



RIVERBEND UNITED CHURCH

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April 22, 2018

EARTH DAY

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

Prelude

Andrew Sims

Welcome and Announcements

Introit / M & S Giving *Resounding Jubilation (Edwards)* Handbell Choir

You are invited to bring forward gifts for the Mission & Service fund of the United Church of Canada to honour and mark special events in your family's life this month.

Call to Worship

After the dormancy of winter, new life springs forth.

The birds return from their southern home.

Crocuses and other early spring flowers begin to carpet the land as it throws off its wintry coating.

Buds emerge on the trees as the earth warms and the sun lingers.

Creation awakens to the possibilities of spring.

Let us enter into the Spirit of God's creative life.

Opening Prayer *(Unison)*

Creating God, we thank you for our home of Earth, Sea, and Sky. It is a home that is majestic and humble, vast and small, vibrant—and ailing. Help us join with all of Creation in caring for our home and its living beings. Amen.

*Opening Hymn *Let All Things Now Living* **VU 242**

*Passing the Peace

Children's Time

Emily Severson

*Children's Hymn *God of the Sparrow* vss. 1, 2, 3 6 **VU 229**

We Listen for God's Ongoing Word

Scripture Reading *Reader: Joel Fleck*
Psalm 8 **VU 732**
Job 12: 7-10

Anthem *"The Smallest Things"* (Clemens/Wright)

Reflection *"Rippling Beauty"* Rev. Valerie Oden

*Hymn of the Day *For the Beauty of the Earth* vss. 1, 2, 3 **VU 226**

Sharing our Prayers of Joy and Concern

Prayer Hymn *O God, Hear My Prayer (adapted)* **VU 948**

Silent Prayer / Pastoral Prayer / The Lord's Prayer

We Share our Gifts and our Lives

Offering our Gifts *Meditation in C Minor (Helman)* Handbell Choir

*Offering Hymn *For the Fruit of All Creation* Vs. 1 **VU 227**

*Offering Prayer

*Parting Hymn *All Creatures of Our God* vss. 1, 2, 3, 5 **VU 217**

If you would like to join Riverbend United Church in membership, please come forward as we sing this hymn.

Receiving New Members

**As your brothers and sisters in Christ,
We rejoice in your presence among us,
and we celebrate the new perspectives you bring.
We pledge to you our love and our support.
With God's help, we will together live out the mission
and ministry of Christ's church.**

*Benediction/Response *You Shall Go Out with Joy (Is. 55)* **VU 884**

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

Welcome to Riverbend United Church!

Please join us next Sunday for an important day.

Rev. Catherine MacLean from St. Paul's United Church will be here as a guest preacher. Catherine has served St. Paul's for 15 years and is among the most well-respected clergy in the United Church of Canada. She was part of the team who wrote the "Statement of Faith" for the United Church and she has spoken in seminaries and conferences around the country as well as having published "Doctrine is not Dusty".

Immediately following worship, we will have an Affirming Process Question and Answer time with Catherine and some of the Lay Leaders of St. Paul's U.C., our parent church.

*Join us if you are able on **Sunday, April 29** for this important day.*

Staff Ministry Team

Valerie Oden, Congregational Ministry
Tom Sawyer, Minister Emeritus
Joanne Olson, Health Ministry
Paula Roberts, Music Director
Andrew Sims, Accompanist
Ben Severson, Youth Ministry
Emily Severson, Children's Ministry
Lois Samis Lund, Handbell Choir Director
Jacqueline Pambrun-Hunt, Office Manager

Ministry of the Community

Matthew Schoenhardt, Chair
Christine Ens, Past Chair
Tom LaPointe, Treasurer
David Galbraith, Property & AV
David Faber, Lay Worship Leader
Carolyn Miller, Worship Slides
Audrey Skinner, Chancel décor
Peggy Robinson, Communion
Stephen & Fiona Bamforth, Communion