

**RIVERBEND UNITED CHURCH
10:30 A.M.
MARCH 3RD, 2019**

**AFFIRMING MINISTRY
CELEBRATION**





RIVERBEND UNITED CHURCH

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March 3, 2019
Affirming Celebration
10:30 a.m.

For thousands of years, First Nations peoples have walked on this land; their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives and spirituality. As we worship today, we honour their stewardship of this land through the ages.

We Gather Together

Psalm 150 (selected verses) from the Message Bible *Joel Fleck*

Introit *Come In, Come In and Sit Down* Vs. 1 & 2 **VU 395**

Call to Worship *Andrew Sims*

This is a joyful morning, as we come together in God's house, each of us but one single thread in the rich tapestry of God's Creation.

All are welcome in this sacred place.

This is a joyful morning, as we embrace the beauty that diversity brings to this faith community.

All are welcome in this sacred place.

This is a joyful morning, as we open our hearts and minds, eager to weave threads of friendship and inclusion into this family of faith.

ON THIS JOYFUL MORNING WE OFFER OUR SONGS OF THANKSGIVING AND OUR PRAYERS OF GRATITUDE TO OUR CREATOR GOD.

Opening Prayer (unison)

God of Love, as we celebrate becoming an Affirming congregation this morning, we give thanks for the wonderful diversity and richness of your Creation. We have answered Christ's call to love one another - no ifs or buts or maybes -and are grateful for the opportunity to share this time of worship with each other in Your loving presence. We celebrate this, Your house, being a place of welcome, refuge and safety for those marginalized by a society where too

often barriers are being built rather than being torn down. May we reach out with love and compassion as we offer support, encouragement and a hand of friendship to all your children as we journey in faith together. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Opening Hymn Joyful, Joyful We Adore You **VU 232**

Passing the Peace of Christ

Children's Time "Everybody's Welcome" by Patricia Hegarty
Carolyn Miller

Children's Hymn *Draw The Circle Wide* **MV 145**

We Listen for God's Ongoing Word

Scripture Reading Galatians 3:26-30 *Dawn Power*

Hymn *There is Room for All* **MV 62**

Mission Statement *Please see insert* *Bev Sawyer*

Ensemble Anthem *One Voice* by Ruth Moody

Reflection E2 Academy

Choir Anthem *Deep in Our Hearts* R. Klusmeier, J. Oldham

Reflection Jake Ens, T-Loop User

Prayer Hymn *Don't Be Afraid* **MV 90**

Prayers of the People

Reflection Jill Spaner

We Share our Gifts and our Lives

Offering Our Gifts

*Offering Anthem Hallelujah by L. Cohen *Riverbend Handbells*

Presentation of Certificate *The Rev. Dr. Catherine MacLean,
Senior Minister, St. Paul's United Church*

*Parting Hymn *Let Us Build a House* Vss. 1, 3 & 5 **MV 1**

Diversity Blessing by C. McBeath & T. Presswood *Diane Hawrelak*

May the God who created a world of diversity and vibrancy,

Go with us as we embrace life in all its fullness.

May the Son who teaches us to care for strangers and foreigners,

Go with us as we try to be good neighbours in our communities.

May the Spirit who breaks down our barriers and celebrates community,

Go with us as we find the courage to create a place of welcome for all.

Prayer of Dedication

**denotes you are invited to stand as you are able and inclined*

*Riverbend United Church
Welcomes You*

If you are new with us, we're glad you're here and we would love to meet you. Please fill out a contact card if you would like to receive our weekly email updates and other Church news.



Riverbend United Church Mission Statement

We, the people of Riverbend United Church recognize the dignity, value, and the beauty of each and every individual as a beloved child of God. We seek to grow spiritually, deepening our connections to God and each other through worship, discussion, reflection, and service. We embrace the gifts brought by all people of every age, culture, economic background, ethnicity, gender, gender expression, mental and physical ability, and sexual orientation that enrich the life of this faith community. As followers of Christ we celebrate the diversity brought by each person who joins us on our journey and shares in our congregational life and work, welcoming their full participation in church membership, leadership, and celebration of life events.