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March 26, 2023

**Fifth Sunday in Lent:
Encountering Jesus: Waypoints on the Journey**

We Gather Together

Prelude Sherry Steele

Welcome and Announcements

Introit / M & S Giving *And On This Path* MV 8

*As we sing, you're invited to come forward and offer special gifts to the United Church of Canada's **Mission and Service** in honour of special occasions in your family's life over the last year.*

Call to Worship

One: In our Lenten Journey, we encounter Jesus as a healing presence whose love knows no bounds.

All: He heals the lepers, loves the sinners, brings sight to the blind.

One: May we follow him by loving all people, treating others with kindness and respect.

All: As we worship today, may our eyes be opened to new ways of loving others.

*Opening Hymn *Open My Eyes* VU 371

Youth Sharing

*Hymn of Response *Lord Prepare Me* MV 18

Children and youth are invited downstairs after this hymn. There is also a family room behind the piano where the service can be seen and heard.

We Listen for the Spirit Stirring

Scripture Reading John 9: 1-33 (selected verses)

Anthem *Man of Sorrows* (L. Larsen) RUC Choir

Reflection "Blind Insights" Rev. Valerie Oden

We Respond with our Lives

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

Prayers of the People

Silent Prayer / Pastoral Prayer / The Lord's Prayer

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

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 *Amazing Grace* vss 1, 2, 3, 5 VU 266

*Benediction

*Musical Response *I am Walking a Path of Peace* MV 221
(“Peace” then “Light”)

Postlude Sherry Steele

**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.

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Thank you for supporting The United Church of Canada's **Mission and Service** with a special gift today. M & S is in partnership with organizations locally and globally with these goals:

- To help transform lives
- To inspire meaning and purpose
- To build a better world

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***Good Friday:  
The Seven Last Words of Christ  
April 7 at 10:30 am***

*Join us for this solemn Tenebrae service of music and scripture honouring the crucifixion of Christ.*

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