



March 1, 2026

The Second Sunday in Lent

Holy Communion

We Gather Together

Prelude Sherry Steele

Welcome Rev. Valerie Oden

The Life and Work of the Church

Introit *The Land of the Seeking* Video
(Words, music, and vocals by Spencer LaJoye, sanctifiedart.org)

Call to Worship Dawn Power, Lay Leader

One: We gather as people with questions and wonderings.

All: We gather as we are, welcome as we are, wherever we are on the journey of faith.

One: We are called to be people of hope, justice, and peace.

All: We walk this call together, seeking vision, seeking grace.

*Opening Hymn *Be Thou My Vision* VU 642
Children and youth are invited downstairs after this hymn. They will return for Communion.

We Listen for the Spirit

Scripture Reading John 3: 1-17

Anthem *Come to the Welcome Table* (J. Martin)

Reflection "How do we begin again?" Rev. Valerie Oden

*Hymn of Response *Behold, I Make All Things New* MV 115

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

We Enter Holy Silence

Meditation Moment Centering Prayer Graham Gaine

Prayer Hymn *In the Presence of Your Holy Silence* TLUS 71
(The choir will sing it once, then we all sing.)

Meditation Moment (Silent Prayer)

Prayer Hymn *In the Presence of Your Holy Silence* TLUS 71

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 *May the God of Hope* VU 424

*Benediction

Postlude

*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 hymnal, Then Let Us Sing!

Welcome to Riverbend United Church!

We're glad you're here. If you're new with us, 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. All the church events are listed in the **Front Pew newsletter** by the front doors to the church.



Seeking: Honest Questions for Deeper Faith

Our Lenten theme was created by "A Sanctified Art," a group of artists and theologians:

Sanctifiedart.org. "We create church resources for artists and church leaders."

Lenten Café: Sunday March 15: Join us after worship in the Chapel for coffee, goodies, and conversation. The Chapel is through the double doors to your left as you leave the sanctuary. Sponsored by the Care Team.



Riverbend United Church

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Communion Sunday

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Holy Communion

Liturgy by Alydia Smith (adapted)

Invitation to the Table

One: God is with us!

All: We are not alone!

One: Let us give thanks for this new day.

All: Gratitude opens our hearts.

One: Holy Mystery that is Wholly Love,
Source of Life, Living Word,
in all the near and distant corners of the universe,
nothing exists that does not find its source in you.

Even when we turn away from you, you are with us;
your presence never fails us,
your gifts of hope and new life transform us.

We give thanks for Jesus Christ,
who invites us into new life, to begin again each moment
by your grace.
We rejoice with all your people of every time and place,
and proclaim the glory of your name:

SANCTUS (sung) *Holy, Holy, Holy* TLUS 16

It is Jesus, God incarnate,
who joins us together as a community
of hopeful and committed believers:
seeking to love what he loved, live what he taught,
and become ever more faithfully his disciples
in our time and place.

We remember that on the night before he died,
he took the 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 for it,
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.
Whenever you drink of it, remember me.”

All: We do remember.

**We remember his life of love, his friendship, his teaching,
his dying, and his rising to life again.
In sharing this meal, we live out the mystery of our faith:**

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION (sung)

TLUS, 17 Choir

Holy Mystery, Creative Spirit,
in the sharing of these simple gifts,
may we taste and see your goodness,
glimpse your grace, and remember that we are in communion
with you and with one another.

Through Christ, in Christ, and with Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory is yours, holy One,
now and forever.

GREAT AMEN (sung)

TLUS, 18 Choir

*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.*

