

We Receive New Members and Go into the World Together

***Hymn of Invitation** *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus* VU 2
If you wish to join the church you are invited forward as we sing this hymn.

Introduction of New Members

Question of Support

Will you join with us as we celebrate God's presence, live with respect in creation, love and serve others, seek justice and resist evil, supporting the church with your time, talent and treasure?

Congregational Pledge

**As your siblings in Christ,
we rejoice in your journey.
We pledge to you our love and support.
By grace, we will live out the mission and ministry
of Christ's church, growing together
in love of God and neighbour.**

***Closing Hymn** *Take Up His Song ("Hope" then "Peace")* MV 213

***Benediction** Adam Hall

***Choral Benediction** *An Advent Blessing (M. Faith & J. Paige)* 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***

Next Sunday: 10:30 worship - Children's Christmas Program
 4:00 pm - Community Carol Sing with RUC
 Choir, Handbells, Ensemble and other musicians

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The United Church of Canada



L'Église Unie du Canada



B20-51

Location: Woodroffe United Church, Ottawa, ON
Photo: Laura Lynn Hodson





December 7, 2025

The Second Sunday of Advent: **PEACE**

We Gather Together Seeking Peace

Prelude

Sherry Steele

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Valerie Oden

Advent Candle Lighting: The Candle of Peace

Music: "Gesu Bambino" by P. Yon; words and arr. 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 pray for God's peace.
Christ is our light and the source of our peace.

We witness the hostility between nations and neighbours.
Christ is our light and the source of our peace.

We see a world full of fractured relationships and unforgiving hearts.
Christ is our light and the source of our peace.

We seek relief from our own inner turmoil and restlessness.
Christ is our light and the source of our peace.

Unison Prayer for Peace

Source of life, in this season of waiting and hope, we pause to breathe in your peace. May we hear the gentle whisper of your presence in these moments. As we prepare the way for the birth of the child, may we be bearers of peace to all we meet. Amen.

*Opening Hymn All Earth is Waiting vss 1, 2, 3 VU 5

As we sing this hymn, children are invited downstairs to rehearse the Christmas Program, to be offered next Sunday. All children are welcome.

*Passing the Peace Alternative greetings include fist bump, elbow bump, hand over heart, hands together below chin.

We Share in the Sacrament of Baptism

Please see the Baptism Insert

We Listen for the Ongoing Word of God

Readings Isaiah 11: 1-10; Matthew 3: 1-12
Adam Hall, N. Spirit Region

Anthem Prepare Ye The Way
(M. Barrett and M. Smith) RUC Choir

Reflection "Breathing Peace" Rev. Valerie Oden

We Offer our Prayers and Our Gifts

Prayers of the People (Sharing our Joys and Concerns)

Prayer Hymn (Peace) Shines as a Solitary Star MV 220
Words: Catherine Faith MacLean; Music: Janet Bauman Tissandier

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.



RIVERBEND UNITED CHURCH

Edmonton, AB

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

December 7, 2025



Introduction

Presentation:

John Barrington-Leigh

Questions and Promises

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?

I do.

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

I do.

Will you seek to follow the way of Jesus,
continuing to learn the stories and the traditions of our faith,
growing in faith, hope and love by the grace of God?

I will.

Question of the Congregation:

Insofar as you are able, will you, the people of God in this
place, offer your loving, prayerful care for John, doing all
you can to nurture him in the Christian life and support him
on the journey of faith?

Congregational Response:

**With God's help, we will share in supporting John,
encouraging him that he may grow in hope, peace, joy
and love. Amen.**

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.
In the sacrament of Holy Baptism, water is used to
symbolize divine grace and joyous welcome
into the body of Christ.

Prayer of the People:

**God of grace, we are grateful for the journey John has
walked, bringing him to this moment. May your Spirit
stir as he is baptized. May he know your unconditional
love as he continues down the road of faith. Amen.**

The Baptism and Anointing

Congregational Welcome

**By one Spirit, we are baptized into one body. We are
children of the one God, and we welcome you into the
community of faith.**

*Hymn of Blessing: *I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry* VU 644
Verses 1, 2, 3, 6, 7

*Minister: Rev. Valerie Oden; Care Coordinator: Holly Ruryk
Congregational Sponsors: Matthew Schoenhardt and Joanne Little*



Advent Events 2025

See the reverse side for invitations ongoing throughout Advent.

- Sunday, Nov. 30 Advent 1 – HOPE
- **Young Family Advent Gathering** and Children's Program dress rehearsal after worship, 11:30 - 12:30.
- Sunday, Dec. 7 Advent 2 – PEACE
- **New members and Baptism.**
 - **Christmas Café** after worship - Come to the Chapel for festive goodies and warm Christmas conversation.
- Sunday, Dec. 14 Advent 3 – JOY
- **Children's Christmas Program** in worship.
 - **Community Carol Sing** at 4:00 pm with RUC musicians, the Choir and Handbells.
- Sunday, Dec. 21 Advent 4 – LOVE
- Wed., Dec. 24 **Christmas Eve**
- 5:00 Worship with Choir and Handbells
Flame-free service
- 6:30 Worship with Choir and John Tessier, Soloist
(See johnntessier.com for more info.)
Candlelight service with individual candles
- 8:00 Worship with Communion
Candlelight service with individual candles

Advent: The Coming



How will *you* prepare this year, for the birth of the one who brings light to the dark? We are invited to set aside time each day to read, reflect, pray. We're invited to create room in our hearts—to let the light find its way, to believe that the world might move a step toward peace, and to follow the star to the manger.

Throughout Advent

*Details for each of these offerings can be found in the Front Pew Newsletter, coming soon. They are provided by the RUC Spiritual Formation Committee.
It all begins November 30th.*

- Unwrap the gifts of the digital **Daily Advent Calendar** created specifically for Riverbend United Church by member Carolyn Miller. Go to riverbendunited.org to follow it and be amazed!
- Look for the **Christmas Story Trail** found on posters around the church. Scan the QR Codes on the posters to reveal Lego videos of the Christmas Story.
- See the **Advent Prayer Tree** in the narthex – take a prayer, leave a prayer.
- Traditional printed weekly Advent devotionals will also be available in the narthex: *Heaven's Earthly Life: Wendell Berry and the Poetry of Advent.*