



October 15, 2023

We Gather Together

Prelude

Sherry Steele

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Valerie Oden

Introit

Weave (R. Crow) (Congregation - Chorus)

*Weave, weave, weave us together;
Weave us together in unity and love.
Weave, weave, weave us together;
Weave us together, together in love.*

Call to Worship

Daina Sparling, Lay Reader

One: We gather today because of the love that gives life.

All: **We come with our unique journeys of heart and soul, pain and joy, woven together as we worship.**

Opening Prayer

God of hope and light, shine into our darkness and call us forth into love. Remind us again of the eternal hope in you that knows no bounds.

Open our hearts to receive your loving Spirit. Refresh our minds with knowledge of your unconditional love.

Grant us the courage to find you in solitude, and the conviction to move through life with compassion. Amen.

*Opening Hymn

We Praise You O God

VU 218

Children's Time

Carolyn Miller

*Children's song

Lord Prepare Me

MV 18

We Listen for the Spirit Stirring

Scripture

Psalms 25 (Refrain 2)
Matthew 6: 1-6

VU 752

Anthem

RUC Choir
Paula Roberts, Director

Reflection

"Better Together 3: In Solitude"
(This is the third of a 4-week series)

Rev. Valerie Oden

*Hymn of Response

Come and Find the Quiet Centre

VU 374

We Respond with our Prayers, our Gifts, our Lives

Sharing our Prayers of Joy and Concern

Prayer Hymn

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

VU 684

Silent Prayer

Unison Prayer for Peace

(The United Church of Canada, adapted)

**Holy One, you are our hope; we shall not let go.
You help us seek peace, justice and dignity for all.
You lead us toward courageous actions.**

We seek your grace now, your hand of love in this world.

We lift up the people of Ukraine and Russia, so tired of war and death.

We lift up the people of Israel and Gaza, caught in shocking new violent aggression.

Draw close to the multitude of injured and grieving people; gather up the hopeless, and abide with them.

May your Spirit reach and comfort our siblings in their suffering.

By your grace, may we continue to seek justice and resist evil all the days of our lives. Amen.

Stewardship Moment

Daina Sparling

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 *May the God of Hope* VU 424

*Benediction

*Musical Response *May the God of Hope (Chorus only)* VU 424

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. If you're new with us, we'd love to meet you. Feel free to introduce yourself to your neighbour in the pew, and/or fill out a Welcome Card in the pews if you wish to be updated on upcoming activities or receive a call from our minister.

Children and Youth are invited to go downstairs after the Children's Song for age-appropriate activities, learning, and conversation. There is also a babyfold for wee ones behind the piano where a volunteer will assist parents and the service can be seen and heard.