



February 18, 2024

First Sunday in Lent

LIVING PRAYER

We Gather Together

Prelude Kim Cousineau

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Valerie Oden

Outreach Focus The Somewhat Sacrilegious Sacramental Sock Toss 2

Introit *All Night, All Day* arr. Hart Morris RUC Handbells
Directed by Fiona Bamforth

Call to Worship Luke Nelson, Lay Leader

One: As we begin our Lenten journey, God is with us.

All: Through the trials of life, we are not alone.

One: Today we listen for how Nature speaks.

All: May we remember our constant connection with the Earth and all life sustained by it.

*Opening Hymn *Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights* VU 108

Children's Time Krystal Manuel

*Hymn *Lord Prepare Me* MV 18

Reading Luke 4: 1-13

Anthem RUC Choir
Paula Roberts, Director

Reflection Living Prayer 1: Walking Prayer Rev. Valerie Oden

*Hymn of Response *I Am Walking a Path of Peace* MV 221
Repeat using "Hope," "Love"

Dialogue How do you pray? With Luke Nelson

We Respond with our Prayers, our Gifts, our Lives

Sharing our Prayers of Joy and Concern

Prayer Hymn *Don't Be Afraid* MV 90

Prayer The Finger Labyrinth

Stewardship Moment Luke Nelson

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 *It's a Song of Praise to the Maker* MV 30

*Benediction

*Musical Benediction *Prayer of Dedication* RUC Choir

Postlude Kim Cousineau

**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*

Children and Youth are invited downstairs after Children's Time for age-appropriate activities and education. There is also a family room behind the piano for wee ones where a volunteer will assist parents, and the service can be seen and heard.

Hearing assisted devices are available at the sound booth, or switch your hearing aid to T-coil.



Welcome to Riverbend United Church. If you are new to 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.

LENT – The 40 days of preparation before Easter.
Join us on the journey!

This week's Prayer Invitation is offered by Luke Nelson. Luke asks us to spend some time with the beauty of nature, either by taking a walk outside or by looking out a window. How many different sounds do you hear? What creatures of nature do you see and hear? We must take moments to appreciate the abundant nature at our doorsteps. The complexity and interdependence of nature reveals God's creation.

- Our Lenten theme is “**Living Prayer.**” We will hear from a variety of Lay Leaders Sundays through Lent on the topic of prayer. Each one will give us a Prayer Invitation, inviting us to focus on a specific topic through the week, however we pray.
- The Lenten Study book is *How Do YOU Pray: Inspiring Responses from Religious Leaders, Spiritual Guides, Healers, Activists & Other Lovers of Humanity*. Discussions will be held in person on SUNDAYS at 9:30 a.m. at the church (this is a change from Tuesdays), and on Zoom Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Contact Valerie to receive the Zoom link.
- Good Friday Service March 29 at 10:30 a.m.
- Easter service March 31 at 10:30 a.m. with the RUC Choir presenting an Easter Cantata, “*From Silence to Song*”.