



*An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada*

2024 November 24

Honour Sunday & Life Passages

Reign of Christ



**One who rules over people justly...  
is like the sun rising on a cloudless morning...**

### **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.

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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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## *Friends in Christ*

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Announcements at 10:15 AM

Prelude: *Choral Song*, Samuel Sebastian Wesley

Dr. Belinda Chiang, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Introit: *Lux Aeterna*, by Brian A. Schmidt

Vox Hominis

Call to Worship:

Come to this sacred place where neighbours and friends gather.

**We come to worship God in community.**

Come to this sacred place where strangers are embraced.

**We come to worship God in community.**

Come to this sacred place where those who are stigmatized, bullied, minimized, ignored, or simply forgotten are now called friends.

**We come to worship God in community. Amen.<sup>1</sup>**

Hymn: *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*

*Voices United 444*

**Child of blessing, child of promise,  
baptized with the Spirit's sign,  
with this water God has sealed you  
unto love and grace divine.**

**Child of love, our love's expression,  
love's creation, loved indeed!  
Fresh from God, refresh our spirits,  
into joy and laughter lead.**

**Child of joy, our dearest treasure,  
God's you are; from God you came.  
Back to God we humbly give you;  
live as one who bears Christ's name.**

**Child of God, your loving Parent,  
learn to know whose child you are.  
Grow to laugh and sing and worship,  
trusting in God's love and care.**

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## *Life Passages*

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Sacrament of Baptism:

Prayer for the Holy Spirit (*in unison*)

**Pour out, O God, your Holy Spirit upon us, and upon this water,  
that this font may become your womb of new birth, our fount of  
blessing and source of grace. Amen.**

Congregation's Promise (*standing*)

**We will continue to support you, walk with you, and grow with you.  
With God's help we will live out our baptism as a loving community  
in Jesus Christ: nurturing one another in faith, upholding one  
another in prayer, encouraging one another in God's work**

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<sup>1</sup> Written by Catherine Tovell, **Gathering**, Pentecost 2 2020, p. 52. Used with permission.

*Please note that the last line of the creed (omitted in some of the hymn books) is:*

**We are not alone.**

**We live in God's world.**

**We believe in God who has created and is creating,**

**Who has come in Jesus the word made flesh,**

**To reconcile and make new.**

**Who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the church;**

**To celebrate God's presence**

**To live with respect in creation**

**To love and serve others**

**To seek justice and resist evil**

**To proclaim Jesus crucified and risen**

**Our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death**

**God is with us,**

**We are not alone.**

**Thanks be to God.**

Blessing: (*sung*)

*Voices United 454*

**May God who creates you give you light;**

**May God who sustains you make you wise;**

**May God who protects you give you joy;**

**May God who surrounds you give you peace.**

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### *God's Holy Word*

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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.**<sup>2</sup>

Scripture:

Norma Johnston

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

Now these are the last words of David: The oracle of David, son of Jesse, the oracle of the man whom God exalted, the anointed of the God of Jacob, the favourite of the Stong One of Israel: The spirit of the Lord speaks through me, the Lord's word is upon my tongue. The God of Israel has spoken, the Rock of Israel has said to me: One who rules over people justly ruling in the fear of God, is like the light of morning, like the sun rising on a cloudless morning, gleaming from the rain on the grassy land. Is not my house like this with God? For God has made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and secure. Will the Lord not cause to prosper all my help and my desire? But the godless are all like thorns that are thrown away; for they cannot be picked up with the hand; to touch them one uses an iron bar or the shaft of a spear. And they are entirely consumed in fire on the spot.

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

John 18:33-37 • I am the Alpha and Omega.

Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" They answered, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you." Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law." The Jews replied, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death." This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die. Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is my kingdom is not from here." Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." Pilate asked him, "What is truth?" After he had said this, Pilate went out to the Jews again and said to them, "I find no case against him."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church,

**Thanks be to God.**

Anthem: *Nearer My God to Thee*, arr. James L. Stevens

Vox Hominis

Sermon: *The nature of power*

Rev. Karen Bridges

Hymn: *Now There Is No Male or Female*

**Voices United 627**

**Now there is no male or female,  
now there is no free or slave,  
now there is no Jew or Gentile  
in the earth Christ died to save.  
Christ has set us free for freedom:  
we no more sing slavery's creed;  
old submissions cannot claim us,  
Christ has set us free indeed.**

**Crucified with Christ the Saviour,  
baptised in his holy death,  
and as Christ was raised to glory  
we have new life on this earth.  
Power of water and God's naming,  
turning us from dark to light,  
joins us to those who, before us,  
ran the race and fought the fight.**

