RIVERBEND UNITED CHURCH

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February 24, 2019

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 — Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise (vs. 1) **VU 264**

Call to Worship

One: We come before you God, toting the baggage of our lives,
All: Lord, help us to live in your Grace
One: We come before you God, tending festering wounds
All: Lord, help us to live in your Grace
One: We come before you God, nurturing grievances against injustice,
All: Lord, help us to live in your Grace
One: We come before you God, clinging to the world should the Word fail us,
All: Lord, help us to live in your Grace, AMEN

Opening Prayer (in unison)

Merciful Lord, you never grow weary of speaking to my poor, tired and sundered heart. Whisper to us today with your words full of comfort and forgiveness. Hold discourse with our souls so that we may fulfill your Word. Grant us the grace that, if today we hear your voice, our hearts may not be hardened. Amen.

*Opening Hymn — God of Grace and God of Glory **VU 686**

Children's Time — Emily Severson

*Children's Hymn — Spirit, Open my Heart **MV 79**

Children are invited forward for a special time. After the hymn, children grades K-6 can go downstairs for Sunday School. Parents with littler ones are welcome in the Family Room adjacent to the Sanctuary where the services can be seen and heard. Grades 7 and older can join the Youth Discussion downstairs.

We Listen for God's Ongoing Word

Scripture Reading — Gospel lesson Mark 10: 13-27
Psalm 67 **VU 786**
Epistle lesson Ephesians 2: 3-10

Anthem — Siyahamba (We Are Marching)
- *featuring drummers Peggy Robinson, Judy Brotto & Paula Roberts*

Reflection — "Graceful Barriers" Matthew Schoenhardt

*Hymn of Response — Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven **VU 240**

Offering Our Gifts

We Share in Prayer

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Response — O God, Hear our Prayer **VU 948**

Silent Prayer, Pastoral Prayer, The Lord's Prayer

We Go Forth in Faith

Offering Our Gifts — Grant Us, God, the Grace **VU 540**

*Closing Hymn — You Shall Go Out with Joy **VU 884**

Benediction (Celebrate God's Presence)

*Postlude — Andrew Sims

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

Riverbend United Church
Welcomes You

Hearing assistance is available.
Please ask at the sound booth.

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 and other Church news.

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