



*An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada*

2024 October 27

Pentecost 24

**Taste and see that God is good!**



### **Welcome and Inclusion**

We open our hearts and our church family to all people in our community regardless of differing abilities, ethnicity, economic circumstances, sexual orientation, age, or gender identity. Many people's lives continue to be devastated by hatred, prejudice, and inequality, therefore we stand with those who are adversely affected by injustice, alienation and oppression.

# *Welcome to Robertson-Wesley*

*Please know that in the eyes of God you already belong here and you are welcome to participate in any of the activities of the community of faith.*

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is Treaty 6 territory, a traditional meeting ground for Indigenous peoples. We acknowledge the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 4.

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## **ACCESSIBILITY**

There is an elevator located inside the building with the glass door entrance. Access ramps can be found: inside leading from the lobby to the sanctuary and outside at the rear of the building, leading from the parking lot.

There are accessible washrooms on each floor located near the elevator.



For hearing assistance download the Listen Everywhere app on your cell phone and connect to the R-W network by scanning this QR code. Please bring your own headphones to listen on. Classic hearing assists headsets are available from the ushers.

Large print worship bulletins, and hymn books are available from the ushers.

Service animals are welcome, except where food is prepared.

We commit to make R-W a comfortable space for people with cognitive impairment. If you require accommodations please contact the office.

There is a sensory-friendly worship space in the Club Room every Sunday, the service is live streamed into the room with reduced lighting and volume.

## **BABY/ CHILDREN'S AMENITIES**

People can breastfeed anywhere in the building, should you want more privacy there is designated nursing space in the Millson room. Baby changing tables are installed in all washrooms. If you wish to use it, a children's activity centre is set up in the Chapel. There are activity books available. Please ask an usher.

## **INFORMATION**

The ushers located at the entrances are here to help should you have any questions. More information about the church and church activities can be found in the pamphlet racks outside Memorial Hall.

## **PERSONAL BELONGINGS**

Please do not leave valuables unattended anywhere in the church.

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

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## Friends in Christ

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Announcements at 10:15 AM

Prelude: *Give Thanks (Cool Chorale)*, by Henry Smith arr. by James Biery  
Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Introit: *God Be in My Head*, by H. H. Hopson                      Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Call to Worship:

Great is our God!

**And greatly to be praised!**

Our God is loving and merciful.

**Our God is full of constant love.**

Our God is faithful to God's promises.

**Our God is compassionate toward all of Creation.**

Come, let us worship God together.

**Let us worship together and praise God forever and ever.<sup>1</sup>**

Opening Prayer:

Generous and loving God, be with us this day and always. Direct us on how we should follow your path. Guide us and keep us safe. Give us strength when we grow weary and lose our way. Stand by our side in times of uncertainty and sorrow.

**Give us love, give us strength, and give us grace.**

**In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.<sup>2</sup>**

Hymn: *I Can Feel You Near Me God*

*More Voices 48*

**I can feel you near me God I can feel you near  
Yes I know you're with me God I feel you here  
I can feel you near me God I can feel you near  
Yes I know you're with me God Heaven is here.**

**And I'll jump for joy  
I'm singing Alleluia  
Jump for joy for you  
I will jump for joy  
I'm singing Alleluia  
Jump for joy for you.**

**I can feel you loving me yes I know you care  
God I know you're loving me always everywhere  
I can feel you loving me yes I know you care  
God I know you're loving me I know you're there.**

**And I'll jump for joy  
I'm singing Alleluia**

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<sup>1</sup> Written by Judy Sears, **Gathering**, Pentecost 2 2024, p. 33. Used with permission.

<sup>2</sup> Written by Anna Hammond, **Gathering**, Pentecost 2, 2024, p. 36. Used with permission.

**Jump for joy for you  
I will jump for joy  
I'm singing Alleluia  
Jump for joy for you.**

Coming into God's Presence

Prayer of Commitment:

In quiet longing for your mercy and your faith we say thank you. We lift up our eyes, our hearts, our voices, and our souls, forging an incarnational offering of love and thanksgiving. We pray for the courage to assume our responsibilities as your children, called to love, share, and make a difference.

**We honour you for your love and blessing upon us. We desire to be faithful and deliberate in living out our faith. We desire to be more loving and to interweave our faith commitment in every aspect of our lives. We remain open to your divine wisdom, that we might live our lives with divine energy toward transformation, wholeness, and a respect for difference. Amen.<sup>3</sup>**

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*God's Holy Word*

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Prayer of Illumination:

You are the Storyteller, you are the Word, you are God. Alleluia!

