



An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada

2024 November 3

Pentecost 25



**Where you go, I will go;
where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people,
and your God my God**

Welcome and Inclusion

We open our hearts and our church family to all people in our community regardless of gender identity, differing abilities, ethnicity, economic circumstances, sexual orientation, or age. 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.

Friends in Christ

Announcements at 10:15 AM

Prelude: *Two Hymns*, arr. by R. Rose 1) Buinessan 2) Sine Nomine

R-W Instrumental Ensemble

Embracing Our Spirit

Introit: *We Are Not Alone*, by Pepper Choplin

Olivia Mitchell, soloist; Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Call to Worship:

Creator and creating God, you gather us on this new day of worship to experience once again your love, embracing us as a parent holds their child.

We wander this world, sometimes lost and alone, other times seeking to be in relationship with one another and with you.

Compassionate and caring God, you call us to be your followers, doing your works of justice and mercy, kindness and love.

We come from our places of work, ministry, volunteering, learning and play to be surrounded by your tenderness. The past week is finished. New days lie ahead of us.

Kind and loving God, you are our constant companion, standing with us on the mountaintops and in the darkest valleys of our lives.

Loving God, we meet you in this place, emptying our lives as we seek your Spirit, restoring us to the fullness of life.¹

Opening Prayer:

Loving God on this day we recognize that we are called to live in relationship with one another. May we walk good paths, O God, living on this earth as siblings should; rejoicing in one another's blessings, sympathizing in one another's sorrows, and together with you, renewing the face of the earth. Amen.²

Hymn: *Your Love Is Amazing*

More Voices 26

**Your love is amazing, steady and unchanging,
your love is a mountain, firm beneath my feet.
Your love is a myst'ry, how you gently lift me.
When I am surrounded your love carries me.**

**Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah
your love makes me sing.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah
your love makes me sing.**

Your love is surprising, I can feel it rising,

¹ Written by Sheila Hunter and Michael Small, *Celebrating Covenant; a Resource For Worship*, (St. Louis, Missouri: Chalice Press, 2001), p. 37.

² *Celebrate God's Presence*, 21T001.

all the joy that's growing deep inside of me.
Ev'ry time I see you all your goodness shines through.
I can feel this God song rising up in me.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah
your love makes me sing.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah
your love makes me sing.

Your love is amazing, steady and unchanging,
your love is a mountain, firm beneath my feet.
Your love is a myst'ry, how you gently lift me.
When I am surrounded your love carries me.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah
your love makes me sing.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah
your love makes me sing. **Hallelujah.**

Coming into God's Presence: The Story of Ruth and Naomi

Reneé Englot

God's Holy Word

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.³

Scripture:

Gwen Blanchard

Mark 12:28-34 • You shall love your Lord with all your heart.
One of the scribes came near and heard them arguing with one another, and seeing that Jesus answered them well, he asked Jesus, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength' the second is this, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Then the scribe said to Jesus, "You are right, teacher; you have truly said that 'God is one and besides God there is no other'; and 'to love God with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,' and 'to love one's neighbour as oneself,' - this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him another question.

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

³ Written by Richard Bott, **Gathering**, Pentecost 2 2015, p. 38. Used with permission.

Anthem: *Be With Me* (Psalm 91), by Marty Haugen
Robertson-Wesley soloists and Instrumental Ensemble

Sermon: *A Reflection of God's Love*

Rev. Karen Bridges

Hymn: *Wherever You May Go*

More Voices 216

**Wherever you may, go, I will follow,
and your people shall be my people too.
Wherever you may go, I will follow,
for I would be faithful, loyal and true.**

**Say the word and I will stay,
I will never go away,
we will travel side by side
and God's love will be our guide.**

**Wherever you may, go, I will follow,
and your people shall be my people too.
Wherever you may go, I will follow,
for I would be faithful, loyal and true.**

**From beginning to the end
I will always be your friend,
when you need me, I'll be there,
you can trust my faithful care.**

**Wherever you may, go, I will follow,
and your people shall be my people too.
Wherever you may go, I will follow,
for I would be faithful, loyal and true.**

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.**

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.**

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: *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:

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 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.⁴**

Hymn: *O Love, How Deep*

Voices United 348 vs. 1-4 & 7

O Love, how deep, how broad, how high!

It fills the heart with ecstasy,

**that God, in Jesus Christ, should take
our mortal form for mortals' sake.**

**God sent no angel to our race
of higher or of lower place,
but wore the robe of human frame,
and freely to this lost world came.**

**For us he was baptized, and bore
a holy fast, and hungered sore;
for us temptations sharply knew;
for us the tempter overthrew.**

**For us he prayed; for us he taught;
for us great daily works were wrought,
by words, and signs, and actions, thus
still seeking not himself, but us.**

⁴ Written by Jim McKean, **Gathering**, Pentecost 2 2024, p. 41. Used with permission.

**To God whose boundless love has won
salvation for us through the Son,
to God all praise and glory be
both now and through eternity.**

Benediction:

We are rediscovering the faithfulness of God. After journeying in unfamiliar lands with foreign people, we have once again discovered home - a place of worship, fellowship, and safety. God is our constant companion, Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit.

God calls us to stand with the stranger, knowing that we are united in Christ. God leads us to faraway places, knowing that as we walk with God, we are at home.

So go in peace, confident that you go with God! May the blessing of our Creator, Redeemer, and Christ go with you and protect you, now and forevermore. **Amen.**⁵

Postlude: *Fantasy on "Hyfrodol"*, arr. by H. H. Hopson Robertson-Wesley Ringers

Question for reflection:

How will we choose to show our love to God?