**Death has no dominion o'er him,  
so for us death holds no power;  
life's own waters now have marked us  
born to God this very hour.  
From this moment and forever**

**dead to sin, alive in Christ,  
born of water and the Spirit,  
now in Christ we find our life.**

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*Grateful Response*

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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](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:

**Our gifts seem so insignificant against the needs of the world. Our selves seem so powerless against the conflicts of the planet, yet still you call us into witness and service. Bless us and the gifts we offer, that we may fulfill your mission for all creation. Amen.<sup>3</sup>**

Hymn: *God Who Gives to Life Its Goodness*

*Voices United 260*

**God who gives to life its goodness,  
God creator of all joy,**

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<sup>3</sup> Written by Gord Dunbar, **Gathering**, Pentecost 2 2015, p. 47. Used with permission.

**God who gives to us our freedom,  
God who blesses tool and toy;  
teach us now to laugh and praise you,  
deep within your praises sing,  
till the whole creation dances for the goodness of its King.**

**God who fills the earth with beauty,  
God who binds each friend to friend,  
God who names us co-creators  
God who will that chaos end:  
grant us now creative spirits,  
minds responsive to your mind,  
hearts and wills your rule extending all our acts by Love refined.**

Benediction:

The realm of God is coming;

**we will prepare faithfully.**

The realm of God is coming;

**we will work for peace and justice.**

The realm of God is coming;

**we will seek reconciliation and healing.**

The realm of God is coming;

**we will work to end prejudice.**

The realm of God is coming;

**we will share grace and compassion.**

The realm of God is coming;

**we will have hope at last.**

The realm of God is coming;

**we go out in the name of Jesus, the Reign-maker. Amen.**<sup>4</sup>

Postlude: *Toccata in C*, Johann Sebastian Bach

Dr. Belinda Chiang, organ

Question for reflection:

How do leaders use power in the world and in the church?

How does Jesus use power?

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### *Honour Sunday*

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*Poinsettias in the sanctuary this morning were placed by  
and in honour of the following people:*

Lorna Berlinguette in honour of **Louis Berlinguette**, who loved this church,  
as did **Brian & Belva Piercy, Michael Paul, and Jon Mullins.**

Shelley Andersen and Neil McLennan in honour of **Shirley Andersen**,  
mom and grandma.

Rhonda & Jeff Black in honour of **Anne** for being such an awesome  
matriarch, loving mother, grandparent and unbelievable cook!

Joanne Blondheim in memory of **George Blondheim**, my beloved husband,  
you are so missed.

Chloe Chen in honour of **Xudong Dai.**

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<sup>4</sup> Written by David Sparks, **Gathering**, Pentecost 2 2024, p. 54. Used with permission.

Robert Cooper and Margaret Simmons in honour of **Lore, Lavinia and Margaret** (3 bouquets)

Doug Densmore in honour of **Jean & Brent Densmore**.

Wanda Des Jardine in honour of my mom, **Marjorie May Des Jardine**.

Clara Dyck in gratitude for the life of **Peggy Skett**, my dear friend and travelling companion.

Lois Field in honour of **Derek Field**.

Karly Goss and Family in honour of **Maxine & Ray Goss**.

Karen Hansen in honour of **my family**.

Carol and Ian Inglis in honour of **Evelyn Gant**, family friend. (2 bouquets)

Norma Johnston in memory of **Thomas Johnston**.

Lothar Landsberg and Frank Kense in honour of **Derek Arcot**.

Janet Mears in honour of **Katie Campbell**.

Armand & Pearl Nielsen for **Rev. Karen and her husband**. Thanks to Karen for her spiritual guidance and thanks to Mr. Rev. Karen for sharing Karen Sunday mornings and during the week at the gym.

Vital and Colleen Ouellette in honour of our parents, **Sylvio & Gemma, Angus & Audrey**.

Tristan, Lauren, Maddy & Chris Patterson in loving memory of **Adam Persi** and with thoughts of love, hope, and strength for his spouse **Elena Barba**.

Charles Sabu in honour of **my Parents and Alefesh**. (2 bouquets)

Roy Skorekyo in honour of staff and friends at **Kiwanis Place**.

Donna Snisarenko in honour of **Roy Luxton**, my father who was in the war.

