Riverbend United Church

Exploring Faith, Engaging Community

14907 – 45 Avenue NW, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5K8
www.riverbendunited.org

Office: 780.430.7275
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December 1, 2024

The First Sunday of Advent: HOPE

We Gather Together Seeking Hope

Prelude — Sherry Steele

Welcome and Announcements — Rev. Valerie Oden

Mortgage Update — Matthew Schoenhardt, Treasurer

Advent Candle Lighting: The Candle of Hope

Music: "Gesu Bambino" by Peitro Yon; words and arrangement by Joel Raney

Sung: *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.

Litany:

In this season of Advent, we long for God's presence.
Christ is our light and the source of our hope.
In this season of Advent, we search for God's truth.
Christ is our light and the source of our hope.
In this season of Advent, we seek God's guidance.
Christ is our light and the source of our hope.
In this season of Advent, we remember God's promise.
Christ is our light and the source of our hope.

An Advent Prayer (In Unison) — John Adomonis, Lay Leader

God of all wisdom, our hearts yearn for the warmth of your love and our minds search for the light of your Word.
Increase our longing for Christ our Saviour
and strengthen us to grow in love,
that at the dawn of his coming
we may rejoice in his presence
and welcome the light of his truth.
This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Opening Hymn — *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus* — VU 2

Children's Time — Krystal Manuel

*Children's Hymn — *Hope Shines as the Solitary Star* — MV 220

After this song, children and youth are invited downstairs. There is a "Family Room" beside the sanctuary (through the door behind the piano) for little ones, where a volunteer will assist you and the service can be seen and heard..

Scripture Readings — Psalm 25 (Refrain 2) — VU 752
Luke 25: 21-36

Anthem — *The Divine Expectation (J. Martin)*

Reflection — "Living Hope" — Rev. Valerie Oden

*Hymn — *Hope is a Star* — VU 7

Prayers of the People (Sharing our Joys and Concerns)

Silent Prayer

The Lord's Prayer: A Paraphrase — VU 916

We Respond with our Gifts and our Lives

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 *People Look East* VU 9

*Benediction

*Choral Benediction *Watching for the Lord (arr. D. Hart)*

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*

Upcoming Events:

- **Blue Christmas Service** today at 4:00 in the Chapel (Through the double doors by the elevator)
- **New Members Sunday** – Next Sunday, Dec. 8. (Let Valerie know if you would like to join the church.)
- **Ease the Burden** Workshop—End of life planning – Sunday, Dec. 8, 11:45 - 1:15
- **Children's Christmas Program** – Sunday, Dec. 15, during 10:30 am worship
- **Community Carol Sing** Sunday, Dec. 15, 4:00 held at RUC, led by RUC musicians
- **Christmas Eve Candlelight Services**:

  5:00 with Choir and John Tessier, Soloist
  6:30 with Choir and Handbells
  8:00 with Holy Communion

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