



Sunday, December 10, 2023

Join us for Sunday worship in person at 10:30 a.m. or online. [Click here](#) for the live-streamed service.

This week at Riverbend United

December 8, 2023

Dear Friends:

On Sunday, we'll hear Isaiah telling us that the wilderness is where we *prepare* for the glory of God to be revealed. We'll hear John the Baptist, speaking from the wilderness, proclaiming Jesus' arrival.

Though the wilderness times in our lives may not be fun, they almost always prepare us for the next. They carve us out and make space for new possibility. Perhaps humanity is being carved out for its "next" in these wilderness times of climate change, neighbours at war, and increasing disparity between rich and poor. I'd love to hear your thoughts.

Sunday morning, we will welcome our new Care Coordinator, Holly Ruryk. We're delighted to have her as part of our RUC ministry team. You can find more information about her [here](#).

Last, thank you to Matthew Schoenhardt for leading [last week's worship](#) at the last minute, AND even offering a thought-provoking sermon. I echo Rev. Tom Sawyer's prayer of gratitude for the amazing lay people we have in our pews.

See you Sunday,

valerie

NOTE [Click here](#) for the new **Winter Edition of The Front Pew Newsletter**

Upcoming Christmas Events

- December 10, 4:00 p.m. Blue Christmas Service
- December 17, 10:30 a.m. Children's Christmas Program
- December 17, 4:00 p.m. Community Carol Sing
- December 24, 10:30 a.m. Advent Worship service
- December 24 Candlelight Christmas Eve Services
 - 5:00 p.m. with Choir
 - 6:30 p.m. with Choir and [John Tessier](#), soloist
 - 8:00 p.m. with Holy Communion and special music by Fiona and Emily Bamforth

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please [click here](#) for this week's Order of Service
- Click [here](#) for this week's Announcements
- Click [here](#) for the winter edition of **The Front Pew**, our quarterly newsletter.