



An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada

2024 November 17

Pentecost 27

'Twas grace that taught
my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved



Welcome and Inclusion

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

Friends in Christ

Announcements at 10:15 AM

Prelude: *Variations on "New Britain"*, arr. John Carter Dr. Allan Bevan, piano

Embracing Our Spirit

Introit: *Blessed Assurance*, by Phoebe Knapp arr. Gerald Near Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Opening Prayer:

God is our companion.

God is here with us (open hands, extend arms out).

Let us open ourselves to the Creator.

We open our hearts to the living Sacrifice (bring open hands in toward the heart).

We give to God all honour (bring praying hands to heart centre)
and praise (extend hands upward in praise.)

Amen.¹

Hymn: *Jesus Came Bringing Us Hope*

More Voices 33

**Jesus came bringing us hope,
Jesus came bringing us hope,
Jesus came bringing us hope,
hallelujah, forever more!**

**Jesus came bringing us peace,
Jesus came bringing us peace,
Jesus came bringing us peace,
hallelujah forever more!**

**Jesus came bringing us love,
Jesus came bringing us love,
Jesus came bringing us love,
hallelujah forever more!**

**Jesus came bringing us joy,
Jesus came bringing us joy,
Jesus came bringing us joy,
hallelujah forever more!**

Coming into God's Presence

Gratitude Bucket (September/October/November)

¹ Written by Sandra Litt, **Gathering**, Pentecost 2 2024, p. 35. Used with permission.

God's Holy Word

Prayer of Illumination:

May the readings today shed light on a shadowed world yearning for hope. May we be blessed in the receiving of these words of comfort and hope. **Amen.**²

Scripture:

Marilee Stephens

1 Samuel 1:4-20 • Samuel is born to Hannah

On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to his wife Peninnah and to all her children; but to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the Lord had closed her womb. Her rival used to provoke her severely, to irritate her, because the Lord had closed her womb. So it went on year by year; as often as she went up to the house of the Lord, she used to provoke her. Therefore Hannah wept and would not eat. Her husband Elkanah said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? Why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?" After they had eaten and drunk at Shiloh, Hannah rose and presented herself before the Lord. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the Lord. She was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord, and wept bitterly. She made this vow: "O Lord of hosts, if only you will look on the misery of your servant, and remember me, and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a child, then I will set him before you as a nazirite until the day of his death. He shall drink neither wine nor intoxicants, and no razor shall touch his head." As she continued praying before the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was praying silently; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard; therefore Eli thought she was drunk. So Eli said to her, "How long will you make a drunken spectacle of yourself? Put away your wine." But Hannah answered, "No, my lord, I am a woman deeply troubled; I have not drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the Lord. Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation all this time." Then Eli answered, "Go in peace; the God of Israel grants the petition you have made." And she said, "Let your servant find favour in your sight." Then the woman went to her quarters, ate and drank with her husband, and her countenance was sad no longer. They rose early in the morning and worshipped before the Lord; then they went back to their house at Ramah. Elkanah knew his wife Hannah, and the Lord remembered her. In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, "I have asked him of the Lord."

Mark 13:1-8 • No one stone of the temple will be left standing.

As Jesus came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look,

² Written by Sharon Winegarden, **Gathering**, Pentecost 2 2021, p. 36. Used with permission.

Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!” Then Jesus asked him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.” When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, “Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?” Then Jesus began to say to them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

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

Anthem: *The Yearning*, by Craig Courtney

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Sermon: *May Grace Relieve My Fears*

Rev. Karen Bridges

Hymn: *Song of Hannah*

Voices United p. 878

**My soul is filled with joy in my Redeemer,
for God has lifted me and set me high.
There is no Holy One, no Rock like our God,
who answered my request, who heard my cry.**

**All those who talk with pride now see who God is,
who weighs our deeds and knows our every move.
Proud ones are humbled, but the poor are lifted;
all might and power are yours, O God of love.**

**The strong have fallen, but the weak are strengthened,
those who were hungry have enough to spare.
She who was barren sees her children’s children;
all things are ever in your loving care.**

**O God, you set the earth on sure foundations,
help for your saints is found in you alone.
Those who oppose your truth will fall in judgement,
but you will strengthen your anointed one.**

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:

**Take these gifts we offer, O Christ, not as a means to rescue others,
but as a means for relationship and for connection, as a means to
build bridges between strangers, as a means to live the good news of
self-giving, as a means to living our own gift of faith. Amen.³**

Hymn: *Amazing Grace*

Voices United 266

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.**

**'Twas grace first taught my heart to fear
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!**

³ Written by Gord Dunbar, *Gathering*, Pentecost 2 2015, p. 40. Used with permission.

