



An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada

2024 Sept 1

Pentecost 16

May the peace of God be your peace.
May the love of God be the love you show.
May the joy of God be the joy you know,
and may the world that God would see
be found in you.
- Neil McLaren



Welcome and Inclusion

We open our hearts and our church family to all people in our community regardless of economic circumstances, sexual orientation, age, gender identity, differing abilities, or ethnicity. 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: *Voluntary in F*, by William Hine
I. Adagio II. Allegro

Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Call to Worship:

We gather with one another in this place that has held the fears, the joys, and the celebrations of so many for so long.

Rain or shine, we gather in holy community to sing, to pray, to walk in the way. Young and old, we gather, knowing that there is more in this life than the nuts and bolts of daily living, knowing that your love sets all things in motion.

Let us breathe in your presence...

(breathe)

Yes, it is good to be here...

(breathe)

Amen.¹

Hymn: *Come to My Heart*

Voices United 661

Come to my heart, Lord Jesus; teach me to walk in your way.

Come to my heart, Lord Jesus; come to my heart today.

Give me peace and joy that only you can bring.

Come to my heart, Lord Jesus; give me a song to sing.

Fill me with love, Lord Jesus; teach me to walk in your way.

Fill me with love, Lord Jesus; fill me with love today.

Give me peace and joy that only you can bring.

Fill me with love, Lord Jesus; give me a song to sing.

Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus; teach me to walk in your way.

Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus; Answer my prayer today.

Give me peace and joy that only you can bring.

Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus, give me a song to sing.

Coming into God's Presence

Prayer of Commitment:

As a covenant people, we pledge ourselves anew to being in relationship with God, the author and finisher of our faith. We take pleasure in God's love for us, and celebrate the ongoing prophetic tradition. We honour God's covenant that embraces the intimacy of worship and the passion for justice.

¹ Written by Sheryl Spencer, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1, 2019 p. 34. Used with permission.

We vow, Gracious One, to work for social justice causes on an individual level. When we stray from your love and break our covenantal vows, please give us the strength to see our lapses and welcome your forgiving love and grace in humility and joy.

We come before your presence, sometimes with confusion and pain, sometimes with sadness, and usually with thanksgiving. Help us to be your covenant people. By faith we acknowledge that you are the potter and we are the clay. You are the refiner even when we cannot love ourselves.

By your grace we know we are being molded and fixed for the work of all that is blessed and good and loving and kind. Amen.²

Hymn: *Jesus Bids Us Shine*

Voices United 585

**Jesus bids us shine with a pure, clear light,
like a little candle burning in the night.**

**In this world of darkness, so let us shine,
you in your small corner, and I in mine.**

**Jesus bids us shine, first of all for him;
well he sees and knows it if our light grows dim:**

**Jesus walks beside us to help us shine,
you in your small corner, and I in mine.**

**Jesus bids us shine, then, for all around;
many kinds of darkness in this world are found:
sin, and want and sorrow; so we must shine,
you in your small corner, and I in mine.**

God's Holy Word

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.³

Scriptures:

Pat Austin

James 1:17-27 • Be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger.

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Creator of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of God's own purpose God gave

² Cheryl A. Kirk-Duggan, *The Undivided Soul*; Helping Congregations Connect Body and Spirit. (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2001), p.71.

³ Written by Sheryl McLeod, *Gathering*, Pentecost 1 2021, p. 50. Used with permission.

us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of God's creatures. You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act - they will be blessed in their doing. If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Creator, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 • It is from within a person is defiled.

Now when the Pharisees and some of the Scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; (and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the Scribes asked Jesus, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" Jesus said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, 'These people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' You abandon the commandments of God and hold to human tradition." Then Jesus called to the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile." For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

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

Musical Reflection: *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love*, arr. by Robert Powell
Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Sermon: *Inner Peace*

Rev. Karen Bridges

**Breathe on me, breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.**

**Breathe on me, breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until my will is one with thine,
to do and to endure.**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God,
till I am wholly thine,
until this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God,
so shall I never die;
but live with thee the perfect life
of thine eternity.**

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:

We have shared these gifts as a symbol of the ways in which we seek to be a presence in our world for the well-being of others. Helps us, God, to keep our focus on the needs of others and the well-being of our neighbours, as we go forward in Christ's name. Amen.⁴

Hymn: *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

Voices United 264

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise;
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes;
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.**

**Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish, like leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.**

**Thou reignest in glory, thou rulest in light;
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all praise we would render, O help us to see
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.**

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: *Vocalise*, by Sergei Rachmaninoff, arr. Catherine Bevan

Catherine Bevan, handbells, Dr. Allan Bevan, piano

Question for reflection:

What helps you to attain inner peace?

Where are the peaceful moments in your life at this time?

⁴ Written by Bill Steadman, *Gathering*, Pentecost 1 2019, p. 49. Used with permission.

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

R-W Report

Next Sunday
Sunday, Sept 8, 2024
Pentecost 17
#Blessed

Children and Youth: Children begin in the sanctuary, then go to Kids' Church. Youth meet in the youth room at the beginning of the service.

Scripture: James 2:1-10, 11-17 • Rich in Faith

Mark 7:24-37 • A Syrophenician Woman's Faith.

Sermon: #Blessed – the richness of faith communities.

For anyone on social media, you will recognize #Blessed. People use this statement all the time to share how blessed they feel, and it is often a sign of a person who is successful in life. The scriptures explore what it means to be rich in faith. It can be said that earthly blessings are temporary, but God's blessings come in the form of a deeper and richer faith. As we start another program year, we will explore what a community of faith is and what it is made up of. How will our faith guide us, inspire us, and bless us in this fall? What invisible barriers need to be removed in order to prosper as a community of faith?

