

Special Music

*O Holy Night*

John Tessier

Sharing the Light

*As we share the light of Christ with one another, **please hold your lit candle upright** and let your neighbour tip their unlit candle. Adults, please be mindful of children with candles.*

Hymn

*Silent Night*

VU 67

Benediction

Postlude

Sherry Steele

*\*denotes you are invited to stand as you are able and inclined  
VU refers to the red hymnal, Voices United*

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**Special thanks to John Tessier** for offering his gifts in singing tonight. He is an internationally known opera singer, a Juno Award winner and head of voice and opera in the University of Alberta Music Department. He is also married to Sherry Steele, our Accompanist. You can read more about him at [johnptessier.com](http://johnptessier.com).

**Thank you also** to all the volunteers who worked to make this night special: the musicians, greeters, ushers, readers, bulletin folders, slide creators, sanctuary decorators and light bearers.



Riverbend United Church is an **Affirming Ministry** of the United Church of Canada.  
You are welcome here *no matter what*.

**Coming in January:**

**“Contemplative Christian Practices”** – Each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. beginning January 4, Graham Gaine will lead a class on various contemplative practices including Meditation, Quaker prayer, and Centering Prayer. All are welcome.

**“Sacred Thresholds”** – Each Sunday in January during worship at 10:30 a.m., Valerie will explore the moments of our Scripture stories and of our lives when the divine often breaks through. All services are also on our YouTube channel.



December 24, 2025

6:30 p.m.

Riverbend United Church





Christmas Eve, 2025

6:30 p.m.

## We Gather on this Holy Night

Prelude Sherry Steele

\*Opening Hymn *O Come All Ye Faithful*, vss 1, 3, 5 VU 60  
Marv Severson, Trumpet

Welcome

Land Acknowledgement Rev. Valerie Oden

Opening Prayer (in unison)

**Holy God, on this night of wonder and quiet joy,  
we gather with hearts that hold many things—  
hope and weariness, gratitude and longing.**

**As we remember the birth of Jesus,  
may our hearts be open to the gift of your love.  
May we find you in the familiar carols and ancient story,  
and also in the places within us that ache for peace.**

**May the light that shone in Bethlehem  
find room in us again tonight. Amen.**

Carol *Away in a Manger* vss. 1 and 3 VU 69  
*Children are invited forward as we sing this hymn.*

Children's Time *Once Upon a Silent Night* Christine Ens  
by Dawn Casey, illustrated by Katie Hickey

Anthem *Johnny Bring the Pine Tree In (Mann)* RUC Choir

Reflection Rev. Valerie Oden

## We Share in the Christmas Story

Carol *O Little Town of Bethlehem* vss. 1, 2, 4 VU 64

Reading Luke 2: 1-7

Carol *What Child is This* vss. 1 & 3 VU 74

Reading Luke 2: 8-12

Carol *The First Nowell* vss. 1 & 2 VU 91

Reading Luke 2: 13-14

Carols *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* vs. 1 VU 48  
*Angels We Have Heard on High* vss. 1 & 3 VU 38

Reading Luke 2: 15-16

\*Hymn *Joy to the World* vss. 1, 2, 4 VU 59

## We Respond with our Lives

Invitation to Offering E-transfer: [contactus@riverbendunited.org](mailto:contactus@riverbendunited.org)

*A portion of tonight's offering will go to outreach initiatives.*

Offering Our Gifts *Rejoice! Christ Is Born!* RUC Choir  
*Trad. Finnish Folk Melody; arr. J. Martin*

Unison Prayer for Peace

**God of Peace,  
on this holy night we long for a world made whole.  
We seek peace not only for ourselves,  
but for all who ache for rest and safety.  
Where there is war, may violence cease.  
Where there is fear, may courage stir.  
Where there is injustice, may change come.  
May your peace begin anew this night,  
and may it spread across the earth. Amen.**