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.**

**The Lord has promised good to me,
this word my hope secures;
God will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.**

Benediction:

Unfettered God: this journey of living is meant for daring, not slavery.

Release the courage within, we pray.

These worlds we are creating must proclaim vision, not contempt.

Awaken the strength of our wisdom, we pray.

These hearts that beat within us are created for mystery, not
diminishment.

Free the splendour of your hope, we pray.

This faith that we carry calls for liberation, not inertia.

Clear a path for your spirit within us, we pray. Amen.⁴

Postlude: *Postlude on "Darwall's 148th"* arr. by Charles Callahan

Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Question for reflection:

How is Robertson-Wesley a reflection of the world that we live in?

How is Robertson-Wesley a reflection of God's vision for the world?

R-W Report

Next Sunday

Sunday, Nov 24, 2024

Pentecost 28

Honour Sunday & Life Passages

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: 2 Samuel 23:1-7 • David's last words glorify God.

Revelation 1:4b-8 • I am the Alpha and Omega.

John 18:33-37 • Jesus before Pilate.

Sermon: The Nature of Power

On the last Sunday of the liturgical year the passages explore the nature of God's power, and invites readers to reflect on the nature of power and of

⁴ Written by Keri K. Wehalnder, **Circles of Grace; Worship and Prayer in the Everyday**, (Etobicoke: The United Church Publishing House, 1998), p. 37-38.

powerlessness. How do leaders use power? How does Jesus use power? This is a day when we honour God’s covenant, and when we place our hope in God. Brené Brown states that “research shows that hope is a powerful antidote to despair.” In a world where many are experiencing a feeling of despair, Jesus shows us that there is still hope, there is a path for us to follow that will lead to transformation.

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

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun Nov 17	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 Nov 18	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	1:30 pm
Tues Nov 19	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
Wed Nov 20	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	1:30 pm
	Counselling - Club Room	12:00 pm & 5:00 pm
	Gratitude Team - Library	4:30 pm
	R-W Choir - Lower Hall and Sanctuary	7:30 pm
	Thurs Nov 21	Not Falling for You - Memorial Hall
	R-W Ringers - Lower Hall	7:00 pm

ON THE HORIZON

Sun Nov 24	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
	Advent Concert - Memorial Hall	12:30 pm
	Koinonia - Memorial Hall	5:00 pm
Mon Nov 25	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	1:30 pm
Tues Nov 26	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
	R-W Board Meeting - Room 11	7:00 pm
Wed Nov 27	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	1:30 pm
	Counselling - Club Room	12:00 pm & 5:00 pm
	R-W Choir - Lower Hall and Sanctuary	7:30 pm
Thurs Nov 28	Not Falling for You - Memorial Hall	10:00 am
	R-W Ringers - Lower Hall	7:00 pm

Volunteer Opportunities

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

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. The Coordinator, in conjunction with and with the support of ministry personnel, will set up three to four Pod meetings per year. 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 about this position you are welcome to contact Peter at p.graham@rwuc.org.

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 rehearses **today!**- Do you play an instrument? Let Dr. Bevan know of your interest at music@rwuc.org

R-W News & Notes

HONOUR SUNDAY POINSETTIAS

Order a Poinsettia for Honour Sunday, **November 24** and following the service you can take it home or have it delivered! You can choose to honour a family member who has passed away or perhaps a best friend who is always there for you! We will be taking orders for Poinsettias in Memorial Hall following the service, they are \$27. **Today is the last day to order.** If you aren't attending church physically and would like to order, please contact Elyse in the office at 780-482-1587 or mail@rwuc.org to order and arrange delivery.

WILD CHURCH

The next Wild Church service is **today** at 1:00 pm at Emily Murphy Park (Picnic Site 3, near at the east end of the parking lot). Our theme is "Offering Lament, Taking Responsibility"; together we will acknowledge our culpability in the destruction of the natural world and shoulder our God-given responsibility to care for Creation. This will be a time to engage with our grief for ecological loss and to recommit to fostering a loving relationship with Earth. Dress for the weather; cancelled below -15C with windchill. Contact us at wildchurchyeg.org for questions/transportation needs.

