



RIVERBEND UNITED CHURCH

14907 45th Avenue NW, Edmonton AB T6H 5K8 Phone 780.430.7275

E-mail: contactus@riverbendunited.org

Website: www.riverbendunited.org

April 15th, 2018

3rd Sunday of Easter

Whole Community Worship Sunday

For thousands of years, First Nations peoples have walked on this land; their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives and spirituality. As we worship today, we honour their stewardship of this land through the ages.

We Gather Together

Welcome and Announcements

Introit *Called by Earth and Sky (Refrain)* **MV 135**

Call to Worship

We gather as people of the new covenant, called to live with respect in Creation.

May we honour the earth and its gifts.

We gather as a Treaty 6 people who have covenanted with those who lived on these lands for thousands of years, that we might be free to share to use of it with them.

We gather in worship seeking God's guidance that we might live faithfully as both covenant and treaty people.

*Opening Prayer *Prayer to the Four Directions* (Back of bulletin)

*Opening Hymn *It's a Song of Praise to the Maker* **MV 30**

Children's Time

*Children's Hymn *Like a Rock* **MV 92**

We Listen for God's Ongoing Word

Reading

Reflection

Ben Severson

*Hymn

Each Blade of Grass

MV 37

Reading

Reflection

Tom LaPointe

*Hymn

O Beautiful Gaia

MV 41

We Share our Prayers, our Gifts, our Lives

Dedicating the Gift of Prayer Shawls (in Unison)

**God of love, may these gifts, created in love stitch by stitch,
bring your embrace to someone alone,
your healing to someone in pain,
your comfort to someone in grief,
your light to someone in dark.
May your love be carried on these prayer shawls,
bringing peace where needed. Amen.**

Invitation to Offering Our Gifts

The ministries of Riverbend United Church are possible only by the gifts of its members and adherents. Thank you for your support!

*Offering Hymn *Like a Healing Stream* **MV 144**

Children's Time

*Parting Hymn *You Shall Go Out With Joy* **VU 884**

* denotes you are invited to stand as you are able and inclined

Prayer of the Four directions

(Chief Seattle, adapted)

*We turn to face the **east** (Left side of sanctuary)*

Great Spirit of Light, come to us from the East with the power of the rising sun. Let there be light in our words, let there be light on our path. Let us remember always that you give the gift of a new day. And never let us be burdened with sorrow by not starting over again.

*We turn to face the **north** (back of sanctuary)*

Great Spirit of Love, come to us with the power of the North. Make us courageous when the cold wind falls upon us. Give us strength and endurance for everything that is harsh, everything that hurts, everything that makes us squint. Let us move through life ready to take what comes from the north.

*We turn to face the **west***

Great Life-Giving Spirit, we face the West, the direction of sundown. Let me remember every day that the moment will come when my sun will go down. Never let me forget that I must fade into you. Give me a beautiful color, give me a great sky for setting, so that when it is my time to meet you, I can come with glory.

*We turn to face the **south***

Great Spirit of Creation, send us the warm and soothing winds from the South. Comfort us when we are tired and cold. Unfold us like the gentle breezes that unfold the leaves on the trees. As you give to all the earth your warm, moving wind, give to each of us, so that we may grow close to you in warmth. May we remember that we did not create the web of life; we are but a strand in it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. We praise you, Maker of all.