**Bless the reading. Bless the listening. Bless the sharing. Bless the love. In Christ's name! Amen.<sup>4</sup>**

Scriptures:

Psalm 34:1-8, 19-22 • Taste and See that God is good.

I will bless the Lord at all times; God's praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt the Lord's name together. I sought the Lord, and the Lord answered me, and delivered me from all my heart. Look to the Lord, and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed. This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord and was saved from every trouble. The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear the Lord and delivers them. O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in the Lord. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord rescues them from them all. The Lord keeps all their bones; not one of them will be broken. Evil brings death to the wicked and those who hate the righteous will be condemned. The Lord redeems the life of the Lord's servants; none of those who take refuge in the Lord will be condemned.

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<sup>3</sup> Written by Cheryl A. Kirk-Duggan, **The Undivided Soul; Healing Congregations Connect Body, and Spirit**, (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2001), p. 186-187.

<sup>4</sup> Written by Richard Bott, **Gathering**, Pentecost 2 2015, p. 38. Used with permission.

Mark 10:46-52 • The healing of Bartimaeus.

They came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to Jesus, "My teacher, let me see again." Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed Jesus on the way.

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

Anthem: *O Taste and See*, by Ralph Vaughan Williams

Claire Rolheiser, soloist; Choir of R-W

Sermon: *Healing found in faith.*

Rev. Karen Bridges

Hymn: *God, Reveal Your Presence*

**Voices United 391**

**God, reveal your presence:  
as we now adore you  
and with awe appear before you.  
Here in this your temple:  
all within keep silence,  
gather now with deepest reverence.  
You alone God we own,  
you, our God and Saviour:  
praise your name forever.**

**God, reveal your presence:  
hear the harps resounding;  
see the crowds the throne surrounding.  
"Holy, holy, holy!"  
Hear the hymn ascending,  
angels, saints, their voices blending.  
Bow your ear to us here;  
hearken, O Lord Jesus,  
to our humble praises.**

**O great Fount of blessing,  
purify my spirit,  
trusting only in your merit;  
like the holy angels  
gathered all before you,  
may I ceaselessly adore you.  
Let your will ever still  
rule your church terrestrial,  
as the hosts celestial.**

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## Grateful Response

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Pastoral Prayers

Sung Prayer: *Lord Listen to Your Children Praying* **Voices United 400**

**Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
send us love, send us power, send us grace.**

Lord's Prayer:

**Voices United p. 921**

**Our Creator, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
thy kin-dom come,  
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those that trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil:  
For thine is the kin-dom and the power and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

Offering:

*Your donations today support R-W Church programs and operations, as well as outreach projects and programs in the city and around the world. You can donate by e-transfer to [pay@rwuc.org](mailto:pay@rwuc.org), cheque, debit/credit by speaking to an usher, pre-authorized remittance, or PayPal by scanning the QR code. Tax receipts are issued at the end of the year for donations over \$20 if your name and address are provided.*



Offertory: *Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ* **Voices United 573 vs. 3**

**Come with the vision and the strength I need  
to serve my God, and all humanity;  
fulfillment of my life in love outpoured -  
my life in you, O Christ, your love in me.**

Offering Prayer:

**Bless these gifts that we have given today. Gracious God, accept our offerings. Accept our intentions to give of ourselves. Take our gifts, whether they be monetary or offerings of ourselves stepping out in faith, with our brokenness, our leftovers, our hope, or our lives. Bless and transform all that we offer and all that we hold back, that new life might abound to celebrate and share in Jesus' name. Amen.<sup>5</sup>**

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<sup>5</sup> Written by Tabitha Carey, **Gathering**, Pentecost 2 2021, p. 38. Used with permission.

**O for a thousand tongues to sing  
my great Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King,  
the triumphs of God's grace.**

**Jesus! the name that charms our fears,  
that bids our sorrows cease;  
'tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'tis life and health and peace.**

**He speaks, and listening to his voice,  
new life the dead receive,  
the mournful broken hearts rejoice,  
the humble poor believe.**

**Hear him, you deaf; you voiceless ones,  
your tongues again employ;  
you blind, behold your Saviour comes,  
and leap, you lame, for joy!**

**My gracious Master and my God,  
assist me to proclaim,  
to spread through all the earth abroad  
the honours of your name.**

Commissioning:

And now may God bless you and keep you. May God's face be known to you in the faces of everyone you meet. May God's work be seen through the work of your hands and the places your feet travel. May you know the peace that is God's gift and the blessing of the sunset of the day, the stars of the night, the promise of tomorrow. **Amen.**<sup>6</sup>

Postlude: *Fugue In D Major*, by Johann Pachelbel

Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Question for reflection:

What must we do to be ready for what God is offering?