R-W Report

Next Sunday
Sunday, Nov 10, 2024
Pentecost 26

Act of Remembrance and Sacrament of 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: Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17 • Ruth marries Boaz.

Mark 12:38-44 • The widow offers two coins.

Sermon: Expressions of Hospitality

On this day of Remembrance, we are reminded of the need for a sense of safety and security in life. It is also a day when we seek peace and justice for all people in the world. The scriptures today explore different expressions of hospitality that can lead to a place of security. Jean Vanier writes, "Universal peace can only come if we develop and awaken the capacity to love people, to respect them deeply, to live authentic relationships with others, to yearn for truth and justice in the huge family of humanity." What are our expressions of hospitality and how does this cultivate a safe space for all people?

Music: Dr. Allan Bevan, organist; Robertson-Wesley Choir; Robin Doyon, trumpet

⁵ Written by Sheila Hunter and Michael Small, **Celebrating Covenant; a Resource For Worship**, (St. Louis, Missouri: Chalice Press, 2001), p. 44.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun Nov 3	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
	Online Fellowship - Club Room & Zoom	11:45 am
Mon Nov 4	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	7:00 pm
Tues Nov 5	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
	DEAP - Club Room	5:30 pm
Wed Nov 6	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 Nov 7	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 Nov 9	Community Dinner - Memorial Hall	5:00 pm
	Youth Group - Lower Hall	7:00 pm

ON THE HORIZON

Sun Nov 10	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 Nov 11	Church Closed	
Tues Nov 12	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
	Property Committee - Lower Hall	1:00 pm
	UCW - Room 11	1:30 pm
	Finance Committee Meeting - Room 11	7:00 pm
Wed Nov 13	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 Nov 14	Not Falling for You - Memorial Hall	10:00 am
	Men's Group - Room 11	9:30 am
	Nova Bells - Lower Hall	5:30 pm
	R-W Ringers - Lower Hall	7:00 pm
Sat Nov 16	Religious Trauma Workshop - Sanctuary	1:00 pm
	Youth Group - Youth Room	7:00 pm

Volunteer Opportunities

POINSETTIA HELPERS

Volunteers are needed to help with the Honour Sunday Poinsettias: taking orders on Sundays after worship on **Nov 3, 10 and 17**. Wrapping and handing out on **Nov 24**, and delivering on **Nov 24**. If you are interested sign up on rwuc.org/volunteer

MUSIC PROGRAMS

Are you called to sing? If so we have a place for you in the R-W Choir! Rehearsals are **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 - Do you play an instrument? Let Dr. Bevan know of your interest at music@rwuc.org

MISSION AND OUTREACH (M&O) POD COORDINATOR

The role of the M&O Pod Coordinator is to gather and engage interested members of the congregation in conversation about our current and future directions in Mission and Outreach, along with different justice issues that are emerging in the world. In keeping with our Mission statement, the Pod Coordinator will host conversations, empower others to develop, implement and evaluate ideas, events, projects, resources, and programs. As needed or requested, the Pod Coordinator will report back to the Official Board. The term for the M&O Pod Coordinator will be two years. Required skills: Facilitation and diplomacy skills, Good listener, Ability to identify skills and resources in the congregation, Communication skills, and basic computer skills. If you have questions, you are welcome to contact Rev. Karen Bridges.

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: Professional photography, photo-editing, computer skills (arranging photos in layout) If you are interested sign up on rwuc.org/volunteer

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. If you are interested sign up on rwuc.org/volunteer

R-W News & Notes

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? 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. Deadline for submissions for the advent edition is **Nov 10**, Published: Dec 1.

THANK YOU

Thanks to everyone who participated in last Sunday's bake sale. We raised an amazing \$615 for the R-W Anniversary Legacy Fund! Your generosity and support is greatly appreciated.

ADVENT CONCERT

Please join Robertson-Wesley's Choir and Ringers for a concert of beautiful Advent and Christmas music following worship on Sunday, **November 24**. The concert will begin following coffee hour at 12:30 pm and finish up about 1:15 pm. The program includes Benjamin Britten's marvellous *Ceremony of Carols*, and features guest harpist, Keri-Lynne Zwicker. She will perform seasonal music with both our choir and the R-W Ringers. This is a benefit concert in support of the church and is open to all without charge. Donations gratefully accepted.

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.

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 questions about this workshop, contact Rev. Karen Bridges at karen.bridges@rwuc.org

ALTO SAXOPHONE

Our new instrumental ensemble is looking for an alto saxophone. We have the players, but we are lacking one instrument. If you know of a sax that might be available please let Dr. Bevan know: music@rwuc.org

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 \$175,000+ 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

ROPER FUND

RWUC gratefully acknowledges the generous donation of \$1498 from the Roper Fund in partnership with the Edmonton Community Foundation.

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 for the Zoom link. Come with a bible and a journal, or simply yourself! Tune in when you can.

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, call 780-438-6619 or email 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!

KINDRED HEARTS CAMBODIA FOUNDATION

Kindred Hearts Cambodia Foundation is grateful for a very successful event on October 18th, with over \$24,000 raised! All funds will go directly to the KHC medical and mental health programs in Cambodia! Thank you to all who supported KHC and we thank God for blessing this ministry.

Worship Notes

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.

Today marks the first presentation of our newly-formed Instrumental Ensemble here at R-W! We hope you take an interest in the new group's offerings. Our next rehearsal is after church on Nov. 17. Please email Dr. Bevan if you have questions: music@rwuc.org

Cover Image

Cover image by AndPan614 on Pixabay. Words from Ruth 1:16, added by Rev. Karen Bridges

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



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