Music: Dr. Allan Bevan, organist; Choir of Robertson-Wesley

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

ON THE HORIZON

Sun Sept 8	Sunday Worship - Sanctuary & Online	10:30 am
	Fellowship - Memorial Hall	11:30 am
	Youth Group - Youth Room	10:30 am
	Kids' Church - Garden Patch & Air Room	10:45 am
Mon Sept 9	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	7:00 pm
Tues Sept 10	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
	Property Committee Meeting - Room 11	1:00 pm
	UCW - Memorial Hall	1:30 pm
	Finance Meeting - Club Room	7:00 pm
Wed Sept 11	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	1:30 pm
	R-W Choir - Lower Hall	7:30 pm
Thurs Sept 12	Mens' Group - Memorial Hall	10:00 am
	Nova Bells - Lower Hall	5:30 pm
	R-W Ringers - Lower Hall	7:00 pm
Sat Sept 14	Community Dinner - Memorial Hall	5:00 pm

Volunteer Opportunities

NEW VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Check out the latest volunteer opportunities at rwuc.org/volunteer or in Memorial Hall! In Memorial Hall you'll find listings of all the volunteer positions available and you can sign up using the tablet right there!

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.

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

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES - MUSIC PROGRAMS

R-W Choir rehearsals will resume on Wednesday, **September 4**, at 7:30. We are looking for one or two new singers, and now is a great time to become a member! Choir is a great place to be! **Nova Bells** (5:30) and **R-W Ringers** (7pm) rehearsals resume on Thursday, **September 12**. Please see posters around the church or on the website for brief descriptions of the groups. **Instrumental Ensemble** - Dr. Bevan is assessing interest in developing an instrumental ensemble to perform on an occasional basis at church services and events. Do you play an instrument? (winds, strings, brass, percussion, keyboard), can you read music for your instrument? And do you have an interest in occasional music making in church with other instrumentalists? (preludes, postludes, hymn accompaniments) If so, on September 29 following the service, we will meet for an hour to look at some music for church ensemble! Please let Dr. Bevan know if you are planning on attending so music can be prepared for you. Questions? Dr. Allan Bevan at: music@rwuc.org or, let's chat after service!

R-W News & Notes

STAFF & HOURS

Brad Campbell, Facilities Manager, is away on vacation until **Sept 3rd**. The church will be closed Monday, **Sept 2** in observance of Labour Day.

THANK YOU

The second book and art sale fundraiser on August 25 was a great success and raised \$1,730! 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.

TODAY'S MUSIC

Allan Bevan's daughter Catherine, has arranged Rachmaninoff's beautiful "Vocalise" as a handbell solo which she shares with us this morning. Her arrangement needs a lot of concentration as it requires her to play 20 different bells from the octaves C5-C7 over the course of the piece. Catherine is an award winning composer/arranger of music for handbells. Thank you for sharing your talents with us today!

WHY DO WE SING IN CHURCH?

Have you ever wondered why we sing in services, or what a hymn, anthem, introit, or motet is? Then join Dr. Allan Bevan in the chancel following the services on Sunday, **September 15** and **22** to begin unravelling the amazing mysteries of Christian song. On the 15th we will be taking a brief tour of how and why singing evolved in the church, while on the 22nd we will be investigating our United Church hymn books. Each session will last for approximately a half hour and will begin about 10 minutes after the conclusion of the service. All are welcome.

KIDS' CHURCH AND YOUTH GROUP REGISTRATION

Each year we ask that parents with children and youth fill out a registration form so that we have up to date information on age, grade, allergies and any other concerns that parents might have. Parents and Children will be invited down to the Kids' Church rooms for a few minutes on **Sept 8** for registration.

BETWEEN THE AISLES

Hot off the presses, a new issue of Between the Aisles featuring book reviews, poetry, volunteer opportunities, and church programming listings for September start-up. Grab your copy today from the racks near the entrances.

#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.

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.

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 or for more information go to findingbalancealberta.ca/nffy/

SPIRITED ART STUDIO

Spirited Art Studio is a free secular community art program providing an informal, welcoming and inclusive space where we come together to nurture our creative spirit through art and craft activities. There are as many pathways to creativity as there are individuals! Projects are diverse and fun, no previous experience is required and all supplies are provided! Learn a new process or bring your own projects to work on. Come see what adventures await you as you create, learn and make new connections. Starting up on **Sept 8! Mondays** from 7:00 - 8:30 pm and **Wednesdays** 1:30 - 3:00 pm.

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 two student therapists who will provide free to low cost therapy by appointment. **Wednesdays** 12:00-4:00 pm and 5:00-8:00 pm starting on Sept 4th. To register email Ofure ofure@yegfamilycounselling.com for the 12-4 slot or Jodie jodie@yegfamilycounselling.com for the 5-8 slot.

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.**

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 or text Leanne Foff 780-278-0603. See you there!

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 so we have enough coffee and goodies.

Worship Notes

We are presently using the 3 year lectionary which provides worship leaders in the Christian Church with set scripture readings each week. Each of the three years will focus on one of the three gospels, Matthew, Mark, or Luke. The gospel of John is spread out over the three year lectionary. We are presently in Year B which follows the gospel of Mark. We will move to Year C at the beginning of Advent which starts on Dec 1 which will then focus on the gospel of Luke. The gospel of Mark is recognized as the earliest written gospel included in the Bible. Mark presents Jesus as the Son of God whose ministry was characterized by a succession of mighty words that were signs of the presence of God's power and kingdom. It is the shortest of the four gospels and depicts Jesus as constantly active.

Cover Image

Cover image: Fountain Water Flow by Tama on Pixabay words from the hymn “May the Peace of God Be Your Peace” More Voices 222.

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