What must we learn to fully understand what Jesus is offering us if we follow?

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## *R-W Report*

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### Next Sunday

**Sunday, Nov 3, 2024**

**Pentecost 25**

**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:** Ruth 1:1-18 • Wherever you will go I will follow.

Mark 12:28-34 • You shall love your Lord with all your heart.

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<sup>6</sup> Written by Bob Root, *Gathering*, Pentecost 2 2015, p. 41. Used with permission.

**Sermon:** A Reflection of God's Love

How did you come to learn how to love yourself, and others? The love that Ruth shows to Naomi is an example of her steadfast love of another, but it is not at the expense of self-love. Following Jesus, and believing in God does not mean we are not allowed to love ourselves. Like all things in faith we need to hold this in tension, love of self and love of other. Devotion to God comes when we accept the love that God has offered each one of us. How will we choose to show our love to God?

**Music:** Dr. Allan Bevan, organist; Robertson-Wesley Choir; Robertson-Wesley Ringers; Robertson-Wesley Instrumental Ensemble

**WEEK AT A GLANCE**

|              |   |                    |
|--------------|---|--------------------|
| Sun Oct 27   | 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 & Bake Sale - <b>Memorial Hall</b>       | 11:30 am           |
|              | Instrumental Ensemble Rehearsal - <b>Sanctuary</b>  | 11:30 am           |
|              | Koinonia - <b>Memorial Hall</b>                     | 5:30 pm            |
| Mon Oct 28   | Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>             | 7:00 pm            |
|              | Wisdom Seekers - <b>Room 11</b>                     | 7:00 pm            |
| Tues Oct 29  | Scripture Reflections - <b>Club Room &amp; Zoom</b> | 12:00 pm           |
| Wed Oct 30   | 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 31 | Not Falling for You - <b>Memorial Hall</b>          | 10:00 am           |

**ON THE HORIZON**

|             |   |                    |
|-------------|---|--------------------|
| Sun Nov 3   | 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           |
|             | Online Fellowship - <b>Club Room &amp; Zoom</b>     | 11:45 am           |
| Mon Nov 4   | Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>             | 7:00 pm            |
| Tues Nov 5  | Scripture Reflections - <b>Club Room &amp; Zoom</b> | 12:00 pm           |
|             | DEAP - <b>Club Room</b>                             | 5:30 pm            |
| Wed Nov 6   | 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 Nov 7 | 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 Nov 9   | Community Dinner - <b>Memorial Hall</b>             | 5:00 pm            |



## Volunteer Opportunities

### **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 who can read music and would like to join in. Instrumental Ensemble - next rehearsal is **today** after church! Do you play an instrument? Let Dr. Bevan know of your interest at [music@rwuc.org](mailto:music@rwuc.org)

### **PHOTOGRAPHER FOR PHOTO DIRECTORY**

We are seeking a photographer to capture photos of the community of faith on a few Sundays before and after service. Skills: Photography, photo-editing, computer skills (arranging photos in layout) If you are interested sign up on [rwuc.org/volunteer](http://rwuc.org/volunteer)

### **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](mailto:richardandrewkennedy@gmail.com) if you would like to donate a tree.

### **ALTO SAXOPHONE**

Our new instrumental ensemble is looking for an alto saxophone. We have the player, but we don't have the instrument. If you are aware of an instrument that might be available please let Dr. Bevan know: [music@rwuc.org](mailto:music@rwuc.org)

### **KOINONIA**

The October gathering of Koinonia will take place **tonight** in Memorial Hall, starting with our usual pot-luck at 5:30 pm. Supper will be followed by a time of reflection and sharing on Gratitude led by Norma J. If you have any questions about Koinonia talk to Larry W, Garnet T., Arleen D. or Wanda D. after church or email [koinonia@rwuc.org](mailto:koinonia@rwuc.org). Hope to see you there.

## **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.

## **BAKE SALE**

There will be a Bake Sale **today**, after church in Memorial Hall. All proceeds will go to the Anniversary Legacy Fund.

## **ONLINE FELLOWSHIP INVITATION**

Do you attend Robertson-Wesley worship services online? If yes, the DEAP group would love to meet with you on Sunday, **November 3**, 11:45 - 12:45 MDT (Daylight savings time begins November 3!) This time was selected to coincide with in-person fellowship in the memorial hall. The online gathering will be hosted in the R-W Club Room using Zoom. To join the conversation please contact the church office by e-mail at [mail@rwuc.org](mailto:mail@rwuc.org). A Zoom link will be mailed to you. DEAP is a group of people who meet monthly to discern together where the Spirit is at work in the R-W faith community. We are curious to know who is out there joining us virtually, and are seeking new ways to connect in this hybrid world. As is the case with in-person fellowship we'll spend time chatting, connecting with old and new friends, and discussing issues and questions. Looking forward to seeing you on Zoom in November. The DEAP group: Carol Anne, Kay, and Neil.

