



Robertson - Wesley  
UNITED CHURCH  
*Spirited*

*An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada*

2024 Sept 29

Pentecost 20

# To Reconcile



and

# Make Truth

### **Welcome and Inclusion**

We open our hearts and our church family to all people in our community regardless of age, gender identity, differing abilities, ethnicity, economic circumstances, or sexual orientation. 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 hymnbooks 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: *Prelude on "Rhosymedre"*, arr. by Ralph Vaughan Williams

Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Introit: *Bright Morning Stars*, Traditional, arr. Wailin' Jennys

Belle Canto

Call to Worship:

As we gather in this sacred space remembering the journey into Canaan and its relationship to the journey to Turtle Island may we remember that God sent Jesus on earth to reconcile and make new.

**May the Spirit stir in the brokenness we discover.**

We give thanks that Jesus showed us a different way of living.

**May the Spirit stir in the brokenness we discover.**

We give thanks that Jesus challenged practices that exclude and oppress others.

**May the Spirit stir in the brokenness we discover.**

Jesus calls into question authority and tradition that no longer fits with who God is calling us to be in the world.

**May the Spirit stir in the brokenness we discover.**

Hymn: *O Let the Power Fall on Me*

*More Voices 13*

**O let the power fall on me, my God,**

**let the power fall on me;**

**O let the power from heaven fall on me,**

**let the power fall on me.**

**For we want justice and truth and love, my God,**

**we want justice and truth and love;**

**for we want justice and truth and love, my God,**

**we want justice, and truth and love.** (sing both verses again)

Coming into God's Presence

Prayer of Commitment:

**As I prepare to hear the stories of our lineage as people of faith, may I continue to listen with ears that are open to hearing the truth of our past history, and the people who have come before me. Let me be fully present in any discomfort and commit to hearing the truth, while accepting your challenge, O God, to respond with action in love and justice.**

(silence)

May we

**acknowledge that brokenness in human life and community is an outcome of sin. Sin is not only personal but accumulates to become habitual and systemic forms of injustice, violence, and hatred.**

**We are all touched by this brokenness, especially the covert despair that lulls many into numb complicity with empires and systems of domination.**

We believe that God reconciles and calls us to repent the part we and our ancestors have played in damaging our world, ourselves, and each other.

(silence)

May God's spirit be in our hearts and upon our lips as we acknowledge the truth of life's brokenness and shortcomings so that we may receive and embody the reconciliation and peace of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**<sup>1</sup>

---

## *God's Holy Word*

---

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

**Voices United 951**

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Holy, Holy, Holy'. It is written for voices and piano. The score is in 8/8 time and consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble clef and a bass clef. The treble clef part has lyrics underneath it: '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 bass clef part has chords written above it: C, G7, C, F, C. The second system also has a treble clef and a bass clef. The treble clef part has 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!'. The bass clef part has chords: F, C, Am, F, G7, C.

Scriptures:

Michael Peters

Deuteronomy 7:1-6, 12-26 • A Chosen People

When the Lord your God brings you into the land that you are about to enter and occupy, and God clears away many nations before you - the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations mightier and more numerous than you - and when the Lord your God gives them over to you and you defeat them, then you must utterly destroy them. Make no covenant with them and show them no mercy. Do not intermarry with them, giving your daughters to their sons or taking their daughter for your sons, for that would turn away your children from following me, to serve other

---

<sup>1</sup> Partially from *A Song of Faith*, The United Church of Canada 2006.

