



*An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada*

2024 Aug 25

Life Passages

Pentecost 15



May we serve  
the Lord  
with compassion,  
with peace,  
and with love.

### 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.

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## **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.

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10209 123 St, Edmonton T5N 1N3 780-482-1587  
mail@rwuc.org      www.rwuc.org

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## *Friends in Christ*

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Announcements at 10:15 AM

Prelude

Raydene Koch, piano

Embracing Our Spirit

Call to Worship and Prayer of Approach:

All week long, you have been serving as a disciple of Jesus in this community. Jesus sent you, with the gift of the Holy Spirit, into the world to be a sign, a witness, and a foretaste of the reign of God. I invite you now to take a few moments to go over that week: gather your experiences of this past week together and then, intentionally, offer them to God. Ask God to take them, bless them, and to transform them so that they may become instruments of God's healing power in the world.

*(a time of silent reflection)*

Let us pray together:

**God of unending love, Saviour to whom we belong, Spirit of truth, you, we worship; you, we love; you, we trust. We offer you the week that is past. You, alone, know how you have worked in and through our moments and our days. We pray for your transforming power to be present among us and through us, that others may experience your light, your goodness, and your truth, in our lives and, experiencing it there, may open their lives to you. Amen.<sup>1</sup>**

Hymn: *I've Got Peace like a River*

*Voices United 577*

**I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river in my soul.  
I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river in my soul.**

**I've got joy like a fountain,  
I've got joy like a fountain,  
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul.  
I've got joy like a fountain,  
I've got joy like a fountain,  
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul.**

**I've got love like an ocean,  
I've got love like an ocean,  
I've got love like an ocean in my soul.  
I've got love like an ocean,  
I've got love like an ocean,  
I've got love like an ocean in my soul.**

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<sup>1</sup> Written by Christine Jerrett, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1, 2019 p. 36. Used with permission.

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## *Life Passages*

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Sacrament of Baptism:

Prayer for the Holy Spirit (*in unison*)

**Pour out, O God, your Holy Spirit upon us, and upon this water, that this font may become your womb of new birth, our fount of blessing and source of grace. Amen.**

Congregation's Promise (*standing*)

**We will continue to support you, walk with you, and grow with you. With God's help we will live out our baptism as a loving community in Jesus Christ: nurturing one another in faith, upholding one another in prayer, encouraging one another in God's work.**

Recommitment: *A New Creed*

*Voices United 918*

*Please note that the last line of the creed (omitted in some of the hymn books) is:*

**We are not alone.**

**We live in God's world.**

**We believe in God who has created and is creating,**

**Who has come in Jesus the word made flesh,**

**To reconcile and make new.**

**Who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the church;**

**To celebrate God's presence**

**To live with respect in creation**

**To love and serve others**

**To seek justice and resist evil**

**To proclaim Jesus crucified and risen**

**Our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death**

**God is with us,**

**We are not alone.**

**Thanks be to God.**

Blessing: (*sung*)

*Voices United 454*

**May God who creates you give you light;**

**May God who sustains you make you wise;**

**May God who protects you give you joy;**

**May God who surrounds you give you peace.**

Prayer of Confession:

Loving God, we come before you in the knowledge that we sometimes ignore your call, especially when it comes to us through unexpected voices.

**Forgive us when we close ourselves to you. Forgive us and keep encouraging us to open fully - hearts, minds, and spirits - to your loving ways as you call us forward in faith. Amen.<sup>2</sup>**

Words of Assurance:

People of God, receive the Good News! God renews us with the gift of peace that only God can give. Through God's peace, the hurts and pains of our soul are healed. Our ability to love others is refreshed, and we will witness to others the love that is at the heart of God's peace.

