Riverbend United Church
Exploring Faith, Engaging Community

March 10, 2024

Forth Sunday in Lent: *Living Prayer*

National Affirming Day

We Gather Together

Prelude — Kim Cousineau

Welcome and Announcements — Rev. Valerie Oden

Introit — *Gather Us In* — MV 7

Call to Worship — Jill Spaner

One: On this National Affirming Sunday, we gather to celebrate the all-inclusive love of God.

All: We gather to worship our Maker, who delights in diversity.

One: We gather to worship the Lover, who in Jesus reached out and accepted and embraced everyone, despite all social, class, ethnic and spiritual barriers.

All: We gather to worship the Keeper, the Spirit who continues to break down the walls that divide us. Thanks be to God!

Opening Prayer (In Unison)

Source of all, as you call each of us into being, you delight in your works. You have gifted us with differences that illuminate the breadth of beauty and wisdom in your creation. In whatever ways we still struggle to accept and celebrate our diversity, free us from narrow thinking that confines, and breathe into us your spirit of grace and acceptance. Amen.

*Opening Hymn — *Let Us Build a House (All Are Welcome)* — MV 1

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 (Verse 1 & Chorus)* — VU 365

We Listen for the Spirit Stirring

Scripture — Matthew 5: 43-45

Anthem — RUC Choir

Lenten Dialogue — How do YOU Pray? — With Jill Spaner

*Hymn of Response — *Though Ancient Walls vss 1-4* — VU 691

Care Team Commissioning

Introducing the RUC Care Team (See names on back of bulletin)

Congregational Response:

We give thanks for your commitment to caring for our members. Through phone calls, visits and conversation, may your hearts of compassion bring a sense of comfort to those you reach. As you serve the church in this way, may you know that God is with you, and so are we.

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer / The Lord's Prayer

We Go Forth to Serve

Stewardship Moment — Orie Windjack

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 — *Draw the Circle Wide* — MV 145

*Benediction

*Musical Response *Sent Out in Jesus' Name* MV 212

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*

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 Jill Spaner for sharing in today's worship service. Here is Jill's invitation to us for this week, however we pray:

> *This week we are called to pray for the marginalized, those living on the edges of what our society considers acceptable and lovable. I would also invite us to pray for those on our own personal edges, those individuals who are a little or a lot different from us and what we consider acceptable or lovable. We are called to stretch and practice loving and praying for those not like us, those we may not even like much less approve of …*

Riverbend United Church Care Team, 2024:

Holly Ruryk, Care Coordinator
Jamie Bain
Sheila Basford
Judy Brotto
Sandy LaPointe
Georgianna McDavid
Maureen Miller
Mary Neden
Janet Pattison
Daina Sparling

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 10, 2024

Sunday worship
10:30 a.m.