

Farewell Prayer to HTR

June 20, 2021

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father,

Today we give you thanks for Holy Trinity Riverbend church, where we have gathered and worshiped and enjoyed fellowship together over the past twenty-four years.

We especially thank the Chinese Anglican community for having the vision to establish this church and all the work they did to help it grow.

We give thanks for the clergy who have served our church from the beginning, and for the contributions of the many parishioners who have worshipped with us over the years.

Together as a church family we have shared birthdays, weddings, confirmations, marriage vow renewals, child dedications, and baptisms. We held picnics in our sanctuary when unexpected rain showers hurried us inside. We hosted Christian theatre groups and held children's dance recitals. We opened our doors for delightful piano recitals, and even government elections.

And of course we held funerals to say goodbye to members of our church family who now reside with you.

Throughout the years, our members have led a children's choir, and even showed us how to preserve and convert our photos from paper to digital. We enjoyed the sounds of a talented handbell choir which rang out on many special occasions.

We were blessed with the musical talent of so many over the years, who played piano, guitar, flute, and drums for us, and offered their voices in song. They enriched our services.

Our church has held neighborhood meetings to open people's eyes to the possibility of ending homelessness in Edmonton, as we shared our dream of building affordable housing on our extended property.

We led Vacation Bible School programs where we welcomed children from the neighboring communities, and our Messy Church program was extremely popular.

We were entertained with some great Christmas pageants from our children and youth over the years and thank you for these memories.

Our seniors shared many fun times together as they learned new crafts, played games, and shared a monthly meal at our Sage Luncheons.

Our Sunday school program, led by many caring members of our congregation, enriched the lives of dozens of children and youth over the years.

And in the midst of all these things, we found time to bless our pets, acknowledging God's love for all his creatures. We did our best to be good stewards of your creation in all we did and help others along the way.

We opened our doors and shared our space with a number of community groups.

The church served us well as we gathered each week to hear God speak to us and lead us on his righteous path. Many prayers were offered, every prayer was heard, and each of us are better servants for every day we spent here listening to your voice and being led by your Word.

Now as we leave Holy Trinity Riverbend for the last time, we give thanks to you, dear Lord, for the presence of your glory and grace through every one of years we walked on this hallowed ground. We pray that you will now guide us to a new home where we can build more memories and be together in fellowship. In the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, Our Lord.
AMEN