



An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada

2024 October 13

Thanksgiving Sunday

Pentecost 22

With gratitude and humble trust
we bring our best to you,



not just to serve your cause,
but share your love with neighbours too.

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: *With Heart, and Hands, and Voices*, arr. by Douglas Wagner
Robertson-Wesley Ringers

Embracing Our Spirit

Introit: *Come, Christians Join to Sing*, Trad. Spanish Melody arr. by Albert Zabel
Robertson-Wesley Ringers

Call to Worship:

Come into this space of contemplation, of prayer, and of gratitude.

We come in from the cruel ironies and suffering of our world.

Come into this gathering as those seeking wholeness and relationship.

We come as those weary and uncertain from a puzzling world.

Come and breathe in God in prayer:

**Our minds are full of worries, distractions, and needs. Hold us,
Loving God, we pray, as we breathe deeply of your healing power
in reverent silence.**

(a time for deep breaths)

We continue our prayers in one voice, more deeply aware of your
grace, O God:

**You assure us we are not alone, for we live in your good creation.
In Christ, through Christ, and by Christ, we become one in your
love. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may you integrate us into
wholeness, that we may carry others as we are also carried by you
in this suffering world. We offer our gratitude this day for all that
you mean to our lives. Amen.¹**

Hymn: *Grateful*

More Voices 182

**Grateful for the life you give us,
thankful for your Holy Son,
joyful in your Spirit flowing
over all, O God of Love.**

**Grateful for the Bread of Heaven,
thankful for your Holy Word,
joyful in your mercy flowing,
we will praise you.**

**You are more than we imagine,
Ancient, Holy, Living Lord.
Even when we doubt your presence
you are faithful to your Word.**

**Grateful for the life you give us,
thankful for your Holy Son,
joyful in your Spirit flowing
over all, O God of Love.**

¹ Written by Gord Dunbar, *Gathering*, Pentecost 2 2024, p. 46. Used with permission.

**Grateful for the Bread of Heaven,
thankful for your Holy Word,
joyful in your mercy flowing,
we will praise you.**

**May our lives proclaim your justice,
may our voices sing your praise.
May our hands work in your service
to the glory of your name.**

**Grateful for the life you give us,
thankful for your Holy Son,
joyful in your Spirit flowing
over all, O God of Love.**

**Grateful for the Bread of Heaven,
thankful for your Holy Word,
joyful in your mercy flowing,
we will praise you.**

Coming into God's Presence

Meditation: *Autumn Carol*, by Johann Steurlein arr. by Russell Schulz-Widmar
Choir of Robertson-Wesley; Robertson-Wesley Ringers

Prayer of Confession:

For this little time, would you help us to find a moment of peace, God?
Would you help us to turn off our wrestling and our struggle, and help
us to simply be? We'll pick up our wrestling again - but, for just a
moment, help us to breathe. Help us to be.

(Silent Prayer)

Loving God, hear our prayer.

Amen.²

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 in G major and 6/8 time. The score consists of four staves. The first two staves are for the vocal line, with lyrics in Spanish and English. The third staff is for the guitar accompaniment, showing chords (F, C, Am, F, G7, C) and the melody. The fourth staff is for the bass line. 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 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!"

Job 23:1-9, 16-17 • Job’s reply.

Then Job answered: “Today also my complaint is bitter; my hand is heavy despite my groaning. Oh, that I knew where I might find God, that I might even come to God’s dwelling! I would lay my case before God, and fill my mouth with arguments. I would learn what God would answer me, and understand what God would say to me. Would God contend with me in the greatness of God’s power? No; but God would give heed to me. There an upright person could reason with God, and I should be acquitted forever by my judge. “If I go forward, God is not there; or backward, I cannot perceive God; on the left God hides, and I cannot behold God; I turn to the right, but I cannot see God. God has made my heart faint; the Almighty has terrified me; If only I could vanish in darkness, and thick darkness would cover my face!

Matthew 6:25-33 • Do not worry about what you will eat or drink.

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly God feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will God not much more clothe you - you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly God knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kin-dom of God and God’s righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church,

Thanks be to God.

Sung Response: *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Voices United 951

¡San - to, san - to, san - to. Mi co - ra - zón te a - do - rat 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!

