus, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.” Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Creator neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Creator in spirit and truth, for the Creator seeks such as these to worship God. God is spirit, and those who worship God must worship in spirit and truth.’”

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

Musical Reflection: *Arioso*, by J. S. Bach arr. by Ander

Trisha-Lee Wasmund, clarinet; Margery Wright, flute

Sermon: *In Spirit and Truth*

Rev. Larry Wright

Hymn: *For the Healing of the Nations*

Voices United 678

**For the healing of the nations,
God we pray with one accord;
For a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.**

**Lead us forward into freedom,
from despair your world release;
That, redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase.**

**All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned:**

**Pride of status, race or schooling,
dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
may we hallow life's brief span.**

**You, Creator God, have written
your great name on humankind;
For our growing in your likeness
bring the life of Christ to mind;
That, by our response and service,
earth its destiny may find.**

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:

God of all peoples and God of all places, we present our offerings,

that they may be used to extend your liberating reign. With them, we offer our varied ministries, that each of us may be part of your answer to the cries of the world. Amen.⁵

Hymn: *I Heard the Voice of Jesus*

Voices United 626

**I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down
your head upon my breast.”
I came to Jesus as I was,
weary and worn and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
and he has made me glad.**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“Behold, I freely give
the living water; thirsty one,
stoop down, and drink, and live.”
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched,
my soul revived,
and now I live in him.**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“I am this dark world’s light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise,
and all your day be bright.”
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in the light of life I’ll walk
till travelling days are done.**

1. Commissioning:

Go into the world: dance, laugh, sing, and create.

We go with the assurance of your blessing, O God.

Go into the world: risk, explore, discover, and love.

We go with the assurance of your grace, O God.

Go into the world: believe, hope, struggle, and remember.

We go with the assurance of your love, O God.

Thanks be to God!⁶

Postlude: *My Saviour’s Love*, by Charles Gabriel arr. Kevin Boesiger

Dr. Allan Bevan, piano; David Kelmer, percussion

⁵ Celebrate God’s Presence, 16R001

⁶ Celebrate God’s Presence, OY005

R-W Report

Next Sunday

Sunday, Aug 11, 2024

Discipleship Sunday Pentecost 13

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

Scriptures: Psalm 130 • Out of the depths, I cry to God.

Ephesians 4:25-5:2 • Do not let the sun go down while angry.

Sermon: Anger acknowledged and affirmed.

I wonder why we even try to hide our feelings and true selves from God? God knows our hearts, minds, and spirits and takes our pain, suffering, fears, and anger seriously. Paul is admonishing followers to imitate God, to make choices and strive to live according to the values of Christ and of God. Through Christ we have been set free of our past mistakes and wrong decisions. We have been forgiven and God is inviting us to a new way of life, a new way of living. To imitate God means that we are being asked to focus our attention and our actions that flow from God's character. What actions are worthy of imitating?

Music: Dr. Belinda Chiang, guest organist

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun Aug 4	Sunday Worship - Sanctuary & Online	10:30 am
	Fellowship - Memorial Hall	11:30 am
Mon Aug 5	Church Closed	
Tues Aug 6	Labyrinth Walk - Memorial Hall	11:00 am
	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
	Wisdom Seekers - Room 11	7:00 pm
Sat Aug 10	Community Dinner - Memorial Hall	5:00 pm

ON THE HORIZON

Sun Aug 11	Sunday Worship - Sanctuary & Online	10:30 am
	Fellowship - Memorial Hall	11:30 am
Tues Aug 13	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm

R-W News & Notes

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Our Music Director, Dr. Allan Bevan will be enjoying a brief vacation from August 5-25. He will be away on Sundays August 11, 18, and 25 visiting with family and recharging his batteries in preparation for another inspiring year of music at R.W. in 2024-25. R.W. Choir rehearsals will resume on Wednesday, September 4, and Nova Bells and R.W. Ringers on Thursday, September 12.

THANK YOU

Thanks for sharing your musical gifts with us this morning: Ilona Bevan, David Kelmer, Trisha-Lee Wasmund, and Margery Wright

STAFF

Elyse will be on vacation from **August 6 -18**, Lyra will be covering the office. The Church will be closed on Monday **August 5** for the stat holiday.

LABYRINTH: TAKE TIME FOR RENEWAL

Walk the Labyrinth this Summer in Memorial Hall at Robertson-Wesley United Church. Tuesday **August 6** from 11:00 am - 12:30 pm and Saturday **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 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.

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.

WISDOM SEEKERS

On Tuesday **August 6** from 7:00 - 9:00 pm in Room 11 at R-W there will be a gathering inviting young adults who have graduated from High School up to people in their 40's to engage in an ancient practice called God on Tap. This is an opportunity to meet new people, to talk about our faith, and to have some fun! Bring a snack to share and a beverage of your choice! You are also invited to bring a symbol or object that might help you describe who God is for you to begin our time of sharing. If you have any questions feel free to contact Rev. Karen Bridges at the church.

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.

In the Community

NARAMATA CENTRE

The Naramata Centre, founded in 1947, is a registered ministry of The United Church of Canada. Naramata offers courses, retreats, and intergenerational summer programming. Open to people of all ages, Naramata Centre is an inclusive, welcoming place to connect and deepen in mind, body and spirit. You can find more info on naramatacentresociety.org or check out the pamphlets in the rack near the kitchen.

Worship Notes

In the Multi-faith Calendar, available from the Edmonton Interfaith Centre for Education and Action, whose office is now in Room 10 today is marked as the start of Interfaith Awareness Week. It has been suggested that interfaith awareness and interreligious understanding involves seeking wisdom in three ways, by going deeper into the faiths of others; deeper into one's own faith; and deeper into understanding the common good. In this world we share with so many who believe "differently," we must find ways to work together in spite of our differences. What is interfaith awareness for a Christian within The United Church of Canada?

Cover Image

Cover image was taken by Rev. Larry Wright on July 12, 2016 in Guadalajara, Mexico at the Annual Meeting and Conference of the North American Interfaith Network. It is a detail of a quilt created by 70 Israeli and Palestinian women as a demonstration of their desire and call for peace. It was on display throughout the Conference.

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

