Riverbend United Church
Exploring Faith, Engaging Community

## April 30, 2023

**Whole Community Worship ~ Engage with Creation**

In The Beginning — The Creation story (based on Genesis, Ch. 1)

Introit — *This is the Day* — MV 122

Opening Prayer — Holy One, we gather today in thanksgiving for the beauty of creation that surrounds us and the bounty of creation that sustains us. Let us join our voices together to sing and offer praise to our Maker. And may we never forget our sacred responsibility to care for planet earth, and for all things that dwell upon it. Amen.

*Opening Hymn — *It's a Song of Praise to the Maker* — MV 30

Creation 1 — Christine Ens
*Hymn — *It is Good* (projected)

Creation 2 Reading — George Irwin
Psalm 104 (select verses) NathanSchoenhardt

Creation 3 Anthem — Rev. Valerie Oden
*Sing to the Lord a New Song*
(composed & arranged by Annika Schoenhardt, words Psalm 98:1, with additional lyrics by Carolyn Miller)

Congregational Art and Nature Walk

Responsive Prayer of Thanksgiving — Annika Schoenhardt & Joanne Little

Creator God, today we are in awe at the magnificence and diversity of creation. We are grateful for the many opportunities we have to engage with your holy handiwork.
For the waters that flow down from the Rocky Mountains, shades of deepest blue to brightest green.
**Creator God, we give thanks.**

For the ribbons of pink, red and orange that greet us when rising and going to our rest, giving colour to each day.
**Creator God, we give thanks.**

For the glorious spruce and redwood trees that grow taller year after year, and tell stories of life through rings in the trunk.
**Creator God, we give thanks.**

For the wildflowers that peek through the grasslands of the vast prairie.
**Creator God, we give thanks.**

For the caterpillar, cocooned in its chrysalis, soon to emerge as a beautiful butterfly.
**Creator God we give thanks.**

For the miracle of the seasons, that drive the lifecycle of creation. The new life in spring, the warmth in summer, the changing colours of fall and the crisp white snow of winter.
**Creator God, we give thanks.**

O let us never take for granted the beauty that surrounds us each and every day.
**Creator God, we give thanks, today and always. Amen.**

*Hymn — *All Things Bright & Beautiful (refrain, verses, refrain)* — VU 291

Reflection — "Engage with Creation" — Carolyn Miller

*Hymn — *O Beautiful Gaia (refrain, verses, refrain)* — MV 41

Prayers of the People

Offering our Gifts

*Offering plates can be found in the narthex. Electronic gifts are welcome by e-transfer to: contactus@riverbendunited.org or on the church website. We give in gratitude for God's grace and in hope that peace may spread to all.*

*Closing Hymn — *Like a Healing Stream* — MV 144

Closing Prayer (unison) — **Holy One, as we go from this place may we go with a renewed sense of awe and wonder**

**at the splendour of creation, found in every corner of the earth. May we leave with a renewed sense of purpose to be responsible stewards of the earth and to care for it as you do. Amen.**

*Benediction

Recessional *This is the Day* MV 122

---

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

**"VU"** refers to the red hardback hymnal *Voices United*
**"MV"** refers to the spiral bound songbook *More Voices*

All are welcome for coffee and fellowship in the Gathering Room following worship. Turn left as you exit the sanctuary.

### *Welcome to Riverbend United Church*

*If you're new with us, we'd love to meet you. Please fill out a Welcome Card found in the narthex if you'd like to be included in our weekly emails with upcoming events and announcements or receive a call from our minister.*

## Upcoming Events

**Newcomers' Welcome**
Sunday May 7 following worship

**RUC Garage Sale –** May 12 and 13
Donations accepted beginning May 8

---

14907 – 45 Avenue NW, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5K8 Office: 780.430.7275
www.riverbendunited.org contactus@riverbendunited.org