Riverbend United Church
Exploring Faith, Engaging Community

March 3, 2024

World Day of Prayer – Communion Sunday

Third Sunday in Lent: *Living Prayer*

We Gather Together

Prelude — Sherry Steele

Welcome and Announcements — Rev. Valerie Oden

Introit — *Gather Us In* — MV 7

Call to Worship — *(Celebrate God's Presence)* — Dr. Ayanna Rocke

One: We come from scattered lives to this time of worship.
All: We come seeking community-- unity in the Spirit.
One: We come seeking grace and peace for our own lives and for people across the world.
All: We come to share at the table and renew our commitment as followers of the Christ.

Opening Prayer (In Unison) Written for World Day of Prayer
By Alydia Smith, from *Parables, Prayers, and Promises*

Teach me the language of prayer, God.
Help me to hear prayers of thanksgiving
in the laughter of young children and old friends.

Help me to sense prayers of lamentation
in the silent tears of strangers and loved ones.

Help me to witness prayers of intercession
in small acts of kindness and service.

Teach me how to pray with my whole being.

Amen.

*Opening Hymn — *As We Gather At Your Table* — VU 457

Children's Time — Krystal Manuel

Children and youth are invited downstairs after this hymn. They will return to worship for Communion. There is a family room for wee ones behind the piano from which the service can be seen and heard and a volunteer will assist you.

*Children's Song — *Jesus Loves Me* — VU 365

We Listen for the Spirit Stirring

Scripture — Mark 14: 22-24; 1 Corinthians 11: 23-25

Anthem — RUC Choir

Lenten Dialogue — How do YOU Pray? — With Ayanna Rocke

*Hymn of Response — *Spirit Open My Heart* — MV 79

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

We Share at the Table

Blessing the Elements

Sharing in Communion

In the United Church of Canada, all are welcome to Christ's table. Please come forward as you're able down the centre aisle and receive a piece of bread and dip it in the cup, then return to your seat by the outside aisle. Gluten free elements are available in the centre serving station, and we use only grape juice.

Prayer after Receiving

We Go Forth to Serve

Stewardship Moment — Ayanna Rocke

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 *We Are Pilgrims* VU 595

*Benediction

*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. If you're new with us, we would 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.

Thank you to Dr. Ayanna Rocke for sharing in today's worship service. Ayanna invites us this week to focus on our friends and family connections in our lives, however *we* pray. She says:

> *In the midst of the busy-ness of life, along with catastrophic events happening both near and far, we often forget to pray for our own friends and family, near and dear to us. Everyone is invited to hold up those people we know in our community, who may not be willing or ready to share their own struggles, successes, and failures.*

Spring Forward Next Saturday night.
Daylight Savings Time begins March 10th.

Please mark your calendars:

- March 29 at 10:30 am: Good Friday Service
- March 31 at 10:30 am: Easter Service with a Cantata presented by the RUC Easter Choir: *From Silence to Song* by Joseph Martin

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Our 2024 Lenten Journey:
Living Prayer

Riverbend United Church
March 3, 2024

Sunday worship
10:30 a.m.