



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 22, 2019

Fourth Sunday in Advent: Love
The Sacrament of Baptism

We Gather Together

Prelude

Andrew Sims

Welcome and Announcements

Advent Candle Lighting Litany (Raney) *The Candle of Love*

Sung Response (Congregation):

**Voices cry out from a world in grief:
Prayers of those who seek relief.
End their darkness, hear their call
For peace on earth, good will for all.**

Litany (Congregation reads the bold print):

Advent is a time to let go of anger and fear.
God of love, fill our hearts with true compassion.
Advent is a time to look for the best in others.
God of love, help us speak truth with kindness.
Advent is a time to share with those in need.
God of love, remind us that in giving, we receive.
Advent is a time to notice and appreciate the good around us.
God of love, help us see the world through loving eyes.

A Reading / Lighting the Candle of PEACE.

Sung Response (Congregation) (Please see above)

Opening Prayer (in Unison)

God of love, we open our hearts to you today and ask that you fill us with the power of your love. Remind us that we are brothers and sisters, all sharing the wonderful gift of life. May we treat others with respect and love; may we care for the world you have given us with loving hearts and gentle hands. Amen.

*Opening Hymn *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

VU 8

Children's Time

Emily Severson

We Baptize a Child of God

Please see insert

We Listen for the Word of God Unfolding

Scripture Reading: Matthew 18: 1-25 Lay Reader: John Adomonis

Anthem

Reflection "Emmanuel: God With Us" Rev. Valerie Oden
Advent Theme: Come Home for Christmas

*Hymn of Response *O Ancient Love* vss. 1-3 VU 17

We Share our Prayers, our Gifts, our Lives

Sharing our Prayers

Prayer Hymn *Hope Shines as the Solitary Star* MV 220
Sung twice using "Hope" then "Love"

Silent Prayer/ Pastoral Prayer / The Lord's Prayer (VU 921)

Offering Our Gifts

*Parting Hymn *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* VU 58

*Benediction

Come, child of Love.

Call us home with your birth.

Come, child of Love.

Send us into this day refreshed and ready to welcome you!

*Response

Hope is a Star vs. 4

VU 7

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

VU refers to the red hard-bound hymnal called Voices United

MV refers to the spiral bound book called More Voices

Welcome!

If you are new with us, we're glad you're here and we would love to meet you. Please also feel free to fill out a Contact Card found in the pew rack if you would like to receive our weekly email updates.

Christmas Eve Services

- 5:00 p.m. Candlelight Service with Choir**
7:00 p.m. Candlelight Service with Choir & Handbells
9:00 p.m. Candlelight Service with Communion
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Please note:

The church office is closed Dec. 25 – Jan 1 and Jan. 3.

Rev. Valerie is on call for pastoral emergencies.

Her cell number is on the church voicemail should you need it.

Thanks to Rev. Tom Sawyer, Minister Emeritus, for conducting the worship service on December 29.