gods. Then the anger of the Lord would be kindled against you, and the Lord would destroy you quickly. But this is how you must deal with them; break down their altars, smash their pillars, hew down their sacred poles, and burn their idols with fire. For you are a people holy to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on earth to be the people of God, God's treasured possession. It was not because you were more numerous than any other people that the Lord set their heart on you and chose you - for you were the fewest of all peoples. If you heed these ordinance, by diligently observing them, the Lord your God will maintain with you the covenant loyalty that God swore to your ancestors; God will love you, bless you, and multiply you; God will bless the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground, your grain and your wine and your oil, the increase of your cattle and the issue of your flock, in the land that God swore to your ancestors to give you. You shall be the most blessed of peoples, with neither sterility nor barrenness among you or your livestock. The Lord will turn away from you every illness; all the dread diseases of Egypt that you experience, the Lord will not inflict on you, but the Lord will lay them on all who hate you. You shall devour all the peoples that the Lord your God is giving over to you, showing them no pity; you shall not serve their gods, for that would be a snare to you. If you say to yourself, "These nations are more numerous than I; how can I dispossess them?" do not be afraid of them. Just remember what the Lord your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt, the great trials that your eyes saw, the signs and wonders, the mighty hand and the outstretched arm by which the Lord your God brought you out. The Lord your God will do the same to all the peoples of whom you are afraid. Moreover, the Lord your God will send the pestilence against them, until even the survivors and the fugitives are destroyed. Have no dread of them, for the Lord your God, who is present with you, is a great and awesome God. The Lord your God will clear away these nations before you little by little; you will not be able to make a quick end of them, otherwise the wild animals would become too numerous for you. But the Lord your God will give them over to you, and throw them into a great panic, until they are destroyed. The Lord will hand their kings over to you and you shall blot out their name from under heaven; no one will be able to stand against you, until you have destroyed them. The images of their gods you shall burn with fire. Do not covet the silver or the gold that is on them and take it for yourself, because you could be ensnared by it; for it is abhorrent to the Lord our God. Do not bring an abhorrent thing into your house, or you will be set apart for destruction like it. You must utterly detest and abhor it, for it is set apart for destruction.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church,

**Thanks be to God.**

C G7 C F C  
 ¡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  
 F C Am F G7 C  
 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: *Warrior*, Kim Baryluk, Stacey Howse, arr. Natasha Blackwood Belle Canto

Sermon: *Contemporary Canaan*

Peter Graham

Hymn: *Open My Eyes, That I May See*

Voices United 371

**Open my eyes, that I may see  
 glimpses of truth thou hast for me;  
 place in my hands the wonderful key  
 that shall unclasp and set me free.  
 Silently now I wait for thee,  
 ready, my God, thy will to see.  
 Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

**Open my ears, that I may hear  
 voices of truth thou sendest clear;  
 and while the wave-notes fall on my ear,  
 everything false will disappear.  
 Silently now I wait for thee,  
 ready, my God, thy will to see.  
 Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

**Open my mouth, and let me bear  
 gladly the warm truth everywhere;  
 open my heart and let me prepare  
 love with thy children thus to share.  
 Silently now I wait for thee,  
 ready, my God, thy will to see.  
 Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

---

## Grateful Response

---

Pastoral Prayers

Lord's Prayer:

Rev. Karen Bridges

*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: *We Give You But Your Own*

*Voices United* 542

**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:

**These are our gifts that wisdom may be heard and heeded. These are our efforts to meet needs and call for justice. Bless these offerings, Gracious and loving God, and bring forth from them knowledge, comfort, care, and reconciliation. Amen.<sup>2</sup>**

Hymn: *O Day of God, Draw Nigh*

*Voices United* 688

**O day of God, draw nigh  
in beauty and in power;  
come with your timeless judgement now  
to match our present hour.**

**Bring to our troubled minds,  
uncertain and afraid,**

---

<sup>2</sup> Written by Karen Boivin, *Gathering*, Pentecost 1 2022, p. 48. Used with permission.

**the quiet of a steadfast faith,  
calm of a call obeyed.**

**Bring justice to our land,  
that all may dwell secure,  
and finely build for days to come  
foundations that endure.**

**Bring to our world of strife  
your sovereign word of peace,  
that war may haunt the earth no more,  
and desolation cease.**

**O day of God, draw nigh  
as at creation's birth;  
let there be light again,  
and set your judgments in the earth.**

Commissioning:

Go out into the world in peace.

**Have courage; hold on to what is good.**

Return no one evil for evil; strengthen those who are faint-hearted;  
support those who are frail and suffering.

**Honour all people. Love and serve the Lord always.**

Go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**<sup>3</sup>

Postlude: *Monologue #1 in C Major*, by Josef Rheinberger Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Question for reflection:

How do we engage in restorative justice and live what Jesus taught?

---

## *R-W Report*

### Next Sunday

**Sunday, Oct 6, 2024**

**Pentecost 21**

### **World Wide Communion & A Gratitude Minute**

**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:** Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 • Esther pleads for her people.

Mark 9:38-50 • If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off.

