



Riverbend United Church

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March 6, 2022 ~ First Sunday in Lent

We Gather Together

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Introit *As the Sun with Longer Journey* vss. 1 & 3 VU 111

Call to Worship Carolyn Miller, Lay Reader

One: Says Ezekiel for God:
“A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.”

We gather on this first Sunday in Lent to pray that God’s new heart might move within us and sweep across the globe.

All: We gather to pray for peace, that this hurting world may know the love of God.

One: In the face of anxiety or dismay, we remember that Jesus faced it *all* in the wilderness.

All: We gather to remember that in the Lenten wilderness, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

*Opening Hymn *Throughout these Lenten Days and Nights* VU 108

Children’s Time Krystal Manuel, Children’s Coordinator

Hymn *The Lord’s Prayer (sung)* VU 959

We Listen for God

Affirming Anniversary RUC Mission statement Jill Spaner, Affirming Team

Hymn of Response *Let us Build a House* vss. 1, 4, 5 MV 1

Scripture Reading Exodus 35: 22-28; Matthew 22: 34-40

Reflection Faith in the Balance 1: Wholeness of Heart

Prayer Hymn *Spirit of the Living God* vs. 1 VU 376

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Silent Personal Prayer

Unison Prayer

God of infinite goodness, we pray today for Peace. You offer us your peace continually and remind us that peacemakers are blessed as children of God.

May your voice resound in the hearts of all as you call us to follow the path of reconciliation and peace.

We pray for the people of Ukraine. In the midst of the rage of war – its hunger, violence and death, may your eternal peace be known by all who are suffering.

May the leaders and people of Ukraine know that they are not alone. May your wisdom and vision be known to all who are trying to bring an end to this conflict.

And by your grace, may peace move through the hearts, minds and actions of the aggressors across the globe.

May we all seek to build together a world of justice and solidarity. We pray through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Special Prayer Anthem *Stay with Us Through the Night* RUC Choir

Stewardship Moment / Invitation to Offering

*Parting Hymn *Come Touch our Hearts* MV 12

*Benediction

*Musical Benediction *Prayer of Dedication*

Postlude

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

*VU refers to the red hard-bound hymnal called Voices United
MV refers to the paperbound hymnal called More Voices*



Riverbend United Church Mission Statement

*We, the people of Riverbend United Church
recognize the dignity, value, and the beauty
of each and every individual as a beloved child of God.*

*We seek to grow spiritually,
deepening our connections to God and each other
through worship, discussion, reflection, and service.*

*We embrace the gifts brought by all people
of every age, culture, economic background, ethnicity, gender,
gender expression, mental and physical ability, and sexual orientation
that enrich the life of this faith community.*

*As followers of Christ,
we celebrate the diversity brought by each person who joins us
on our journey and shares in our congregational life and work,
welcoming their full participation in church membership,
leadership, and celebration of life events.*

Today's Worship leaders

Lay Reader:	Carolyn Miller, Jill Spaner	RUC Choir:	Paula Roberts, Director
Pianist:	Sherry Steele	Children's time:	Krystal Manuel
AV team:	Ray Hawrelak, Tea Romanzin, Nathan Mills		
Ministers:	all members of Riverbend United Church		
Clergy:	Rev. Valerie Oden		

Announcements

Movie Discussion series begins this Wednesday evening, **March 9th** at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom (see Friday's email for the link.) This week's movie is *It's a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*. Please watch it on your own. The March 16th move is *The Upside* (or the original French version, *The Intouchables*.)

Lesser Evils: Daily Reflections on Seeking Wisdom discussion will be held next Sunday, **March 13th** after worship with lunch. Please let Valerie know if you are participating so we can make lunch plans. There will be a second discussion on Sunday, April 3rd.

Grocery gift cards With the resumption of in person services gift cards will no longer be available through residential pickup. Sobey's/Safeway Gift Card sales will now be available after the services on: March 6th, 20th and April 10th. We have \$25, \$50, \$100 and \$500 denominations available. For anyone not attending in-person services please contact Doug at 587.982.3703 to arrange a handoff outside the church on those dates. In addition two volunteers are needed to assist with Gift Card Sales. Please see Doug Michalko after the service.