



March 31, 2024

**EASTER**

Prelude

Sherry Steele

Call to Worship

One: Out of the darkness of grief and despair, anxiety and fear, comes a message of ultimate hope: Christ is risen!

**All: Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!  
Thanks be to God!**

\*Opening Hymn

*The Day of Resurrection*

VU 164

Welcome

Land Acknowledgement

**We acknowledge that we are located on Treaty 6 Territory. We respect the history, languages and cultures of First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, who continue to enrich this community and these lands.**

Opening Prayer (In Unison) (by Nancy Townley)

**O God of all our days,  
we come this morning with eager anticipation.  
We seek to know you, to see signs of your presence.  
Open our hearts, that we might experience you anew.  
Open our lives, that we may be faithful witnesses  
to your resurrection.**

**May we proclaim your liberating love to all people,  
everywhere, with our very lives. Amen.**

Children's Time

1, 2,3, Alleluia

Children's Choir

*All children are invited forward for this special gift of our young singers.*

\*Children's Hymn

*Halle Halle Halle*

VU 958

*Younger children (age 3 – 7) are invited downstairs for age-appropriate activities. Older children (age 8 and older) are invited to remain in worship for the Cantata. There is a family room behind the piano for babies and toddlers where a volunteer will assist parents and the service can be seen and heard.*

Invitation to Offering our Gifts

Offertory

Sherry Steele

*We are passing the offering plates today; electronic gifts are also welcome by e-transfer to [contactus@riverbendunited.org](mailto:contactus@riverbendunited.org) or via the church website. We give in gratitude for God's grace and in hope that peace may spread to all.*

Offering Prayer

\*Offering Hymn

*Grateful (Refrain only)*

MV 182

Easter Cantata

*From Silence to Song by J. Martin*

RUC Easter Choir

*Please see insert*

\*Closing Hymn

*Jesus Christ is Risen Today*

VU 155

\*Benediction

Isaiah 55:12

One: May we go out in joy and be led forth in peace.

**All: And the mountains and the hills before us shall  
burst into song, and all the trees of the field  
shall clap their hands.**

One: For Christ is risen!

**All: Christ is risen indeed!**

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. We'd love to know who you are! If you'd like to be included in our new Church Directory, please fill out the Contact Card in the bulletin.

### Upcoming Special Events:

- April 14, 11:30 a.m.      Annual Congregational Meeting
- April 21, 11:45 a.m.      Newcomers Welcome

### Our Mission

We, the people of Riverbend United Church, recognize the dignity, value, and beauty of each and every individual as a beloved child of God.

We seek to grow spiritually, deepening our connections to God and to each other through worship, discussion, reflection, and service.

We embrace the gifts brought by all people of every age, culture, economic background, ethnicity, gender, gender expression, mental and physical ability, and sexual orientation that enrich the life of this faith community.

As followers of Christ, we celebrate the diversity brought by each person who joins us on our journey and shares in our congregational life and work, welcoming their full participation in church membership, leadership, and celebration of life events.





BY JOSEPH M. MARTIN

Easter Sunday  
March 31, 2024

Presented by  
The Riverbend United Church Choir  
Director: Paula Roberts  
Piano: Sherry Steele  
Narrator: Luke Nelson

**A Quiet Gathering (piano prelude)**

Music by Joseph M. Martin  
Incorporating tune: PASSION CHORALE by Hans Leo Hassler  
(1564-1612)  
Harmonization by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

**Somewhere in the Silence**

Words and Music by Joseph M. Martin  
Incorporating tune: EXPRESSION  
American Folk Melody

Solo performed by Addy Fung

**Prepare Your Hearts**

Words and Music by Joseph M. Martin  
Incorporating tune: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN  
Swedish folk tune, 17th century

**I Heard the Voice of Jesus Calling Me**

Words and Music by Joseph M. Marten  
Trio performed by Fiona Bamforth, Heather Dettman, and Judy Brotto

**Just Beyond the Palms**

Music by Joseph M. Martin and David Angerman  
Incorporating tune: LEONI

**The Silence Speaks**

Incorporating hymns: “Ah Holy Jesus”, “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”  
and “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”  
Arranged by Joseph M. Martin

**Set Free You Alleluia! (with congregation)**

Tune: LANCASHIRE by Henry T. Smart (1813 - 1879)  
Arranged by Joseph M. Martin

**Congregation**

Set free your life eternal, receive the risen Son.  
Embrace this new beginning and all that God has done.  
For all things now are hopeful. God made us all to soar.  
Unchained, we reach for heaven and glory evermore.

**Cantata Singers**

A heartfelt thank you to all RUC choir members who rehearsed this Cantata in addition to our usual Sunday anthems. And a special thank you to our “guest” choir members\* who gave of their time to join us for this special presentation!

**Soprano**

Judy Brotto  
Janet Fung  
Heather Dettman  
Dorothy Hitschfeld  
Marcia Loder  
Peggy Robinson

Carolyn Miller\*  
Olivia Mitchell\*  
Victoria Peard  
Marge Riley  
Bev Sawyer\*  
Debbie Webb

**Bass**

Alan Anderson\*  
Stephen Bamforth  
Paul Fung  
Charles Hitschfeld  
Tom Sawyer\*  
Doug Spaner

**Alto**

Linda Anderson\*  
Fiona Bamforth  
Addy Fung\*  
Ava Garbutt

**Tenor**

Lonnie Haine  
George Irwin  
Arnold Rumbold\*  
Marv Severson