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**February 5, 2023  
Communion Sunday**

**We Gather Together**

Prelude Sherry Steele

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Valerie Oden

Introit *All Who Hunger vs 1* VU 460

Call to Worship

One: We gather as the lost and the found to worship the God of life.

**All: We gather as the children of love seeking to open our hearts to peace, our minds to clarity, our hands in service.**

One: We gather at the Table today and say yes once again to the Way of love.

**All: May we find food for our souls so that we may go from this place nourishing others.**

\*Opening Hymn *We Gather Here* VU 469

Children's Time Krystal Manuel

\*Children's Hymn *Dance with the Spirit* MV 156

*Children and youth are invited downstairs after this hymn. They will return to worship for Communion. There is also a family room through the door behind the piano where the service can be seen and heard.*

**We Listen for the Spirit Stirring**

Scripture Reading Matthew 5: 13 – 20

Anthem *Peace in the Valley* arr. Larry Shackley

Reflection "Pass the Salt, Please"

**We Share in Communion**

\*Hymn of Invitation *I Come With Joy vs 1, 2, 3* VU 477

Prayers of the People

The Great Thanksgiving Please see Insert

**We Respond with our Gifts and our Lives**

Offering our Gifts

*Offering plates can be found in the narthex. Electronic gifts are welcome by e-transfer to: [contactus@riverbendunited.org](mailto: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.*

\*Closing Hymn *Go Make a Difference* MV 209

\*Benediction

\*Musical Response *All Who Hunger vs 3* VU 460

Postlude

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

"VU" refers to the red hardback hymnal *Voices United*  
"MV" refers to the spiral bound songbook *More Voices*

***Thank you to Rev. Tom Sawyer, Minister Emeritus,  
for helping lead today's service.***

***All are welcome for coffee and Fellowship in the Gathering Room  
following worship. Turn left as you exit the sanctuary.***

***Welcome to Riverbend United Church  
If you're new with us, we'd love to meet you.***



Hearing assistance is available.  
Please ask at the sound booth.

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The Sacrament of Holy Communion  
Riverbend United Church  
February 5, 2023

\*Hymn of Invitation      *I Come with Joy* vs. 1, 2, 3      VU 477

Prayers of the People

Invitation to the Table

Silent, Personal Prayer

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to God.**

Leader: Let us give thanks for the gift of life.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: Holy are you, God of life,  
Creator of light, Giver of all life, Source of love.  
You guide the sun, cradle the moon,  
and toss the stars.  
At your word the earth was made  
and spun on its course among the planets.

**All: You breathe life into us and sustain us  
along the way.  
Even when we turn away from you,  
You do not forsake us.**

Leader: Creator, Christ, and Spirit,  
we praise you for your love revealed to us in Jesus,  
who walks with us, our Wisdom, our Way.

**All: He shares our joy and sorrow,  
invites us to be made whole,  
feeds the hungry and sets the captives free.**

Leader: And so we join the song of all creation  
proclaiming your goodness:

Hymn      MV 203

Blessing of the Elements

A Prayer of Self-Giving

Leader: Loving God, we rejoice in the gift of your grace,  
remembering Christ's life and death,  
proclaiming his presence here and now,  
offering healing to this hurting world.

**All: May we offer ourselves to you that our lives  
may proclaim the mystery of our faith:**

Hymn      MV 204

Prayer for Transformation

Leader: Send, O God, your Holy Spirit upon us  
and upon these gifts,  
that we may be the body of Christ in the world.

**All: Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy spirit, all glory  
is yours God of all, now and forever.**

Hymn      MV 205

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing the Bread and the Cup      Music by Sherry Steele

*Please come forward as you are able and receive the bread, dip it in  
the cup, then return to your seat by the outside aisle. Gluten free bread  
is available at the centre serving station. We use grape juice.  
If you wish to be served in your seats, please lift a hand  
and the elements will be brought to you.*