



December 3, 2023

The FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

We Gather Together

Prelude

Sherry Steele

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Valerie Oden

Invitation to Worship

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel RUC Handbells
(Arr: Dobrinski) Lois Lund, Director

Introit

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Yon & Raney)

***O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and end this gloom of night.
Bring hope to the world,
bring peace to the earth,
and fill us with love's pure light.***

Call to Worship

Annika Schoenhardt, Lay Leader

One: Today we light the candle of hope. Hope begins in the dark and proclaims that light will come.

All: **Hope reminds us: in all the days of creation, never was there night that had no dawn.**

One: Hope tells us our waiting shall be fulfilled.

All: **Right in the midst of this messy world, hope calls us to live into *Emmanuel*: God with us.**

Lighting the first Advent Candle: Hope

RUC Choir

Opening Prayer (Unison)

In the hope of Christ, we worship today. May hope lead us through our doubt, when the night seems too long. May hope call us into light, when the dark seems too bare. May hope tickle our cheeks like a little feather we can't see but can't deny. And may hope be born anew this season. Amen.

*Opening Hymn

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus VU 2

Children's Time

Krystal Manuel

Hymn of Response

Hope is a Star (verse 1) VU 7

We Listen for the Spirit Stirring

Scripture Reading

Mark 13: 24-37 Annika Schoenhardt

Anthem

RUC Choir
Paula Roberts, Director

Reflection

"Awakening to *Emmanuel*" Rev. Valerie Oden

Response

***O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and end this gloom of night.
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and fill us with love's pure light.***

We Respond with our Prayers, our Gifts, our Lives

Sharing our Prayers of Joy and Concern

Prayer Hymn

Wait for the Lord VU 22

Silent Prayer / Pastoral Prayer / The Lord's Prayer

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 *All Earth is Waiting* VU 5

*Benediction

*Musical Response *Hope Shines as the Solitary Star* MV 220

Postlude Sherry Steele

**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**

***Children and Youth** are invited to go downstairs after the Baptism for age-appropriate activities and to prepare for their Christmas program. There is also a Family Room for wee ones behind the piano where a volunteer will assist parents and the service can be seen and heard.*

Welcome to Riverbend United Church. If you're new with us, we'd love to meet you. Feel free to introduce yourself to your neighbour in the pew, and/or fill out a Welcome Card in the pews if you wish to be updated on upcoming activities or receive a call from our minister.

Next Sunday, December 10: Blue Christmas Service at 4:00 p.m. For those finding the Christmas season difficult or for those wishing for a quiet, cozy service with candles. Held in the Chapel, located to the right as you enter the narthex / foyer from the main doors.

Christmas Eve is a Sunday this year. We will have worship at 10:30 a.m., honouring the fourth Sunday of Advent. Then we'll have Candlelight Services at **5:00, 6:30, and 8:00 p.m.**