**Sermon:** God sees you, we see you, you are loved!

Have you ever had to hide who you are? Have you ever found yourself living in a community where your life would be at risk if you shared your truth? Have you ever felt that you didn't fit in anymore? Throughout history Christians have been persecuted and Christians themselves have

---

<sup>3</sup> Written by Robert Murdock, **Gathering**, Pentecost 2 2019, p. 44. Used with permission.



persecuted others. The story of Esther is a story of courage and conviction to stand up in the face of oppression. Esther was valued for her beauty, not her brains. She was a young woman who was willing to risk her own safety and security for the well-being of her people. As a community of faith how do we stay strong and risk our own safety and security for the well-being of people who have been oppressed and persecuted? How do we on the day of World Wide Communion stand up so that all people of faith can proclaim God's name, and know that God sees them, and loves them? What makes us strong is our compassion, and our ability to stand together for a just world!

**Music:** Dr. Allan Bevan, organist; Robertson-Wesley Choir and Soloists

### WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun Sept 29	Sunday Worship - <b>Sanctuary &amp; Online</b>	10:30 am
	Youth Discussion - <b>Youth Room</b>	10:30 am
	Kids' Church - <b>Garden Patch &amp; Air Room</b>	10:45 am
	Fellowship - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	11:30 am
	Music Ensemble Meetup - <b>Sanctuary</b>	11:30 am
Mon Sept 30	Church Closed	
Tues Oct 1	Scripture Reflections - <b>Club Room &amp; Zoom</b>	12:00 pm
	DEAP - <b>Club Room</b>	5:30 pm
Wed Oct 2	Canterbury Worship - <b>Canterbury Court</b>	10:30 am
	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	1:30 pm
	Counselling - <b>Club Room</b>	12:00 pm & 5:00 pm
	R-W Choir - <b>Lower Hall</b>	7:30 pm
Thurs Oct 3	Not Falling for You - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	10:00 am
	Nova Bells - <b>Lower Hall</b>	5:30 pm
	R-W Ringers - <b>Lower Hall</b>	7:00 pm
Sat Oct 5	Youth Group - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	7:00 pm

### ON THE HORIZON

Sun Oct 6	Sunday Worship - <b>Sanctuary &amp; Online</b>	10:30 am
	Youth Discussion - <b>Youth Room</b>	10:30 am
	Kids' Church - <b>Garden Patch &amp; Air Room</b>	10:45 am
	Fellowship - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	11:30 am
Mon Oct 7	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	7:00 pm
Tues Oct 8	Scripture Reflections - <b>Club Room &amp; Zoom</b>	12:00 pm
	Property Committee Meeting - <b>Room 11</b>	1:00 pm
	UCW - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	1:30 pm
Wed Oct 9	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	1:30 pm
	Counselling - <b>Club Room</b>	12:00 pm & 5:00 pm
	R-W Choir - <b>Lower Hall</b>	7:30 pm
Thurs Oct 10	Not Falling for You - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	10:00 am
	Nova Bells - <b>Lower Hall</b>	5:30 pm
	R-W Ringers - <b>Lower Hall</b>	7:00 pm
Sat Oct 12	Community Dinner - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	5:00 pm

## **Volunteer Opportunities**

### **NEW VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Check out the latest volunteer opportunities at [rwuc.org/volunteer](http://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 (4 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.

#### **FAMILY MINISTRY TEAM (NEED 4 MORE PEOPLE)**

This team helps to support the children, youth and young adult ministry programs, as well as creating some intergenerational events. This team meets quarterly and seeks to find ways for all ages to explore their faith in a variety of ways. Key skills: Ability to organize and run events, support and encourage leaders in the various areas of this ministry, ensure that the programs have the resources needed to do this work.

#### **CHURCH RENEWAL TEAM (3 MORE PEOPLE)**

Do you have experience with visioning and value statements? Do you want to help discern what God is calling us to do and be over the next 10 years? This team will work on a new statement of call and commitment. They will also help to create a strategic plan that aligns with what our community of faith values. And will have to name R-W's brand and how we will communicate who we are to the wider community. Key skills: Discerning, listening, communication, writing, visioning

#### **PHOTOGRAPHER FOR PHOTO DIRECTORY**

After many years of exceptional photos Hal has retired as our photo directory photographer. We are seeking a photographer to capture photos of the community of faith on a few Sundays before and after service. Skills: Professional photography, photo-editing, computer skills (arranging photos in layout) If you are interested sign up on [rwuc.org/volunteer](http://rwuc.org/volunteer)

#### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES - MUSIC PROGRAMS**

Are you called to sing? If so we have a place for you in the R-W Choir!

