RIVERBEND UNITED CHURCH
14907 45th Avenue NW, Edmonton AB T6H 5K8 Phone 780.430.7275
E-mail: contactus@riverbendunited.org
Website: www.riverbendunited.org

December 24, 2018

9:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE

We Gather Together

Prelude — Andrew Sims

Welcome

Call to Worship — Isaiah 9: 2, 6

One: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; on them light has shined.
All: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us.
One: Authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named…
All: Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace, Everlasting Love, Emmanuel, God-With-Us. Tonight, we welcome his birth here on earth.

*Opening Hymn — *O Come All Ye Faithful vss. 1, 3, 5* — VU 60

Opening Prayer — *in unison*

**O God of angel song, shepherd surprise,
stable warmth, and birthing cry:
dawn in our darkness,
sing through our silence,
surprise us this night with wonder and with joy,
for unto us is born the Christ. Amen.**

We Share In the Christmas Story

Hymn — *In the Bleak Midwinter* vss. 1 & 2 — VU 55

Reading — Luke 2: 1-7

Hymn — *Still, Still, Still* vs 1 — VU 47

Reading — Luke 2: 8-12

Special Music — *Make My Life a Bethlehem (Courtney)* Emily Bamforth

Reading — Luke 2: 13-16

*Hymn — *Joy to the World* vss. 1, 2, 4 — VU 59

Offering Our Gifts

We Share in Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

One: Glory to God in the highest!
All: And on earth, peace to all!
One: Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them to God.
One: Let us give thanks to God.
All: It is good to give thanks and praise on this holy night.

The minister continues the prayer…

So tonight we join with angels singing and shepherds rejoicing to proclaim your praise:

**All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might;
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Remembering Jesus at Table

Prayer for Transformation / The Lord's Prayer

Receiving the Elements

You are invited to come forward down the centre aisle; take a piece of bread and dip it in the cup, then return to your seat by the outside aisle. Those unable to come forward will be offered Communion in your seats.

We Share the Light of Christ

Sharing the Light with Each other

The first prayer of peace is in our hands as we share the light with each other. Please hold your lit candle upright and allow your neighbor to tip their unlit candle. Adults, please be mindful of children with candles.

*Hymn *Silent Night* VU 67

*Benediction

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

Tonight's Communion Stewards:: Stephen and Fiona Bamforth

Thank you for joining us on this holy night.
We worship at 10:30 am on Sundays and all are welcome.

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Our Mission

We, the people of Riverbend United Church, recognize the dignity, value, and beauty of each and every individual as a beloved child of God.

We seek to grow spiritually, deepening our connections to God and to 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.

Merry Christmas from the Staff and lay leaders of Riverbend United Church

Staff Ministry Team

Valerie Oden, Lead Minister
Tom Sawyer, Minister Emeritus
Joanne Olson, Health & Care Ministry
Paula Roberts, Music Director
Andrew Sims, Accompanist
Lois Samis Lund, Handbell Choir Director
Emily Severson, Children's Ministry
Joel Fleck, Youth Co-Coordinator
Alex Rasmussen, Youth Co-Coordinator
Jacqueline Hunt, Office Manager

Ministry of the Community

Matthew Schoenhardt, Chair
Christine Ens, Past Chair
Tom LaPointe, Treasurer
David Galbraith, Property & AV
Ray Hawrelak & Jesse Lim, AV
Carolyn Miller, Worship Slides
Peggy Robinson, Communion/Decor
Stephen & Fiona Bamforth, Communion
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