NEW MINISTRY TEAM AT ROBERTSON-WESLEY

We want to give a big thank-you to the team of people who put together the Community of Faith Profile that outlines the job descriptions for the new ministry team, along with the search team that found the two new people who will join the ministry team. As we shift into the new model, we thought it would be helpful to give a brief explanation of what each person will be doing. The Lead Minister is more of a generalist ministry. The Lead Minister, Rev. Karen Bridges, will lead and support the ministry and development of lay leadership at Robertson-Wesley through dynamic worship, pastoral care, discernment and spiritual development while building partnerships in the community of faith and the community at large. The two half time positions are specialty ministries. The Social Justice and Outreach Ministries Coordinator, Peter Graham, will provide leadership and oversight in the areas of community outreach and initiatives that work towards justice for the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, Indigenous communities, racialized minority communities, and equity for all. The Faith Development and Intergenerational Ministries Coordinator, Kevin Guenther Trautwein, will provide dynamic leadership and oversight in the various areas of children, youth, young adult, and adult faith development. This has allowed Robertson-Wesley United to find candidates that are on the leading edge of much of these ministries. We are so fortunate to have found people who have experience and extensive education. Peter Graham started with Robertson-Wesley on November 1, 2024. Kevin Guenther Trautwein will join Robertson-Wesley on February 1, 2024. If you have any questions about what each person is focussing their ministry on do not hesitate to reach out to the ministry team. - The Board of R-W



Kevin Guenther Trautwein (he/him pronouns) is our Faith Development and Intergenerational Ministries Coordinator; he will start the position on February 1, 2025. Kevin has a Master of Theological Studies from the University of Waterloo and a Bachelor of Arts in Religion from Ambrose University in Calgary. For the past 10 years, Kevin has worked as a Mennonite pastor in Edmonton, with a focus on faith development among youth and young adults. Kevin is passionate about connecting theological reflection with practical life. He's worked and volunteered with community thrift stores and hostels, newcomer settlement services, and ecumenical organizations that advocate for housing and promote multi-faith harmony. Several of these involvements have enabled Kevin to work closely with members of the United Church of Canada. For more than a year, Kevin has been discerning the possibility of pastoral ministry in the United Church and is currently taking steps on the candidacy pathway toward ordination. He is excited to join the team at RWUC and get to know this inspiring community.



Peter Graham (they/them pronouns) is our Social Justice and Outreach Ministries Coordinator. Peter, who also goes by Pan, started their position on November 1. Peter grew up in the United Church of Canada and was an active member of the Robertson-Wesley community before moving to Minnesota to study at the United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. They completed a Master of Divinity in Interreligious Chaplaincy and a Master of Arts in Eco-Justice, and recently moved back to Edmonton. Peter's undergraduate degree is a Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies from Thompson Rivers University in BC. In both their education and work, Peter has focused on community oriented, intergenerational ecological learning and advocacy work. They are part of the 2SLGBTQIA+ (Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, plus) community. Peter is active, outgoing and excited to be part of team ministry, thriving in creative and open-minded spaces working to serve others. They are keen to create supportive and safe spaces for all ages, ethnic diversity and paths to discover meaning, purpose and the spirit in our midst.

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.

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](mailto:ofure@yegfamilycounselling.com) for the 12-4 slot or [Jodie jodie@yegfamilycounselling.com](mailto:jodie@yegfamilycounselling.com) for the 5-8 slot.

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**. For more information go to findingbalancealberta.ca/nffy/

KOINONIA

Koinonia will hold an advent service Sunday evening **November 24** in memorial hall. A potluck supper begins at 5:30 pm. After supper we will celebrate the birth of Jesus, through 2 playlets involving angels and shepherds. There will be lots of singing by all, of favourite advent carols. Please come, all are welcome!

PRE-CHRISTMAS GIFT SALE

Sunday, **November 24** in fellowship, 11:30 am-12:30 pm in Memorial Hall. Proceeds to M&S.

In the Community

R-W MUSIC SOCIETY 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. Ms. Zwicker will perform seasonal music with both the R-W Choir and Ringers all under the direction of Dr. Allan Bevan. This concert is sponsored by the R-W Music Society and is free to attend with a suggested donation of \$20.

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.

Cover Image

Cover image on www.pixabay.com AveCalvar

Lead Minister of Congregation & Community Development: Rev. Karen Bridges
Faith Development & Intergenerational Ministries Coordinator: Kevin Guenther Trautwein
Social Justice & Outreach Ministries Coordinator: Peter Graham

Music Director: Dr. Allan Bevan
Office Administrator: Elyse Munro
Facilities Manager: Brad Campbell



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