

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

The flowers in the Sanctuary today are placed in memory of a lovely man, Scott Leonard Davidchuk, from his family in Toronto, Phillip, Laurie & Kenzo

Announcements at 10:15 AM

Prelude: *Voluntary in G*, I. Largo II. Vivace, by John Stanley Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Call to Worship:

We gather as a community of faith

with hope in our hearts.

We come to give thanks for all that God has provided

with gratitude in our hearts.

We worship this day remembering that we are all God's children

with peace in our hearts.

We proclaim our faith in you, O God

with love in our hearts.

Amen.

Hymn: *Come All You People*

More Voices 2

Come all you people, come and praise your Maker,

come all you people, come and praise your Maker,

come all you people, come and praise your Maker,

come now and worship your God. (3x)

Coming into God's Presence & Blessing:

Creator God, as this water is poured we listen to its nurturing powers, we listen to its transforming powers; we listen to its affirming powers.

May God's spirit be upon us and these waters as we bless our symbols of learning, new people in our midst, and we recommit to living out our call in the world together. May our response celebrate your presence, may we live with respect in creation, as we love and serve others, and seek justice and resist evil. May we encourage one another to ask questions as we walk with one another in faith. O God we trust in you. Amen.

Prayer of Commitment:

Gracious and Loving God, we come before your presence to reflect on our relationship with you, to experience renewal in this moment of faith, and to recommit to living a life of love. We invite you to help us create a safe place where all are accepted and loved for who they are.

Give us the strength and courage to act on our faith, and serve the world in love. As we learn and grow together may we discover who you are, who Jesus is and how the Holy Spirit is at work in the world. We trust in you O God, and pray that we answer your call in a way that is acceptable to you. Amen.

God's Holy Word

Prayer of Illumination Sung: *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Voices United 951

The musical score is written in 6/8 time and consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The first system includes the lyrics: 'San - to, san - to, san - to. Mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra! Mi Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you! My'. The second system includes the lyrics: 'co - ra - zón te sa - be de - cir: San - to e - res Dios! heart is glad to say the words: You are ho - ly, God!'. Chord symbols (C, G7, F, Am) are placed above the vocal line. The bass line provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

Scriptures:

Kyra Murdoch

James 2:1-17 • Rich in Faith

My dear siblings, do you with your acts of favouritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen my beloved siblings, has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kin-dom that God has promised to those who love God? But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. (For the one who said "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgement will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgement.) What good is it, my siblings, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a sibling is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily

needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

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

From there Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. Jesus entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. Jesus said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then Jesus said to her, "For saying that, you may go - the demon has left your daughter." So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon was gone. Then Jesus returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged Jesus to lay his hand on him. Jesus took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," That is, "Be opened." And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered the, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.

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

Sung Response: *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Voices United 951

The musical score is written in 8/8 time and consists of two systems. The first system has a treble clef and a bass clef. The treble clef part has notes for the vocal line, and the bass clef part has notes for the accompaniment. Chord symbols are placed above the treble clef staff: C, G7, C, F, C. The lyrics are: "San - to, san - to, san - to. Mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra! Mi Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you! My". The second system also has a treble clef and a bass clef. The treble clef part has notes for the vocal line, and the bass clef part has notes for the accompaniment. Chord symbols are placed above the treble clef staff: F, C, Am, F, G7, C. The lyrics are: "co - ra - zón te sa - be de - cir: San - to e - res Dios! heart is glad to say the words: You are ho - ly, God!

Anthem: *Psalm 84*, by Hal H. Hopson

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Sermon: *#Blessed - the richness of a faith community!*

Rev. Karen Bridges

Hymn: *In Christ There Is No East or West*

Voices United 606

**In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one great family of love
throughout the whole wide earth.**

**In him shall true hearts everywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord
close binding humankind.**

**Join hands, then, peoples of the faith,
whate'er your race may be;
all children of the living God
are surely kin to me.**

**In Christ now meet both east and west,
in him meet south and north:
all Christ like souls are one in him
throughout the whole wide earth.**

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.

