



April 16, 2023

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter ~ Earth Day

## We Gather Together

Prelude Sherry Steele

Welcome and Announcements Jacqueline Hunt, Lay Leader

Introit *Spirit of Life* VU 381

### Call to Worship

One All praise to God, the creator of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
whom we do not yet see, yet whom we love;  
whom we have not yet met, yet whom we trust!

All **Let us come before God with thanksgiving and praise; and celebrate what has been done for us!**

\*Opening Hymn *Halleluia, Halleluia* VU 179

Children's Time Krystal Manuel

Children's Song *Jesus Loves Me* VU 365

## We Listen for God

Scripture Reading 1 Peter 1:3-9 Terry Hunt, Lay Reader  
John 20:19-31

Anthem *Creation Praise!* RUC Choir  
By P. Mock, and S. Harris

Reflection I did not see, do I believe? Jacqueline Hunt

\*Hymn *In the Bulb There is a Flower* VU 703

## We Respond with our Lives

### Prayers of the People / Joys & Concerns

### Silent Prayer / Unison Prayer

One: Creator God, you fashioned the universe in all its glory and you placed us here on this beautiful earth.

All: **We should be overcome with awe and amazement, but frequently we let our anxieties and troubles distract us from the glory of your creation.**

One: Help us remember that our faith will guide us, that our belief in your unseen miracles will sustain us, and that our love for you will nourish us in this life and beyond.

All: **Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer

### Stewardship Moment

### 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 *Called by Earth & Sky* MV135

### \*Benediction

May the Christ who walks on wounded feet walk with us on the road. May the Christ who serves with wounded hands stretch out our hands to serve. May the Christ who loves with a wounded heart open our hearts to love. May we see the face of Christ in everyone we meet, and may everyone we meet see the face of Christ in us. Amen.

*Celtic prayer*

\*Musical Response *Prayer of Dedication*

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*

### ***Welcome to Riverbend United Church***

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

*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.*

*If you don't have a name tag and would like one,  
please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex.  
A name tag will be printed and available for you next Sunday.*

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### ***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.