



RIVERBEND UNITED CHURCH

14907 45th Avenue NW, Edmonton AB T6H 5K8 Phone 780.430.7275

E-mail: contactus@riverbendunited.org

Website: www.riverbendunited.org

March 18, 2018, Fifth Sunday of Lent
Whole Community Worship

We Gather Together

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.

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Mission & Service

Introit *Lord Prepare Me* MV 18

Call to Worship

We walk with Jesus: as the first stirring of cheering crowds begin to whisper on the breeze.

We walk with Jesus: as the shadow of the cross becomes his constant companion.

We walk with Jesus: as the empty tomb and the promise of new life awaits him.

AS WE ACCOMPANY JESUS ON HIS LENTEN JOURNEY MAY WE TAKE TIME THIS DAY TO OFFER THANKS FOR HIS MINISTRY.

Opening Prayer Holy and Mysterious God, we long to be faithful disciples of Jesus; befriending all, as Jesus befriended all he met; opening our arms to those in need of comfort as Jesus opened his arms; showing respect and understanding to everyone we meet, as Jesus showed respect and understanding to all. It seems so simple to do these things and yet at times it can be so difficult as we allow ourselves to be swayed by popular opinion, or become so focused on our own ideas and beliefs that we fail to see any other point of view. In this time of Lent, be with us we pray, as we take the time to pause and reflect on the life and ministry of Jesus; may we refocus on his teachings, open our hearts and minds to others and journey together as your faithful people. This we ask in his name. Amen.

*Opening Hymn *My Love Colours Outside The Lines* MV 138

Godly Play Style: The Temptation of Jesus

Unison Prayer Generous and Giving God, we thank you for the gift of Jesus. Though he was tempted to follow a different path from the one you set out for him, he stood firm, and remained faithful to your will. As his disciples, may we too follow his example, refusing to be distracted from following the spiritual path that leads us to a deeper connection with you. Amen.

Hymn: *Don't be Afraid* MV 90
Godly Play Style: Jesus Calling the Disciples

Unison Prayer Holy One, we thank you for the gift of Jesus, who moved among your people, calling the faithful to his side, urging them to show your love in action. As his disciples, may we too, follow his example and those of the twelve and use our time and talents to show your love in action today. Amen.

Hymn *Jesus Saw Them Fishing* MV 113
Anthem Prayer of the Cosmic Christ
Offering *I'm Gonna Shout Shout* MV 185

Godly Play Style Jesus and Zacchaeus

Unison Prayer Loving God, we thank you for the gift of Jesus, who walked among the outcasts in the eyes of society, opening his heart to hear their cries, and enfolding them in his compassionate love. As his disciples, may we too, follow his example and open our hearts and share our love with those marginalized in society today. Amen.

Hymn: *I Saw the Rich Ones* MV 127
Godly Play Style: The Parable of the Good Samaritan

Unison Prayer Holy Creator, we thank you for the gift of Jesus. Using parables he explained the hopes and dreams you have for your children in ways that could be understood. As his disciples, may we too, follow his example, connecting with our community in ways that have meaning and relevance in their lives. Amen.

Hymn *Jesus Came Bringing Us Hope* MV 33
Prayers of the People
Closing Hymn *Go Make a Difference* MV 209
Benediction *A Prayer* VU 349

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

Staff Ministry Team

Valerie Oden, Congregational Ministry
Tom Sawyer, Minister Emeritus
Joanne Olson, Health Ministry
Paula Roberts, Music Director
Andrew Sims, Accompanist
Ben Severson, Youth Ministry
Emily Severson, Children's Ministry
Lois Samis Lund, Handbell Choir Director
Jacqueline Pambrun-Hunt, Office Manager

Ministry of the Community

Matthew Schoenhardt, Chair
Christine Ens, Past Chair
Tom LaPointe, Treasurer & P&M
Jim Schetzslle, P&M
David Faber, Lay Worship Leader
Carolyn Miller, Worship Slides
Audrey Skinner, Chancel décor
Peggy Robinson, Communion
Stephen & Fiona Bamforth, Communion