



RIVERBEND UNITED CHURCH

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January 6, 2019

EPIPHANY

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

Prelude

Andrew Sims

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Arise, Shine (Isaiah 60)

VU 886

Call to Worship / Opening Prayer *(John Philip Newell, Praying with the Earth)*

One: A star shining brightly in the East,

All: discovered by those who have eyes to see the unusual and the challenging.

One: A journey into unknown lands,

All: taken by those who listen for the subtle whisper of Love.

One: The Holy One recognized, in vulnerable baby weakness,

All: calling forth our response to the grace and light of the Christ.

Opening Prayer *(In Unison)*

God of new light and new life, today we begin yet again, following the star that guides us into a true way of being. May our steps be gentle; may our words reflect the song of creation; may our relationships be filled with love; may our days be transformed by new life in You. Amen.

*Opening Hymn

Arise, Your Light Is Come

VU 79

Children's Time

Children are invited forward for a special time.

Children's Hymn

River vss. 1-2

MV 3

After this hymn, children age Pre-School and younger are welcome in the Family Room adjacent to the sanctuary for supervised activities, and children grades K-6 can go downstairs for Sunday School. Grades 7 & older can join Youth Discussion downstairs.

We Listen for God's Ongoing Word

Scripture Readings

Reader: Patti Hunter

Hebrew Scriptures: Isaiah 60

VU 886

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2: 1-12

Anthem

Reflection

"In our End is our Beginning" Rev. V. Oden

*Hymn of the Day

In the Bulb

VU 703

We Share In Prayer

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Unison Prayer

(Gail Ramshaw, 1988)

O God, our light, our beauty, our rest:

With the birth of your Son,

you have brought us into your new creation.

Form us into your people, and order our lives in you;

Through Christ, the Living One, Amen.

Response

O God, Hear our Prayer

VU 948

Silent Prayer, Pastoral Prayer, The Lord's Prayer

We Offer our Gifts and our Lives

Offering Our Gifts

*Parting Hymn

I Am the Light of the World

VU 87

*Benediction *(An Irish Blessing for the Light)*

One: May the blessing of light be on us, light without and light within.

All: May the blessed sunlight shine on us and warm our heart till it glows like a great fire.

*Musical Benediction *We Shall Go Out with Hope...* VU 586

*Postlude Andrew Sims

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

**Join Rev. Valerie next Sunday for “The Parables of Jesus”
Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. January 13 – Feb. 3**

*Riverbend United Church
Welcomes You*

If you are new with us we offer you a special welcome.

Please feel free to introduce yourself to your neighbour in the pews or to our minister, Valerie. If you fill out a Contact Card from the pew rack we will send you a weekly email with upcoming events.

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