



February 1, 2026
Communion Sunday
We Gather Together

Prelude Sherry Steele

Welcome Rev. Valerie Oden

The Life and Work of the Church

Introit *Come All You People* MV 2
(English, Shona, English)

Opening Prayer Dr. Doug Spaner, Lay Leader

As we gather for worship this morning, may the Holy Spirit break into our humdrum lives and awaken us once again to what matters.

May we be nourished in Communion and find new gratitude for the gift of each moment.

May we renew our commitment to the wholeness of life, living for the love of God and love of neighbour.

May we go from this place re-set and ready for the week ahead. Amen.

*Heritage Hymn *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* VU 333

After this hymn, children grades K-6 can go downstairs. They will return for Communion. Youth can remain in worship today. Toddlers and infants are welcome in the Family Room (behind the piano) where the service can be seen and heard and a volunteer will assist you.

We Listen for the Spirit

Scripture Reading Matthew 5: 1-12 (New Revised Standard Version)

Anthem

Reflection "At the End of Your Rope" Rev. V. Oden

*Hymn of Response *For Everyone Born* vss. 1-4 TLUS 23

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Prayer Hymn *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying* VU 400

We Share in Communion

Please see Insert

We Go Forth to Serve

Invitation to Offering Our Gifts

Offering plates can be found in the foyer. 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.

*Hymn *I Come With Joy* vss. 1, 2, 4, 5 VU 477

*Benediction

One: As we leave from this place, may we remember to be kind.

All: **And may we remember that each moment is redeemed in God's grace, blessed and made new.**

*Musical Response *Prayer of Dedication* Inside back cover of VU

Postlude Sherry Steele

*Indicates you are invited to stand as able

VU refers to the red hard bound hymnal, Voices United

MV refers to the small spiral bound hymnal, More Voices

TLUS refers to the new UC Hymnal Then Let Us Sing

Welcome to Riverbend United Church!

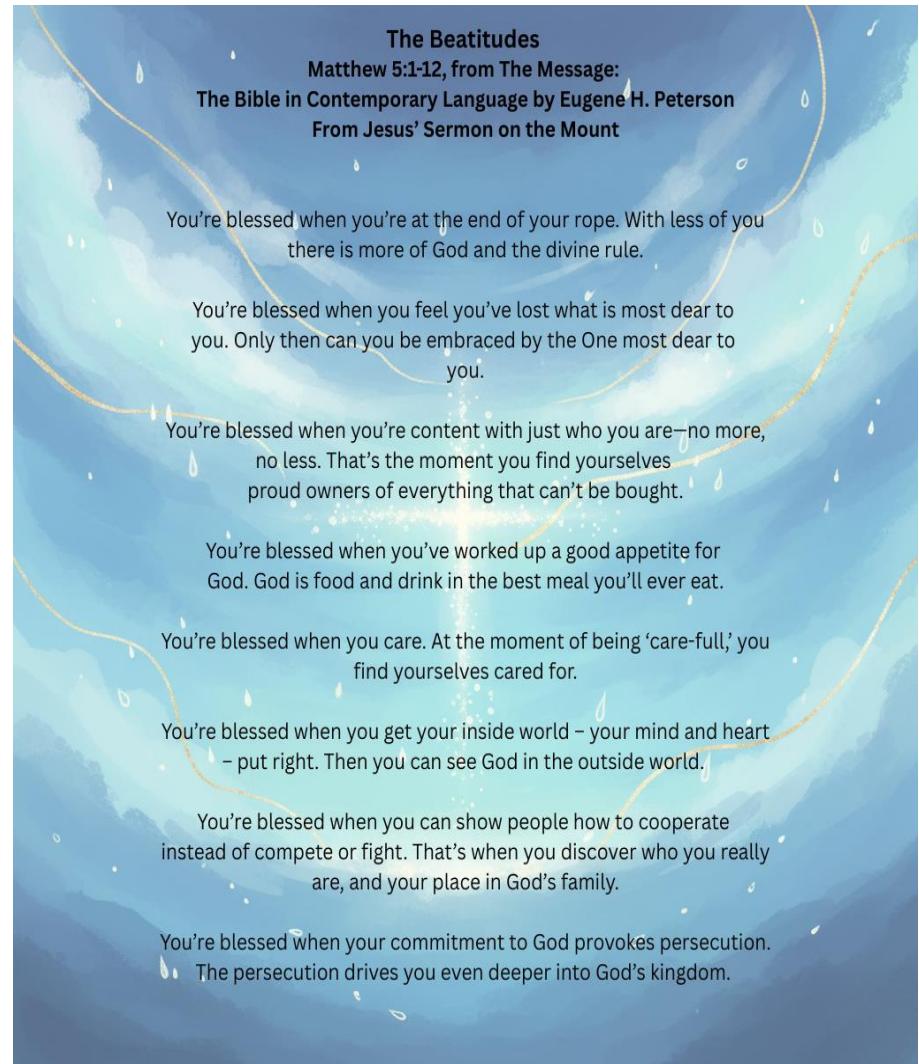
We're glad you're here. If you're new with us, please feel free to introduce yourself to your neighbour in the pews and fill out a **Welcome Card** in the narthex (foyer) so we can get to know you. We send a weekly email with upcoming events and ministry highlights.

