



March 15, 2026

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

## We Gather Together

Prelude

Jessica Robertson

Welcome

Rev. Valerie Oden

Embodying our Faith

Holly Ruryk,  
Care Coordinator

The Life and Work of the Church

Introit

*Ave Verum Corpus (Mozart)* RUC Handbells

Call to Worship

Charles Hitchfeld, Lay Leader

One: We gather here to be called into new life.

All: **May our hearts be open to hear the good news.**

Opening Prayer (In Unison)

Creator of earth and breath,  
you formed us from the dust and filled us with life.  
As we gather in worship, open our eyes—  
to your presence, to one another,  
and to the new things you are creating  
within us and among us.  
Amen.

\*Opening Hymn

*Throughout These Lenten Days* VU 108  
Verses 1, 2, 5, 6

Children's Time

Alec Gallant and Carolyn Miller

Children's Hymn

*Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary* MV 18

Children and youth are invited to go downstairs (if they wish) after this hymn. There is a Family Room behind the piano where a volunteer will assist you with infants and toddlers.

## We Listen for the Spirit

Scripture Reading

John 9: 1-17

Anthem

Reflection

"How Were Your Eyes Opened?" Rev. V. Oden

\*Hymn of Response

*Open My Eyes* VU 371

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

## We Enter Holy Silence

Introduction to the Meditation Moment

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 Go Forth to Serve

Stewardship Moment / Offering Our Gifts

Charles Hitschfeld

Offering plates can be found in the foyer. Electronic gifts are welcome by e-transfer to [contactus@riverbendunited.org](mailto: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

*Put Peace into Each Others' Hands* MV 173  
Verses 1, 2, 4, 5

## Benediction

## Postlude

*O God Beyond All Praising*  
*Thaxted - Holst. arr. Julie Turner*

RUC Handbells

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*\*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!***

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## 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](http://Sanctifiedart.org). "We create church resources for artists and church leaders."

**Today: Join us after worship for the Lenten Café** with coffee, goodies, and conversation. Held in the Chapel, through the double doors to your left as you leave the Sanctuary. Sponsored by the Care Team.

### Upcoming Lenten Events:

- **Palm Sunday Choir Cantata** March 29, 10:30 a.m.  
*Once Upon a Tree* by Pepper Choplin
- **Good Friday Service** April 3, 10:30 a.m. We gather to meet Jesus at the cross in a different kind of service that is always highly valued. We are grateful to our Choir for being part of it.
- **Easter Sunday** is April 5. He is risen!



**Riverbend United Church**

**Sunday, March 15, 2026**  
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