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March 12, 2023

Third Sunday in Lent:
Encountering Jesus: Waypoints on the Journey

Affirming Ministry Recognition Sunday

We Gather Together

Prelude Sherry Steele

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Valerie Oden

Introit *And On this Path* MV 8

Affirming Ministry Recognition Jill Spaner

Call to Worship

One: We gather to honour our Lenten journey as a community of faith.

All: We gather to sing and to pray, to join God's grace-filled welcome to all.

One: May we listen for the Spirit stirring in this place as it stirred so powerfully three years ago when we celebrated becoming an Affirming Ministry.

All: And may we hear the call to reconcile and make new through all we do and say.

*Opening Hymn *Let Us Build a House* MV 1

Children's Time Krystal Manuel

*Children's Hymn *Lord Prepare Me* MV 18

Children are invited downstairs after this hymn. Youth, please remain in worship today as the leaders are away on a youth retreat. There is also a family room behind the piano where the service can be seen and heard.

We Listen for the Spirit Stirring

Encountering Jesus "With the Marginalized" Rev. V. Oden

Reflection Sermon from Washington Cathedral Dr. Brené Brown

Anthem *One Voice (R. Moody)* The Ensemble

We Respond with our Gifts and our Lives

Prayers of the People

Prayer Hymn *Take O Take Me as I Am* MV 85

Silent Prayer

Our Mission (In Unison): Jill Spaner

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

We seek to grow spiritually, deepening our connections to God and to 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.

May we grow toward fulfilling our mission.

Offering our Gifts

Offering plates can be found in the narthex. Electronic gifts 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.

*Closing Hymn *Draw the Circle Wide* MV 145

*Benediction

*Musical Response *I am Walking a Path of Peace* MV 221
("Peace" then "Love")

**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*

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. Please fill out a Welcome Card found in the narthex if you'd like to be included in our weekly emails with upcoming events and announcements or receive a call from our minister.



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