**Thanks be to God!<sup>3</sup>**

Gratitude Bucket (June/July/August)

Hymn: *I Have Called You by Your Name*

*More Voices 161*

**I have called you by your name, you are mine;**

**I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.**

**I will not abandon you; all my promises are true.**

**You are gifted, called, and chosen; you are mine.**

**I will help you learn my name as you go;**

**read it written in my people, help them grow.**

**Pour the water in my name, speak the word your soul can claim,  
offer Jesus' body given long ago.**

**I know you will need my touch as you go;**

**feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.**

**Like the woman reaching out, choosing faith in spite of doubt,  
hold the hem of Jesus' robe, then let it go.**

**I have given you a name, it is mine;**

**I have given you my Spirit as a sign.**

**With my wonder in your soul, make my wounded children whole;  
go and tell my precious people they are mine.**

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## *God's Holy Word*

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Prayer of Illumination:

Living God, as we listen to these old texts, inspired by you, may we listen with inquisitive minds and compassionate hearts.

**May your words of wisdom speak to us in unexpected ways and unexpected places in our lives in today's world.**

May your wisdom move, illuminate, deepen, inspire, and motivate us to act in your world, of which we are a part. Amen.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Written by Heather McClure, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1, 2019, p. 42. Used with permission.

<sup>3</sup> Written by Sandy Ferguson, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1, 2024, p. 43. Used with permission.

<sup>4</sup> Written by Sheryl McLeod, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1 2021, p. 50. Used with permission.

## Scriptures:

Jane Chesebrough

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18 • Choose whom you will serve

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. “Now therefore revere the Lord and serve the Lord in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. God protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for the Lord is our God.”

Ephesians 6:10-20 • Put on the whole armour of God

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of the Lord’s power. Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet, put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

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

Musical Reflection

Raydene Koch, piano

Sermon: *Peace Filled Service*

Rev. Karen Bridges

**Make me a channel of your peace:  
where there is hatred, let me bring your love;  
where there is injury, your healing power,  
and where there's doubt, true faith in you:**

**O Spirit, grant that I may never seek  
so much to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love with all my soul.**

**Make me a channel of your peace:  
where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;  
where there is darkness, only light;  
and where there's sadness, ever joy.**

**O Spirit, grant that I may never seek  
so much to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love with all my soul.**

**Make me a channel of your peace.  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
in giving to all that we receive,  
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.**

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*Grateful Response*

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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](mailto: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:

**Teach us, God, to offer the very best of who we are in the service of your will through the ministry and outreach of this community of faith: may we offer hope, may we offer joy, may we offer reconciliation in a world so much in need. Receive what we give for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.<sup>5</sup>**

Hymn: *For the Fruit of All Creation*

*Voices United 227*

**For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.  
For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.  
For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,  
silent growth while we are sleeping,  
future needs in earth's safe keeping, thanks be to God.  
In the just reward of labour, God's will is done.  
In the help we give our neighbour, God's will is done.  
In our worldwide task of caring  
for the hungry and despairing,  
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.  
For the harvest of the Spirit, thanks be to God.  
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.  
For the wonders that astound us,  
for the truth that still confound us,  
most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.**

Commissioning:

You are disciples of the Jesus way. Follow carefully, follow faithfully. Give thanks frequently, accept thanks with humility. Forgive wholeheartedly, accept forgiveness willingly. Give support generously, accept support gracefully. Work for justice unceasingly, practise just ways without limits. Acknowledge those who inspire you, find your own ways of inspiration.

**We are disciples of the Jesus way. We are ready to follow carefully and faithfully. Amen.<sup>6</sup>**

Postlude

Raydene Koch, piano

Question for reflection:

As imitators of Christ how do we help to reconcile within the world and bring about peace for all?

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<sup>5</sup> Written by Kate Crawford, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1 2015, p. 38. Used with permission.

<sup>6</sup> Written by David Sparks, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1 2017, p. 41. Used with permission.



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## *R-W Report*

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**Next Sunday**  
**Sunday, Sept 1, 2024**  
**Pentecost 16**

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

**Scriptures:** James 1:17-27 • Be quick to listen and slow to speak.

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 • It is from within that defiles.

