



May 26, 2024

Baptism Sunday

We Gather Together

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Valerie Oden

Land Acknowledgement

Introit

There is Room for All

MV 62

Call to Worship / Opening Prayer

One: We gather as a community of faith to give thanks for this new day.

All: We gather to be reminded that we are not alone.

One: We're better together, in community, to handle life's difficulties, to reach out to those in need, to grow in wisdom and faith.

All: May we be refreshed today, ready to live as the hands and feet of Christ in the world.

*Opening Hymn / M & S Giving *It's a Song of Praise...* MV 30

As we sing, you are invited to bring forward special gifts for the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada to honour significant events that have occurred in the last month.

Children's Time

After the Baptism, children are invited downstairs for age-appropriate activities. There is also a Family room behind the piano for wee ones where a volunteer will assist parents and the service can be heard.

We Baptize a Child of God

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism ERIC CASSIDY JESS Please see Insert

*Hymn of Blessing

Like a Healing Stream

MV 144

We Listen for the Spirit, in Lament and in Hope

Scripture

Matthew 24: 4-13

Reflection

Dr. Doug Spaner

Hymn

In the Quiet Curve of Evening

VU 278

Prayer of the People (In Unison)

Holy One, you never forsake us. Even when times are hard and the night seems too long, we know that we are not alone. You are always with us, and we give you thanks.

We have endured losses in these years, and the world is changed. May our lament be transformed by your grace into healing and hope. Amen.

Silent Personal Reflection

What have we lost, during and since Covid?

Hymn

Don't Be Afraid

MV 90

Scripture

Psalm 22 (Selected Verses)

Reflection

Dr. Doug Spaner

Anthem

Your Love is Amazing (MV 26)

The RUC Ensemble

We Go Forth to Serve

Stewardship Moment

Mortgage Campaign

Matthew Schoenhardt

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

And on This Path

MV 8

*Benediction

**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*

Welcome to Riverbend United Church. If you're new with us, we would 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.** We'd love to know who you are!

The Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada works with partners around the globe to help transform lives, to inspire meaning and purpose, and to build a better world. Each month, we are invited to share special gifts to this fund in honour of significant events in our family's life.

New Members will be received in June. Please let Valerie know if you want to join the church as a full member.

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**Reminder: Church Picnic is June 9<sup>th</sup>** after worship. Please sign up in the narthex so we know how many to plan for. Food is provided.



**RIVERBEND UNITED CHURCH**  
Edmonton, AB

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism  
May 26, 2024



Introduction

Presentation of the Child:

**ERIC CASSIDY JESS**

*Child of Jeff and Jenn Jess*

Questions and Promises of the Parents:

Do you believe in God, who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
and who works in us and others by the Spirit?

*We do, by the grace of God.*

Desiring the freedom of new life in Christ, do you seek to  
resist evil, and to live in love and justice?

*We do, by the grace of God.*

Will you seek to follow the way of Jesus,  
sharing the stories and the traditions of our faith with your  
children, growing together in faith, hope and love?

*We will, by the grace of God.*

Promise of the Congregation:

Will you, the people of God in this place, offer your loving,  
prayerful care for this family, doing all you can to nurture  
them in the Christian life and support them on the journey of  
faith?

Congregational Response:

**With God's help, we will share in caring for this child  
and for all God's children, encouraging them that they  
may grow in love and be confirmed and strengthened in  
the way that leads to life eternal.**

Pouring of the Water:

In the beginning, God's Spirit swept over the waters  
bringing forth life; and God said, "It is good."

The waters of the Red Sea parted for the sake of freedom,  
flowed from a rock in the wilderness to give life,  
enfolded Jesus in the River Jordan at his baptism.

Water is vital to our faith, to the earth, to our lives.  
Today we use water to bless this child,  
symbolizing joyous welcome into the body of Christ.

Prayer of the People:

**Loving God, your blessing of life is evident in this  
precious child being baptized today. By your Holy  
Spirit, the water that touches Eric calls forth your  
eternal love. May this family know such love as they  
grow together by your grace. Amen.**

The Baptism

Welcoming the Child: **Eric Cassidy**

Hymn of Blessing: *Like a Healing Stream* MV 144

*Minister: Rev. Valerie Oden*

*Congregational Sponsors: Matthew Schoenhardt and Joanne Little*