Sermon: *God are you there?*

Rev. Karen Bridges

Hymn: *O God of Bethel*

Voices United 650

**O God of Bethel, by whose hand
your people still are fed;
who through this earthly pilgrimage
have all your servants led:**

**our vows, our prayers, we now present
before your throne of grace.
God of past ages, be the God
of each succeeding race.**

**Through each perplexing path of life
our wandering footsteps guide;
give us each day our daily bread,
and shelter fit provide.**

**O spread your covering wings around,
till all our wanderings cease,
and at our God's beloved abode
our souls arrive in peace.**

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: *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:

Everything we have and are; everything we can be; everything good in our lives is a result of our love and grace. We present these gifts as a way of participating in the ministry of proclaiming your love. Use them. Multiply them. Transform them. Amen.³

Hymn: *We Praise You, O God*

Voices United 218

**We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name: glad praises we sing.**

**We worship you, God of our mothers and fathers,
through trial and tempest, companion and guide.
When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,
but faithful to your promise, you walk by our side.**

**With voices united our praises we offer,
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
Our sins now confessing, we pray for your blessing,
to you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!**

Commissioning:

Let us leave this time and place of worship remembering God's goodness to us: a goodness known in Creation, in our relationships, and most especially known in Jesus Christ.

Let us commit ourselves to lives of thanksgiving and thanks-living, remembering that when we are simply grateful, life is simply great! Let us go now, with smiles on our faces, with joy in our hearts, with purpose and in kindness, to be God's people in all the places life calls us to be. Amen.⁴

Postlude: *Chorale Fughetta on "Monkland"* (*Let Us With a Gladsome Mind*),

by John Antes arr. by David Blackwell

Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Question for reflection:

When and how has God been there for you in your time of greatest need?

³ Written by Beth W. Johnston, *Gathering*, Pentecost 2 2015, p. 45. Used with permission.

⁴ Written by Bob Root, *Gathering*, Pentecost 2 2018, p. 44. Used with permission.

R-W Report

Next Sunday
Sunday, Oct 20, 2024
Pentecost 23

Discipleship Sunday

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: Job 38:1-7, 34-41 • God's rebuttal to Job.

Mark 10:35-45 • A request from James and John.

Sermon: Servant Leadership

What would you do if God suddenly answered you directly or suddenly appeared to you? Job's appeal to God, and his questions about why this is happening to him, are no different than our own questions to God. Why? Often in these situations the question is more important than the answer, for the question is often a lament and a cry of pain. The scriptures invite us to explore what we believe about God and God's power in the world as well as who Jesus is and what servant leadership looks like. How do we respond to suffering, oppression, and human frailty? What can we learn from Jesus' example of self-sacrifice and servant leadership?

Music: Dr. Allan Bevan, organist; Cantilon Chamber Choir

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun Oct 13	Sunday Worship - Sanctuary & Online	10:30 am
	Youth Discussion - Youth Room	10:30 am
	Kids' Church - Garden Patch & Air Room	10:45 am
	Fellowship - Memorial Hall	11:30 am
Mon Oct 14	Church Closed	
Tues Oct 15	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
	UCW - Memorial Hall	1:30 pm
	R-W Board Meeting - Room 11	7:00 pm
Wed Oct 16	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	1:30 pm
	Counselling - Club Room	12:00 pm & 5:00 pm
	Flu Shots - Room 11	1:00 pm
	R-W Choir - Lower Hall	7:30 pm
Thurs Oct 17	Not Falling for You - Memorial Hall	10:00 am
	Nova Bells - Lower Hall	5:30 pm
	R-W Ringers - Lower Hall	7:00 pm
Sat Oct 19	Youth Group - Away	7:00 pm

ON THE HORIZON

Sun Oct 20	Sunday Worship - Sanctuary & Online	10:30 am
	Youth Discussion - Youth Room	10:30 am
	Kids' Church - Garden Patch & Air Room	10:45 am
	Fellowship - Memorial Hall	11:30 am
	Instrumental Ensemble Rehearsal - Sanctuary	11:30 am

	Wild Church - Away	1:00 pm
Mon Oct 21	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	7:00 pm
Tues Oct 22	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
Wed Oct 23	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	1:30 pm
	Counselling - Club Room	12:00 pm & 5:00 pm
	Gratitude Team Meeting - Club Room	5:30 pm
	R-W Choir - Lower Hall	7:30 pm
Thurs Oct 24	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!