**Sermon:** Inner Peace

On this Labour Day weekend we are reminded that God's ways are not always our ways. In our daily lives and daily work Jesus reminds us of the importance of living a life of understanding, compassion and peace. And though there are many things in the world that try and distract us from this purpose, our faith in God and the teachings of Jesus help us to be intentional rather than reactionary. When our inner spirit is at peace, what comes from within will help to bring peace to the world. When our inner spirit is hurt, filled with anger, fear, and distrust, what comes out of our mouths, and through our actions can lead to harm in the world. What helps you to attain and keep your inner peace?

**Music:** Dr. Allan Bevan, organist; Catherine Bevan, handbell soloist

### **WEEK AT A GLANCE**

Sun Aug 25	Sunday Worship - <b>Sanctuary &amp; Online</b>	10:30 am
	Art & Book Sale - <b>Lawn</b>	11:00 am
	Fellowship - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	11:30 am
Tues Aug 27	Scripture Reflections - <b>Club Room &amp; Zoom</b>	12:00 pm

### **ON THE HORIZON**

Sun Sept 1	Sunday Worship - <b>Sanctuary &amp; Online</b>	10:30 am
	Fellowship - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	11:30 am
Mon Sept 2	Church closed	
Tues Sept 3	Scripture Reflections - <b>Club Room &amp; Zoom</b>	12:00 pm
	DEAP Meeting - <b>Club Room</b>	5:30 pm
Wed Sept 4	Canterbury Worship - <b>Away</b>	10:30 am
	R-W Choir - <b>Lower Hall</b>	7:30 pm
Thurs Sept 5	Nova Bells - <b>Lower Hall</b>	5:30 pm
	R-W Ringers - <b>Lower Hall</b>	7:00 pm

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

#### **KIDS CHURCH TEAM (5-6 MORE PEOPLE)**

We are seeking people who are passionate about children and toddlers ages 0-12. This team will help the children learn about Jesus, and God, through a variety of learning styles. This program happens on Sunday morning

after a short time in worship. Curriculum is provided for the team. We need people to teach, and to assist the teacher.

## **R-W News & Notes**

### **THANK YOU**

We had a terrific bake sale last Sunday and raised \$671.75 for the R-W Anniversary Legacy Fund! A heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported the sale.

### **STAFF & HOURS**

Dr. Allan Bevan, Music Director is on vacation from **August 5-25**, 2024. Thanks to Raydene Koch for sharing her gift of music today. Brad Campbell, Facilities Manager, is away on vacation until **September 3rd**. The church will be closed Monday, **Sept 2** in observance of Labour Day.

### **YOUTH LEADERS NEEDED**

Do you remember back when you were in Jr. High and High School, how important it was to have adults that cared about you, who were not your parents? We are creating a Youth Leader Team who are willing to spend time with the youth of the church, building relationships, talking about faith, and willing to have fun, and deep conversations. The youth program runs from September to early June. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity and the time commitment please contact Rev. Karen Bridges at [karen.bridges@rwuc.org](mailto:karen.bridges@rwuc.org)

### **#BLESSED**

It is time to reconnect and explore our faith together! On Sunday **Sept 8** children and youth are invited to the early part of the worship service as we take time to bless backpacks and other items that are important on our journey in life. We will take time to recommit ourselves to sharing our faith with one another while listening for where God is calling Robertson-Wesley to live out our call and commitment in the world.

### **UPCOMING CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

On Sunday **Sept 8th** immediately after the worship service (11:30 am) in the sanctuary there will be a Congregational Meeting to vote on the recommendation of the Search Committee in regards to the 2 half time ministry positions as outlined in the new ministry model which was approved on June 4, 2023. This will be the only agenda item. Copies of these Minister Job Descriptions will be provided on that Sunday. If you have questions please speak with Jonathan Gregory - R-W Board.