**We give you but your own,
whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is yours alone,
we give it gratefully.**

Offering Prayer:

In gratitude, we offer our givings this day.

For the work of volunteers,

we are forever thankful.

For the untold gifts offered in the past,

we are forever grateful.

By the Word made flesh,

we are forever inspired.

Through our praise and our gifts, we offer this prayer:

**may these gifts be used to fulfill the building of your kin-dom here
on earth. Amen.¹**

Hymn: *Bless Now, O God, the Journey*

Voices United 633

**Bless now, O God, the journey
that all your people make,
the path through noise and silence,
the way of give and take.
The trail is found in desert
and winds the mountain round,
then leads beside still waters
the road where faith is found.**

**Bless sojourners and pilgrims
who share this winding way,
whose hope burns through the terrors,
whose love sustains the day.
We yearn for holy freedom
while often we are bound.
Together we are seeking
the road where faith is found.**

**Divine Eternal Lover
you meet us on the road.
We wait for lands of promise
where milk and honey flow.
But waiting not for places
you meet us all around,
Our covenant is written
on roads, as faith is found.**

¹ Written by Jim McKean, *Gathering*, Pentecost 2 2024, p. 41. Used with permission.

Commissioning:

Our time of worship draws to a close and we prepare ourselves to return to our everyday tasks. We are strengthened because we have gathered as a community of Christ's followers. We are enlivened, for we have heard the good news. We are encouraged, and we will go and make a difference.

May the wonder of God's love transform everything you do and express. May the mystery of Christ's risen presence guide you in all your actions. May the delight of the Spirit's glory rest gently upon you, filling you with joy, this day and forevermore. So be it. Amen.²

Postlude: *Fanfare on "McKee"*, arr. by Matthew Corl Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Question for reflection:

How will our faith guide us, inspire us, and bless us in the fall?

What invisible barriers need to be removed in order to prosper as a community of faith?

R-W Report

Next Sunday

Sunday, Sept 15, 2024

Pentecost 18

Sacrament of Communion and A Gratitude Moment

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 3:13-4:3 • Wisdom from above is gentle and peaceable.

Mark 9:30-37 • Whoever welcomes a child, welcomes me.

Sermon: Curbing cravings; yielding wisdom and good fruit.

Curbing our human cravings for power, recognition and status is an everyday challenge for most of us. Our survival instinct is an important part of being human but at times it does not serve us well. "God made humans to live and move and have their being in God.... God transforms, and calls us to protect the vulnerable, to pray for deliverance from evil, to work with God for the healing of the world, that all might have abundant life." What is our purpose as people of faith? God wants us to love, to be kind and to be equitable, to share in the abundance of all that we have received. How will we live out the call to "show by your good life that your words are done with gentleness born of wisdom?" What does it look like to welcome Jesus into our lives?

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

² Written by Laura J. Turnbull, **Gathering**, Pentecost 2 2024, p. 43. Used with permission.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

| | | |
|---------------|---|--------------------|
| Sun Sept 8 | Sunday Worship - Sanctuary & Online | 10:30 am |
| | Youth Group - Youth Room | 10:30 am |
| | Kids' Church - Garden Patch & Air Room | 10:45 am |
| | Congregational Meeting - Sanctuary | 11:30 am |
| | Fellowship - Memorial Hall | 11:30 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 | Counselling - Club Room | 12:00 pm & 5:00 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 |
| | Youth Group - Lower Hall | 7:00 pm |

ON THE HORIZON

| | | |
|---------------|---|--------------------|
| Sun Sept 15 | Sunday Worship - Sanctuary & Online | 10:30 am |
| | Youth Group - Youth Room | 10:30 am |
| | Kids' Church - Garden Patch & Air Room | 10:45 am |
| | Fellowship - Memorial Hall | 11:30 am |
| | Music Workshop - Sanctuary | 11:30 am |
| | Wild Church - Away | 1:30 pm |
| Mon Sept 16 | Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio | 7:00 pm |
| Tues Sept 17 | Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom | 12:00 pm |
| | R-W Board Meeting - Room 11 | 7:00 pm |
| Wed Sept 18 | Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio | 1:30 pm |
| | Counselling - Club Room | 12:00 pm & 5:00 pm |
| | R-W Choir - Lower Hall | 7:30 pm |
| Thurs Sept 19 | Not Falling for You - Memorial Hall | 10:00 am |
| | Nova Bells - Lower Hall | 5:30 pm |
| | R-W Ringers - Lower Hall | 7:00 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!

