Riverbend United Church
Exploring Faith, Engaging Community

St. Pauls United Church Edmonton
An Affirming Congregation

August 17, 2025

We Gather Together

Prelude — Tyson Kerr

Welcome — Rev. Valerie Oden

The Life and Work of the Church

Introit — *Gather Us In* — MV 7

Call to Worship — *(Excerpted from Ecclesiastes 3: 1-4)*

One: For everything there is a season,
All: and a time for every matter under heaven:
One: a time to be born, and a time to die;
All: a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
One: a time to weep and a time to laugh;
All: a time to mourn and a time to dance.

Opening Prayer (Unison) — (*George F. McLeod, adapted)

**Creator: The morning is yours, rising into fullness.
The summer is yours, dipping into autumn.
Eternity is yours, dipping into time.**

The vibrant grasses, the scent of flowers, the tang of sea-weed, the ocean's endless waves and the stars of the galaxies that spin on their courses: all are yours.

**Gladly we live in this garden of your creating,
in this life as it emerges in your time. Amen.**

*Opening Hymn — *Come Let Us Sing* — VU 222

We Listen for the Promise of New Life

Scripture Reading — Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8
Jennifer McKercher Rott, St. Paul's UC

Solo — *Turn, Turn, Turn (Pete Seeger)* — Tyson Kerr

Reflection — *Mindful Living 3: Time as Kairos* — Rev. V. Oden

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

We Share in Prayer

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Prayer Hymn — *Spirit God, Be Our Breath* — MV 150

Silent Prayer

The Lord's Prayer A Paraphrase

**Eternal spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be.
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed
by peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
Now and for ever. Amen.**

We Offer our Lives

Offering Our Gifts

Offering plates can be found in the foyer. Gifts designated to St. Paul's will go there. Electronic gifts to Riverbend 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 *In the Bulb There is a Flower* VU 703

*Benediction

*Postlude Tyson Kerr

**Indicates you are invited to stand as able*
VU refers to the red hard bound hymnal, Voices United
MV refers to the small paperbound hymnal, More Voices

Welcome to this partnership worship service
between Riverbend United Church and St. Paul's United Church. In July, we worshiped together at St. Paul's. Throughout August, we worship together at Riverbend.

We're glad you're here!

Fellowship and lemonade follow worship immediately in case you can stay a few minutes.

*Today's Opening Prayer was adapted from George F. MacLeod, *The Whole Earth Shall Cry Glory* ©1985, Wild Goose Publications, Glasgow.

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To everything
there is a season,
a time for every
purpose under heaven.

~ *Ecclesiastes 3:1*

Riverbend United Church
Sunday, August 17, 2025
10:30 a.m.