Riverbend United Church
Exploring Faith, Engaging Community

February 11, 2024
Transfiguration Sunday

We Gather Together

Prelude — Sherry Steele

Welcome and Announcements — Rev. Valerie Oden

*Introit — *Come All You People* — MV 2

*Call to Worship — Dawn Power, Lay Leader

One: Come, all you people; come from your worries and busy-ness into the radiance of the Christ.

All: We come seeking peace, assurance, community; we come seeking justice.

One: We are called as children of God.

All: We have come here to respond with our lives.

*Opening Hymn — *We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding* — VU 104

Children's Time — The Somewhat Sacrilegious Sacramental Sock Toss — Jill Spaner

*Hymn — *Siyahamba* — VU 646

Readings — 2 Corinthians 4: 3-6; Mark 9: 2-9

Anthem — *Blessed Are the Peacemakers (R. Powell)* — RUC Choir
Sheryl Bowhay, Flute — Paula Roberts, Director

Reflection — "Mountains and Valleys" — Rev. Valerie Oden

*Hymn of Response — *We Are Pilgrims* — VU 595

We Respond with our Prayers, our Gifts, our Lives

Sharing our Prayers of Joy and Concern

Prayer Hymn — *Don't Be Afraid* — MV 90

The Lord's Prayer, A Paraphrase — VU 916b

Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be.
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that Is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
Now and forever. Amen.

Stewardship Moment — Dawn Power

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 — *You Are Holy* — MV 45

*Benediction

*Choral Benediction — *Benediction of Peace* — RUC Choir

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 downstairs after Children's Time for age-appropriate activities and education. There is also a family room behind the piano for wee ones where a volunteer will assist parents, and the service can be seen and heard.

Welcome to Riverbend United Church. If you are new to 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.

LENT – The 40 days of preparation before Easter. Join us on the journey!

- On Tuesday, February 13th come for a Pancake Supper at 5:30, followed by a Service of Ashes at 6:30 p.m.
- Our Lenten theme is **"Living Prayer."** We will hear from multiple Lay Leaders each Sunday through Lent on the topic of prayer.
- The Lenten Study book is *How Do YOU Pray: Inspiring Responses from Religious Leaders, Spiritual Guides, Healers, Activists & Other Lovers of Humanity.*

  Discussions will be held in person on Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. at the church (beginning February 20) and on Zoom Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. (beginning February 21). Sign up in the narthex to receive the Zoom link.

  Books are available today in the church office ($29). E-books are available for less online.

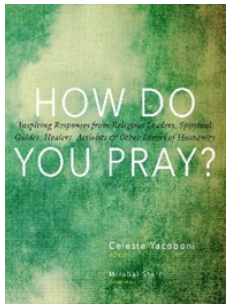
Lent, 2024

Living Prayer

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances."
-- I Thessalonians 5: 16-17

In this holy season of preparation, we will be exploring **prayer as connection with the divine and one another.** We'll look at the many ways people pray, and we'll be invited to recognize that our very lives are prayer.

Our Lenten Study book is *How do YOU Pray: Inspiring Responses from Religious Leaders, Spiritual Guides, Healers, Activists and Other Lovers of Humanity,* edited by Celeste Yacoboni. You can buy the book through the church office for $29 (sign-up in the narthex or contact the church office to order one) or buy an e-book through Amazon or Indigo for less.



- **Book Discussion groups** will be held in person Tuesdays, 11:30-12:30 February 20 – March 19 and Wednesdays at 7:00 pm on Zoom, Feb. 21- March 20. Sign up in the narthex to receive the Zoom link.

- **Six lay people will share** in dialogue with Valerie on Sundays in worship. They'll tell us how *they* pray and they'll offer us a focus for the week for our own prayer lives.

- **In the Chapel throughout Lent, you'll find a Prayer Space** where you can sit quietly, read a snippet from the various books there, and write in the Prayer Book as well as read what others have written.

This is sure to be a rich Lent for the people of Riverbend United Church. Join us on the journey!

It all begins Tuesday, February 13 with Pancakes and Ashes:
5:30 Pancake Supper (Freewill Offering)
6:30 Service of Ashes

Sundays in Lent

Each Sunday, various lay people will share with us how *they* pray, and they'll offer us a focus for the week that we might include in our own prayer life, however we pray.
Below is a synopsis of these invitations.

February 18	Nature as Connection Spending time in nature reveals God and connects us to the earth and each other.	Luke Nelson
February 25	Children and Schools Let's focus on the food insecurity of elementary school children in the Edmonton schools. Children are going to school hungry.	Holly Ruryk
March 3	Friends and Family Our friends and family are vital to our health and sense of wholeness in our lives.	Dr. Ayanna Rocke
March 10	Affirming Matters National Affirming Day is March 14. This week we are asked to be especially conscious of the marginalized.	Jill Spaner
March 17	Singing and Mental Health Singing is prayer, with sound and vibration. It connects us to others when we sing and when we listen to singing. It invites us to release our greatest joys and deepest sorrows. It has the power to support our mental health and can provide pathways to healing.	Sherry Steele
March 24	Tolerance and Understanding Tolerance and understanding are the root of Peace. David will be giving us lyrics from several hymns to focus on as we pray through the week for tolerance and understanding.	David James
March 31	**EASTER! He is Risen!** The RUC Choir will offer us an Easter Cantata!	