



## RIVERBEND UNITED CHURCH

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March 31, 2019 Lent 4

**A Song of Faith: Jesus**

*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

M & S / Introit *Air on the G String (J.S. Bach/arr.Larson)* Handbell Choir

*Please come forward as you wish with any special offering for the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada to mark personal or communal special events for February and March.*

Call to Worship (A Song of Faith, United Church of Canada 2006)

One: We sing of Jesus, a Jew,  
born to a woman in poverty  
in a time of social upheaval  
and political oppression.

**All: He knew human joy and sorrow.**

One: So filled with the Holy Spirit was he  
that in him people experienced the presence  
of God among them.

**All: We sing praise to God incarnate,  
the Word in form,  
as we worship today.**

Opening Prayer (In Unison) (A Song of Faith, United Church of Canada, 2006)

**Holy One, we sing of Jesus whom we call the Christ.  
He announced the coming of Your reign—  
a commonwealth not of domination  
but of peace, justice, and reconciliation.  
We pray that we may walk in his Way.**

**He healed the sick and fed the hungry.  
He forgave sins and freed those held captive.**

**We pray that we may accept the freedom  
of new life he offers.**

**He crossed barriers of race, class, culture, and gender.  
He preached and practiced unconditional love—  
love of God, love of neighbour,  
love of friend, love of enemy—  
and he commanded his followers to love one another  
as he had loved them.**

**We pray that we may find You among us today, everyday.  
Amen.**

\*Heritage Hymn *Blessed Assurance* VU 337

Children's Time / Hymn *Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands* VU 570

*Children are invited forward for a special time. After the hymn, children grades K-6 can go downstairs for Sunday School. Parents with littler ones are welcome in the Family Room adjacent to the sanctuary where the service can be seen and heard. Grades 7 & older can join Youth Discussion downstairs.*

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

## We Listen for God's Ongoing Word

Lenten Contemplation *Stay With Me (Repeated multiple times)* VU 950

*During this time, we are invited to take a few deep breaths and centre our hearts in the Holy. What is it that we need to let go of in our lives? What is it that we are being called into next in our faith journey?*

Lenten Litany (In Unison) (A Song of Faith, United Church of Canada, 2006)

**By becoming flesh in Jesus,  
God makes all things new.  
In Jesus' life, teaching, and self-offering,  
God empowers us to live in love.**

**In Jesus' crucifixion,  
God bears the sin, grief, and suffering of the world.  
In Jesus' resurrection,  
God overcomes death.**

**Nothing separates us from the love of God.** (continued ...)

**The Risen Christ lives today,  
present to us and the source of our hope.**

**In response to who Jesus was  
and to all he did and taught,  
to his life, death, and resurrection,  
and to his continuing presence with us  
through the Spirit,  
we celebrate him as the Word made flesh,  
the one in whom God and humanity are perfectly  
joined, the transformation of our lives,  
the Christ. Amen.**

Anthem                      *Come Now, Spirit of God*  
- music by Joseph Martin; words by Tina English

Scripture Reading      John 1: 1-5, 10 - 16

Reflection                "We Sing of Jesus"                      Rev. Valerie Oden

\*Hymn of Response      *Jesus You Have Come to the Lakeshore*      VU 562

## We Offer our Gifts and our Lives

Offering Our Gifts      *How Can I Keep from Singing?*      Lowry/Sherman

\*Parting Hymn            *When Long Before Time*                      VU 248

\*Benediction

\*Choral Benediction    Choir

\*Postlude    Andrew Sims

*\*denotes you are invited to stand as you are able and inclined  
VU indicates the red hard-bound hymnal, Voices United*