Thank you to Peggy Robinson and Stephen and Fiona Bamforth for serving as our Communion Stewards.

Save the Date: Pancakes and Ashes will be offered on Shrove Tuesday, February 17. Pancakes will be served at 5:30 by our Youth and the Turkey Team, followed by a Services of Ashes at 6:30. Come and get your Lenten journey off to a meaningful start.

Riverbend United Church Staff :

Youth Coordinator:	Nathan Schoenhardt
Children's Coordinator:	Alec Gallant
Care Coordinator:	Holly Ruryk
Music Director:	Paula Roberts
Accompanist:	Sherry Steele
Handbell Director:	Alison Grant-Préville
Audio Visual:	Rob Beghin
Audio Visual:	Nathan Mills
Office Assistant:	Sage Giroux
Office Manager:	Jacqueline Hunt
Maintenance:	Tuan Bangsa-Jayah
Minister:	Valerie Oden



Riverbend United Church
Communion Sunday

February 1, 2026
10:30 a.m.

Communion Liturgy

Liturgy by Alydia Smith (adapted)

God be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to God.
Let us give thanks to God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise!

Though creation sometimes weeps,
we wait lovingly for you, Source of life.

You created the heavens, the earth, and all that is in them:
you bring the snows in Winter and open flowers in Spring.
You are beyond the galaxies, under the oceans,
and inside each grain of wheat.

Thank you for the wonders of creation.

Though humanity sometimes weeps,
we trust in you, Creator.

You lived among us as a teacher, healer, and friend,
giving everyone around the world a sacred path to follow.

**Thank you for the worldwide fellowship of disciples; we do
our best to faithfully share your love with all of creation.**

SANCTUS (sung) *Holy, Holy, Holy* More Voices 203

In Jesus, love incarnate,
you provide us all we need for each day:
his words comfort the weary;
his actions challenge the contented;
his touch heals the sick;
his presence feeds the deepest hunger in our souls.

In the way of Jesus and in his feast, you provide for us the
sustenance we need to respond to the cries of creation:

The bread of life nourishes our deprived bodies.

The cup of blessing revives our thirsty souls.

The gathered community strengthens our growing faith.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION (sung)

More Voices 204

Though the church sometimes weeps,
we wait lovingly for you, God.

We join with our siblings around the world remembering the story:

On the night in which Jesus was betrayed,
he took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
"Take eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it to his disciples saying:
"This is the cup of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for all people for forgiveness.
Do this for the remembrance of me."

Holy One, we remember and give thanks for your Child Jesus,
and we ask that you bless and pour your Spirit on us gathered here
and on these symbolic gifts of bread and cup.

May this broken bread be made whole in our taking.

May this full cup overflow in our sharing.

**With these symbolic elements, nourish and enliven us,
our Creator, our Redeemer, our Sustainer.**

Praise be to you, now, tomorrow, and forever.

GREAT AMEN (sung)

More Voices 205

*All are welcome to Christ's table, no matter what. Please come forward
as you are able down the centre aisle, take a piece of bread, dip it in
the cup, and return to your seat by the outside aisle. The centre
serving station has only gluten free elements. If you prefer to be served
in your seat, lift a hand and the elements will be brought to you.*