### **CLOTHING SALE**

Save the date! The New to You Clothing Sale will be held on Saturday **September 28th**. Donations of clothing, shoes, jewellery and other accessories can be dropped off at the church, prior to the sale. Unsold items will be donated to the Bissell Centre.

## 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](mailto:mail@rwuc.org) for the Zoom link. Come with a bible and a journal, or simply yourself! Tune in when you can.

## WILD CHURCH

Wild Church is taking a small break for the month of August, but will be back in September! For more information, check out [wildchurchyeg.org](http://wildchurchyeg.org) or [@wildchurchyeg](https://www.instagram.com/wildchurchyeg) on Instagram.

## MUSIC PROGRAMS

R-W Choir rehearsals will resume on Wednesday, **September 4**, at 7:30. This is a good time to become a member! Nova Bells (5:30) and R-W Ringers (7pm) rehearsals resume on Thursday, **September 12**. More information from Dr. Allan Bevan at: [music@rwuc.org](mailto:music@rwuc.org)

## In the Community

### UCW FALL RALLY

The United Church Women's Fall Rally is fast approaching. Gather with us at Stony Plain United Church (5012 51 Ave, Stony Plain), Saturday, **September 14**, 2024. Registration 9:15 AM. Cost \$10, bring a bag lunch. The theme is "Living with Respect in Creation." Theme speaker, Tracey Smith "Ecology of Bees". With a background in beekeeping, she is now researching bees at the U of A. Please let the office know if you are interested in attending before **September 10**, 2024.

### HEAR THE LATEST RESEARCH ON BREAST CANCER

The Society of International Women Educators, DKG is hearing an interactive zoom talk from Calgary by a World Fellowship student on her impressive, up-to-date research on breast cancer. The event will occur on Saturday, **September 7** in Room 11 at 9:30 AM. If you are a woman educator, active or retired, in any area: the typical school or university system, HR, library, health, physical activity, religion, etc, we'd love to have you come. Please reserve at [lornaber@telus.net](mailto:lornaber@telus.net) so we have enough coffee and goodies.

## NOT FALLING FOR YOU

*Not Falling for You* is a free physical activity program for adults 50 and above, aimed at reducing the risk of falling through mobility improving exercises. R-W is partnering with Alberta Health Services to host these classes on **Thursday mornings** at 10:00 am from **September 19 to December 12**. To register, email [Injury.PreventionEdmonton@ahs.ca](mailto:Injury.PreventionEdmonton@ahs.ca) or for more information go to [findingbalancealberta.ca/nffy/](http://findingbalancealberta.ca/nffy/)

## KINDRED HEARTS CAMBODIA FOUNDATION

Please join Kindred Hearts Cambodia Foundation at their 10th annual Live and Silent Auction fundraiser on Friday, **October 18, 2024!** There will be live music by Erin Kay, as well as refreshments, awesome auction items and exciting updates on KHC programs! The event will be held at a new, larger venue, the Woodvale Community Facility (Millwoods Golf Course), and early bird tickets are now on sale for only \$20, until September 20th. You can purchase tickets at [eventbrite.ca](http://eventbrite.ca) or text Leanne Foff 780-278-0603. See you there!

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### *Worship Notes*

On this Sunday we celebrate Life passages. Baptism is one of the two sacraments of The United Church of Canada. We baptize people of any age into the covenant community of Jesus Christ. As followers of Christ, we promise to support one another on our journey of faith. We are called to share our faith with one another through not only our words but also our actions. A sacrament is something God does, and a ritual is something we do. Anthony Robinson writes, "We all enter into the community of faith and the Christian life through the waters, and new birth of baptism. Through this sacrament we experience God's grace and feel the love of God surrounding us through both water and the Holy Spirit."

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### *Cover Image*

Cover image is a picture of art that Laura David Foster created for R-W back in 2020. The the hands on the dove are a depiction of God's hands comforting and lifting us up so that we too can serve the world in love.

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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