Marilee Stephens to my parents, **William and Anna Stephens**, and my brother **Scott Stephens**, who I miss very much. (2 bouquets)

John and Barb Thompson in honour of **Doug & Viv Bocking, Jack & Tena Thompson**, and **Ken & Ann**. (3 bouquets)

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## *R-W Report*

### Next Sunday

**Sunday, Dec 1, 2024**

**Advent 1/ 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:** Jeremiah 33:14-16 • A righteous branch from David's line.  
Luke 21:25-36 • Signs in the heavens and on earth.

**Sermon:** Where there's despair in life may we find hope.

As we begin Advent we come seeking hope. Hope for ourselves, hope for others, and most importantly hope for the world! Advent is a time of active waiting, and preparation for the coming of the Word made Flesh. We hear the prophecies of old and listen for the prophecies of today! What message has God given you for the world? Where do you find hope? How will you share your hopes and dreams with others?

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



## WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

## ON THE HORIZON

Sun Dec 1	Sunday Worship - <b>Sanctuary &amp; Online</b>	10:30 am
	Youth Discussion - <b>Youth Room</b>	10:30 am
	Kids' Church - <b>Garden Patch &amp; Air Room</b>	10:45 am
	Fellowship - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	11:30 am
Mon Dec 2	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	1:30 pm
Tues Dec 3	Scripture Reflections - <b>Club Room &amp; Zoom</b>	12:00 pm
	DEAP Meeting - <b>Club Room</b>	5:30 pm
Wed Dec 4	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 and Sanctuary</b>	7:30 pm
Thurs Dec 5	Not Falling for You - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	10:00 am
	R-W Ringers - <b>Lower Hall</b>	7:00 pm
Sat Dec 7	R-W Christmas Party - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	6:00 pm

## Volunteer Opportunities

### 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 about this position you are welcome to contact Peter at [p.graham@rwuc.org](mailto:p.graham@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 :Professional 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**

### **R-W CHRISTMAS PARTY**

On Saturday **Dec 7**, 2024 at 6:00 pm we are inviting all people of R-W to come and feast with one another over some turkey and all the fixings. This will be a night to celebrate and have some fun with each other. We want to make this accessible to all people. The ticket price is \$30.00. But if you can't afford it don't worry about the price, and come for free. If you are not able to attend, but would like to purchase a ticket for someone else we invite you to do so. Please reserve your spot! Tickets are available after church on Nov 24 and Dec 1. You can also call the church office to reserve your ticket.

### **KOINONIA**

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

### **WHITE GIFT SUNDAY**

On **December 8**, White Gift Sunday, we will be collecting items for the Bissell Centre, they have provided the following Wish List of needed items: art supplies, art/craft kits, trucks & cars, dinosaur toys, superhero toys, barbie/disney princess dolls/accessories, lego/building blocks, science kits, trains kits, puzzles & puzzle games, balls, headphones, pokémon toys, kinetic sand/playdoh, board/card games, sensory toys, books for toddlers, children & youth, makeup brushes, nail polishes, eye shadows. These gifts will be collected during Worship and delivered to the Bissell Centre. You can also donate toys virtually through the Bissell Centres amazon wishlist, more details at [bissellcentre.org/festive-giveaway](http://bissellcentre.org/festive-giveaway). If you would like to donate financially to the Bissell Centre please do so on their website at <https://bissellcentre.org/helpy-holidays> or write a cheque to the Bissell Centre and mail it to them at 10527 96 st Edmonton, AB T5H 2H6.

### **SPIRITED ART STUDIO MATERIALS NEEDED**

The art studio is looking to do some unique projects in the coming weeks and are looking for some donations (or loans) of specific items. Leave them in the office labeled art studio. \*If you would like something returned please mark it with your name.

- bingo dabbers of various colours (Dec 1) - hammers - \*loan only (Dec 8)
- embroidery thread (Dec 8) - felt and fabric scraps (Dec 15)

**INFO SHARING: LEGISLATION IMPACTING TRANS YOUTH**  
**November 24, 2:00 - 4:00 pm** in Room 11. This session is open to people of all ages who want to be more confident talking to their friends and advocating about the current Alberta legislation targeting trans youth. We will talk about the three bills, explore what changes they will bring if passed, and discuss ways to support each other and to get involved. Free of charge.

### **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 R-W on November 1, 2024. Kevin Guenther Trautwein will join R-W 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.

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### *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.

Thank you to Vox Hominis from Cantilon Choirs for sharing their gift of music today along with their Director Elaine Myhre.

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### *Cover Image*

Cover image on [www.pixabay.com](http://www.pixabay.com) mepa melson. Words from 2 Samuel 23:3-4.

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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



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