Riverbend United Church
Exploring Faith, Engaging Community

October 18, 2026

We Gather Together

Prelude — *Celebration No. 3 (M. Keller)* — RUC Handbells

Welcome — Rev. Valerie Oden

The Life and Work of the Church

Introit — *Let's Go Together (Welcome)* — TLUS! 138
Choir: Vs. 1, Chorus; People: Repeat Chorus

Call to Worship — Charles Hitschfeld, Lay Leader

One: We lift our hearts and our voices in praise.
All: As we worship, may our music become prayer and draw us closer to the Sacred.

Opening Prayer (Unison)

God of harmony and grace, we give you thanks for the gift of music—for the songs that lift our spirits, the melodies that comfort our sorrows, and the rhythms that bring us together. May our singing, our listening, and even our silence become expressions of gratitude and love as we join your song of all creation. Amen.

*Opening Hymn — *All Creatures of our God and King* — VU 217
Verses 1, 2, 5

Children's Time — Alec Gallant

*Children's Song — I Thank you, Thank you Jesus — MV 188
Vs. 1: I thank you… Vs. 2: I love you…

We Listen for the Spirit

Scripture Readings — Psalm 96 — VU 816
Matthew 22: 15-22

Anthem — *Over My Head* — RUC Choir
Trad'l Spiritual, Arr: Adam and Matt Podd

Reflection — "The Singer and the Song" — Rev. Valerie Oden

Music Appreciation Litany *(L. Kurtz, adapted)*

Leader: Creator God,
Since you formed us in your image,
we humans have been singing.
After you led them out of slavery,
Moses and Miriam and all your people sang
songs of thanksgiving.
After you sent an angel to tell Mary of her son,
she sang her praise,
her soul magnifying the Lord.

All: How can we keep from singing?

Musicians: Sing to God a new song;
I will sing to the Lord all my life,
Or play my instrument my whole life long,
Making music from my heart to the Lord.
I will sing and I will play
with my spirit and with my heart, with joy.

All: How can we keep from singing?
We are grateful for the musicians among us,
Grateful for their gift of time and talent.
They lift our worship and touch our hearts.
May they know our gratitude even as God hears their praise.
How can we keep from singing?

*Hymn of Response — *My Life Flows On* — VU 716

We Share in Prayer

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

Prayer Hymn — *O God Hear Our Prayer* — VU 948

Silent Prayer / Pastoral Prayer / The Lord's Prayer

Special Music — *Gratitude, God's Grace (A. Guebert)* — Handbells

We Go Forth to Serve

Stewardship Moment — Charles Hitschfeld

Invitation to Offering Our Gifts

Offering plates can be found in the foyer. 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.

*Hymn — *When Long Before Time* — VU 248

*Benediction

Postlude — Sherry Steele

**Indicates you are invited to stand as able*

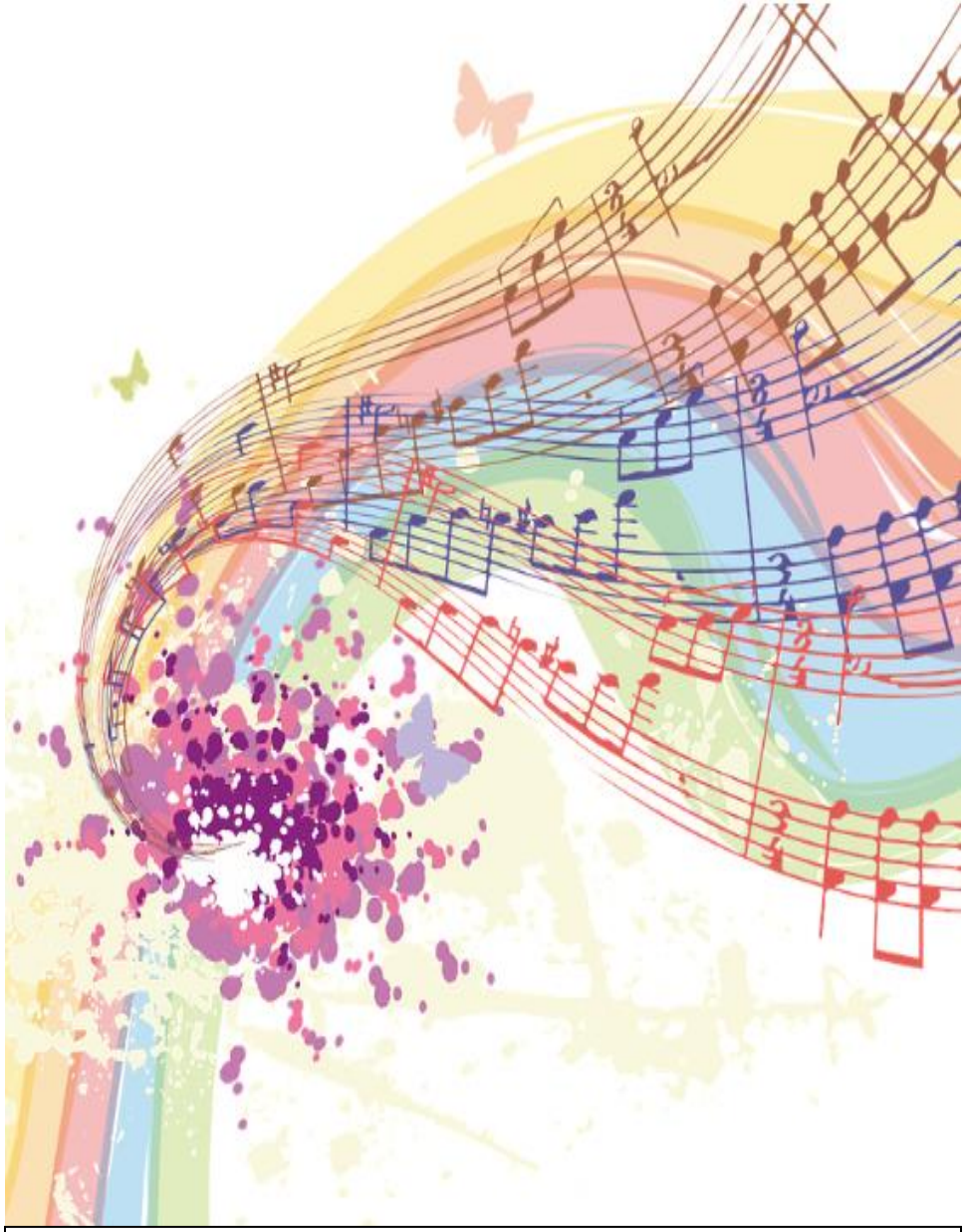
***VU** refers to the red hard bound hymnal, Voices United*
***MV** refers to the small spiral bound hymnal, More Voices*
***TLUS** refers to the new hymnal, Then Let Us Sing!*

Welcome to Riverbend United Church!

We're glad you're here. If you're new with us, feel free to introduce yourself to your neighbour in the pews and fill out a **Welcome Card** in the narthex (foyer) so we can get to know you. We send a weekly email with upcoming events and ministry highlights. All the church events are listed in the **Front Pew newsletter** by the front doors to the church.

14907 – 45 Ave NW, Edmonton, AB, T6H 5K8
www.riverbendunited.org

Office: 780.430.7275
contactus@riverbendunited.org



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Sunday, October 18, 2026

10:30 a.m.