Wednesdays at 7:30. On Thursdays **Nova Bells** (5:30) is open to all who would like to learn more about music. **R-W Ringers** (7pm) has a position open for someone who can read music and would like to learn bells.

**Instrumental Ensemble** - Dr. Bevan is assessing interest in developing an instrumental ensemble to perform on an occasional basis at church services and events. **Today** following the service, we will meet for an hour to look at some music for church ensemble!

## R-W News & Notes

### **CHRISTMAS TREES**

Do you have an older artificial Christmas tree that you are looking to get rid of? We are looking for a few trees to decorate and put outside for the Christmas season. Contact Richard at richardandrewkennedy@gmail.com if you would like to donate a tree.

### **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.

### **WILD CHURCH**

Join Wild Church on **October 20** at 1:00pm! We connect with sacred presence through the natural world on a monthly basis. In October, we will use our sense of touch and make etchings, as we explore the theme, "To Touch the Mystery". We will meet at the Stark Oak Tree on the old Royal Alberta Museum grounds. Follow us on Instagram @wildchurchyeg or check out our website (www.wildchurchyeg.org).

### **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 toilet paper or feminine hygiene products, you can drop them off anytime during office hours 8:30-4:30 Monday to Friday or on Sundays. Thanks so much.

## In the Community

### **DKG AUTHOR'S BREAKFAST**

Beverley McLachlin, longest serving and only female former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada who wrote *Truth be Told: My Journey Through Life and the Law*, will launch her 3rd novel in the Jilly Truitt murder mystery series, *Proof* at the International Women Educators Society, DKG Author's Breakfast on Saturday, **Oct 19**. The \$30.00 breakfast will be followed by her talk. To attend, send an e-transfer to gammachapter2024@gmail.com including your name and email address in the message line. OR a cheque payable to Gamma Chapter DKG to Barbara Jonsson at 10656 - 153 Ave. NW, Edmonton AB T5X 5R8 including your email address and phone number. Doors open at 9:30 am, breakfast at 10:00 am. in Memorial Hall at Robertson-Wesley. Come early for parking.

## 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 until **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/)

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR A STUDY OF ONLINE SUPPORT GROUP USE FOR QUEER & TRANS PEOPLE WITH CANCER

Researchers at The University of Toronto and the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre are conducting a research study aimed at understanding the needs of sexual and gender diverse people with cancer and their views on online support, such as online support groups. They are seeking participants who identify as sexual and/or gender diverse, are 19 years of age or older, have been diagnosed with any type of cancer and are currently residing in Canada. If you are interested or would like to learn more, please contact Lauren Squires at [lauren.squires@uhn.ca](mailto:lauren.squires@uhn.ca). This is a 25-30 minute survey. You may be asked if you would like to participate in a one-on-one interview to talk about your experiences in more detail.

## BOYLE STREET AND BISSELL CENTRE FRIENDSHIP FEAST

There will be a thanksgiving meal on **October 14** at Boyle Street Plaza (9538 103A Ave NW) They are looking for 20 volunteers for 5 hour shifts. Contact Sarah at [spurkis@bissellcentre.org](mailto:spurkis@bissellcentre.org) if you'd like to volunteer or for more info.

---

### *Worship Notes*

---

Each year, September 30 marks the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The day honours the children who never returned home and Survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities. Public commemoration of the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process. The Moderator of The United Church of Canada, The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne writes, "On September 30th we observe the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, or Orange Shirt Day. We witness and honour the healing journey of survivors and families of the residential school experience, and we remember those who didn't make it home. There is still a very long journey ahead of us as we seek to make things right. Racist or colonial policies continue to harm Indigenous children and their families. On September 30th, and every day, we must remember that every child matters." We honour this day in worship today.

---

### *Cover Image*

---

Cover image by Yuri\_B on Pixabay. Words added by Rev. Karen Bridges

---

Lead Minister of Congregation and Community Development: Rev. Karen Bridges  
Minister of Faith Development and Intergenerational Ministry: Vacant  
Minister of Social Justice and Outreach: Vacant  
Music Director: Dr. Allan Bevan  
Office Administrator: Elyse Munro  
Facilities Manager: Brad Campbell