



March 22, 2026

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

We Gather Together

Gathering Music Randy Nelson

Welcome / Our Church in Ministry Rev. Valerie Oden

Introit *And On This Path* MV 8

Call to Worship

One: Sometimes we feel weary—maybe it's what's happening in our own lives, maybe it's the challenges going on around the world—but sometimes we feel weary.

All: **So we come here to join in community, to remember that hope lives, to be refreshed for the week ahead.**

Opening Prayer (In Unison)

God of love, we want to lean into you today. May we hear the call to rise from our weariness and join the earth as it rises from Winter into Spring. May we live each day growing in faith and drawing the circle of your love ever wider.

*Opening Hymn *Draw the Circle Wide* MV 145

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 11 *Selected Verses: The story of Lazarus*

Anthem The Ensemble

Reflection "Can These Bones Live?" Rev. Valerie Oden

*Hymn of Response *I Am the Dream* MV 106

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

We Enter Holy Silence

Introduction to the Meditation Moment "Maranatha" Graham Gaine

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

Meditation Moment (Silent Prayer)

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

We Go Forth to Serve

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 *Jesus Christ is Waiting* VU 117

Benediction

Postlude Randy Nelson

**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."

Thank you to The Ensemble members:

Marv Severson, Doug Spaner, leaders; Randy Nelson, piano
Joanne Little, Annika Schoenhardt, George Irwin, Joel Fleck,
Diane Hawrelak, Jon Spaner, Ayanna Rocke

Congregational Meeting – Today after worship

Upcoming Lenten Events:

- **Next Sunday -- 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!



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