YOUTH LEADERS NEEDED

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

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.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES - MUSIC PROGRAMS

R-W Choir rehearsals resumed on Wednesday, **September 4**, at 7:30. We are looking for one or two new singers, and now is still 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? If so, on **September 29** following the service, we will meet for an hour to look at music for church ensemble! Let Dr. Bevan know if you are planning to attend so music can be prepared. Questions? Dr. Allan Bevan at: music@rwuc.org or, let's chat after service!

R-W News & Notes

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.

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.

WILD CHURCH

Wild church is back for another program year! Wild church is a monthly outdoor worship during which we build awareness with how the natural world around us is already in a state of worship, and we join into the conversation. Our next gathering is **Sept 15** at the Paul Kane Park fountain at 1:00 pm. All are welcome. Rain or shine! Check out our Instagram page @wildchurchyeg

WISDOM SEEKERS

On Monday, **Sept 23** 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.

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. To register email Ofure ofure@yegfamilycounselling.com for the 12-4 slot or Jodie jodie@yegfamilycounselling.com for the 5-8 slot.

THE ROBERTSON WESLEY MEN'S GROUP

The R-W Men's Group is having its first fall meeting of 2024 on Thursday **September 12th**, at the Church, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm in Memorial Hall. The agenda will consist of continued discussions regarding finalizing activities which will be undertaken by the group over the coming five months. All are welcome. Bring snacks if available - coffee will be provided. Any questions call Louis Berlinguette at 780-910-4486

GREEN BITES

Perhaps many people haven't accepted that Climate Change is a fact because we can't see most of the energy we use. We don't see the gasoline that is used for transportation, and neither do we see electricity. Perhaps we can begin to think about the energy that went into many of the products that contribute to high levels of consumption (i.e. high levels of emissions). For instance, when we choose a slice of toast over a plain slice of bread, we don't see the materials that were used to manufacture the toaster. Let's use the month of September to think about not just the cost or convenience of something, but the energy used and the emissions produced by its manufacture. - The Environmental Stewardship Group

TOILET PAPER NEEDED FOR FOOD BANK

Quite often we are asked by Food Bank clients if we have toilet paper, or feminine hygiene products. While both are available by request from the Food Bank, people don't always remember to request it in advance. If you can help with donations of these items, you can drop them off anytime during office hours 8:30-4:30 Mon to Fri or on Sundays. Thanks so much.

In the Community

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/

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!

Worship Notes

We welcome the Choir of Robertson-Wesley back after summer break! We have missed you and look forward once again to your inspiring music and worship leadership. The choir's anthem today is based upon the words of one of the best-known and loved psalms (Psalm 84):

“How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!

My soul longs, indeed it faints
for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh sing for joy
to the living God.

Even the sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young,
at your altars, O LORD of hosts,
my King and my God.

Happy are those who live in your house,
ever singing your praise”...

John Stanley (1713-1786) was a blind organist and composer who spent his creative life in London. His *Voluntary in G* is in the typical English baroque form consisting of two movements- the first one slow, and the second one fast. These compositions are for “manuals only” because the English instruments of the time did not have pedalboards. Today's postlude is a dramatic setting of the hymn tune known as “McKee” arranged by American organist and composer Matthew Corl. “McKee” is a melody from the American south that is used in today's hymn “In Christ There Is No East or West”.

Cover Image

Cover image: is from Pixabay by John Hain.

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