## **WISDOM SEEKERS**

On Monday, **October 28** 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! If you have any questions feel free to contact Rev. Karen Bridges at the church.

## **SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS**

**Tuesdays** at 12:00 pm on Zoom and in the Club Room. Reflect on the scripture passages for the upcoming Sunday. We are using the practice of Lectio Divina which means we read through the scripture three times. You will be invited into some moments of silence, and if you are willing you are invited to share with the group. You don't need to be a Biblical Scholar. God speaks through the scriptures and it is wonderful to hear the diversity of messages that are received. Contact the office at [mail@rwuc.org](mailto:mail@rwuc.org) for the Zoom link. Come with a bible and a journal, or simply yourself! Tune in when you can.

## **WRITE FOR BETWEEN THE AISLES**

Do you write poetry? Have you read a life-changing book lately? Do you have a faith question you are exploring or a passion you want to share? Then why not submit something for inclusion in the church's quarterly publication *Between the Aisles*? For guidelines and publication requirements, see [www.rwuc.org/between-the-aisles](http://www.rwuc.org/between-the-aisles). Deadline for submissions for the advent edition is **Nov 10**, Published: Dec 1.

## **UNRAVELLING RELIGIOUS TRAUMA**

**November 16**, 1:00 - 2:30 pm in the Sanctuary. We can all agree that having a religious tradition has many upsides: being a part of a community, having a belief in something bigger than yourself, participating in meaningful traditions, and having a set of values all serve to give life meaning. But when a person, a community, or a set of doctrine associated with that religion causes harm, the harm cuts deeply into our sense of ourselves, our sense of belonging in the world, and even our place in eternity. This is a topic that every person of faith should be informed about. Come join Psychologist Amy Nydam and Provisional Psychologist Paige Cahill for a workshop that will cover the basics of what Religious Trauma is and how it shows up individually, interpersonally, communally, and existentially. Whether you have experiences of Religious Trauma personally, know someone who has, or just want to learn more so that you can support those around you, you are welcome. If you have any questions contact Rev. Karen Bridges at [karen.bridges@rwuc.org](mailto:karen.bridges@rwuc.org) or 780-482-1587 ext 224.

## **FINANCIAL UPDATE**

As we approach the final few months of the year, we wanted to provide an update on RWUC's financial picture. As some may remember, based on our budget we were anticipating a \$175000+ shortfall in revenue, which would be a significant draw on our investments. Currently, we are estimating a \$100,000 shortfall, which is better than anticipated (mainly due to lower staffing cost and continued strong contributions from our congregation); however, still a significant amount. RWUC is funded primarily through donations and every amount makes a difference. As we approach the end of the year, we ask you to consider what you can contribute. Thank you! - The Finance Committee

## **In the Community**

### **KIRK CENTRE FREE COMMUNITY DINNER**

**November 7** at 5:30 pm, Kirk Centre 13535 122 Ave NW. Immerse yourself in the spirit of community and generosity at Kirk Centre for a Free Community Dinner! Hosted by Kirk Centre this community minded event is designed to bring people together over a shared meal and create lasting

connections within the local community. Register online at [kirkcentre.ca/upcoming-events](http://kirkcentre.ca/upcoming-events), call 780-438-6619 or email [kirkucentre@gmail.com](mailto:kirkucentre@gmail.com). Whether you are a long-time resident, a newcomer or simply looking to share a meal with friendly faces, this event promises an evening of joy, connection and delicious food. Don't miss out on this opportunity to forge new friendships and create memories. Come hungry, leave happy!

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### *Worship Notes*

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We have moved back into the regular season known as Pentecost Season which is symbolized by the colour green which reflects the journey of all disciples with growth leading to wholeness. Some call this the season of the church and the time in the liturgical year where we hear the followers of Jesus becoming the church. Jesus' ministry is revealed in this time as we walk toward the last Sunday of the Liturgical year entitled the Reign of Christ Sunday, which this year will be the last Sunday of November.

The choir's anthem today, *O Taste and See*, which takes its text from Psalm 34, has a connection with Queen Elizabeth II. It was composed for her coronation in 1953, then sung again at her funeral service in 2022.

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### *Cover Image*

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Cover image by Thuan Vo on Pixabay. Words from Psalm 34, added by Rev. Karen Bridges

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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