EVENTS PLANNING TEAM (6-8 PEOPLE)

People both with the community of faith and in the community that we serve, are looking for ways to make friends and connect with others. We are looking for a team of people to host a variety of events that will bring people together. Key skills: Organization, event planning, decoration, hospitality

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

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 and ringing. R-W Ringers (7pm) has a position open for someone in the lower, (heavier) bells who can read music and would like to join in. Next week is a good time to join as we begin rehearsing music for Christmas. Instrumental Ensemble - next rehearsal is **October 20** after church! Do you play an instrument? Let Dr. Bevan know of your interest. music@rwuc.org

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

R-W News & Notes

HOURS

The church will be closed for Thanksgiving Monday, **October 14**.

THANK YOU

A great appreciation to all those who donated books and art for the spring and summer sales. We made \$4000 from the two book/art sales. Great work for those you worked on the two sale days.

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.

UCW

Robertson-Wesley UCW and Friends will meet **one week later than our normal date, on Tuesday, October 15 at 1:30 p.m., in Memorial Hall**. We'll be talking about what we are thankful for, and also looking at the 100th anniversary of The United Church of Canada, which is coming up next year (2025).

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).

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.

MEN'S GROUP

The R-W Men's Group will be having a Memorial Breakfast for Louis Berlinguette at Albert's Family Restaurant (124th St and 106 Avenue) on Tuesday **October 15th**, from 10:00am until Noon. Meal paid for by each attendee.

BAGS FOR FOODBANK

We are in need of grocery bags for the Food Bank program, we'll take reusable bags or any plastic bags you still have around. If you can spare some please drop them off any time in the cloak room.

GREEN BITES

little tidbits to whet your appetite for change

Now that this year's garden harvest is ending perhaps we can try our skills at seed-saving. There are lots of reasons to save seeds, one of which is our connection to our ancestors. Whether the seeds saved are to pass on beauty, as in flowers, or food, as in vegetables, we can imagine our grandparents enjoying the gifts of seeds as we do now. Seed saving is a often a radical act nowadays, and some people have been taken to court, as it is considered illegal to save seeds from plants developed and packaged commercially. - The Environmental Stewardship Group

EMAIL SAFETY TIPS

Recently people from the church have been experiencing scam emails, using a method called spoofing. Email spoofing is when a scammer forges (spoofs) the email's from address, so the sent message appears to have been sent from someone you know with the intention of infecting your computer with malware, asking for money or stealing information. These addresses can either be created by using alternative numbers or letters to look slightly different than the original, or by disguising the 'from' field to be the exact email address of someone in your network. If you receive an email that looks like it is from someone you know, requesting gift cards or help and asking for secrecy, please feel free to call Elyse in the church office or the person who sent it to confirm legitimacy, do not reply to the email because the reply will get sent to the scammer.

What to do if your email has been spoofed:

- Don't panic, spoofing does not mean that the scammer has access to your account, they are only making it appear as though they do. You have not been hacked. Spoofing is a temporary issue that will often be resolved in a few weeks when the scammer will move on.
- Email everyone in your contacts to let them know to disregard any suspicious emails from you.
- Just to be safe, run a full virus scan on your computer. This ensures that you have not experienced a malware or virus infection and helps eliminate the possibility that you have a compromised account.
- Update your email password.

FLU SHOTS

R-W with MedEx Pharmacies will be hosting a FREE Drop-in flu shot clinic, **October 16** from 1:00 - 2:00 pm in Room 11. This is an opportunity to help protect yourself, your community, and R-W's community of faith.

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 until **December 12**. To register, email Injury.PreventionEdmonton@ahs.ca or for more information go to findingbalancealberta.ca/nffy/

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 if you'd like to volunteer or for more info.

Worship Notes

We are in the season of creation which lasts for 5 Sundays beginning the Sunday after Labour Day and continuing through Thanksgiving Sunday. This is the season where we create, and honour that which has been created. This season is symbolized by the colour orange. Orange is a warm colour and is associated with enthusiasm, creativity, fruitfulness, endurance and strength.

We welcome R-W Ringers back to our service today after summer break! The ensemble is ringing today in one larger, and two smaller groups as the music requires. Their Prelude today is a medley of three well-loved Thanksgiving hymns: Now Thank We All Our God, We Gather Together, and For the Beauty of the Earth. Thank you Ringers, it is a blessing to have you back at worship again. The Meditation today (Autumn Carol) is an alternate title for the well-known Thanksgiving hymn, Sing To the Lord of Harvest. There are three verses in total, each with its own distinctive choral setting and bell ostinato. The melody for the piece is as fresh and lively as it was when composed by Johann Steurlein in 1575.

Cover Image

Cover image by Matthais Cooper on Pixabay. Words come from the Hymn 518 Voices United, "As Those of Old Their First-fruits Brought.

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