



April 5, 2026

EASTER

We Gather Together

Gathering Music

Sherry Steele

Prelude

Laudation (D.E. Wagner)

RUC Handbells

Call to Worship

Sheila Luther, Lay Leader

One: Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed!

One: Let all the earth proclaim the joy.

All: Let all heaven show forth in praise.

One: Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

*Opening Hymn

Jesus Christ is Risen Today
Marvin Severson, Trumpet

VU 155

Welcome / Our Church in Ministry

Rev. Valerie Oden

Land Acknowledgement

Opening Prayer

**God of resurrection,
on this morning of new life,
we come as we are—
with joy and doubt,
with grief and hope.**

**Roll away what keeps us closed.
Breathe life into what feels finished.
And awaken us to the quiet, persistent power of love.
Amen.**

We Listen for the Spirit Stirring

*Hymn

Halle, Halle, Halle

VU 958

Children are invited to come forward as we sing this hymn.

Children's Time

'Twas the Morning of Easter

Alec Gallant

by G. Nellist; Illustrated by E. Selivanova

*Hymn

Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah!

MV 121

(Chorus only, repeating)

*Passing the Peace of Christ

(Contactless suggested—fist bump, etc.)

As we pass the peace, children are invited downstairs. There is a family room behind the piano where the service can be seen and heard, and a volunteer will help care for younger children. They are also welcome to remain in worship.

Scripture Reading

John 20: 1-18

Anthem

Glory to the Risen Lamb

RUC Choir

Words and Music by Michael Barrett

Reflection

"Uncompromising Love"

Rev. Valerie Oden

We Respond with our Lives

*Hymn of Response

Joy Comes with the Dawn

VU 166

Prayers of the People (Joys and concerns)

Prayer Hymn

Spirit God, Be Our Breath vs 4

MV 150

Unison Prayer for Peace

**God of new life,
be with us in all that is unsettled within.
May our hearts grow quieter so we can hear you.
May our lives reflect your compassion.
May the lonely know they belong in your love.**

**And in a world marked by conflict and fear,
may your peace take root—
in us, in our community, across the world.**

We pray in the name of the risen Christ, Amen.

Stewardship Moment / Invitation to Offering Our Gifts

Sheila Luther

We are passing the Offering plates this morning. Gifts are also welcome by e-transfer to: contactus@riverbendunited.org. The ministries of Riverbend United Church are possible because of the generous gifts of our members and friends. Thank you for your ongoing support!

The Offertory *That Easter Day with Joy was Bright* (L. Sue) Handbells

*Closing Hymn *Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks* VU 179

*Benediction

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*

The RUC Choir is directed by Paula Roberts

The RUC Handbell Choir is directed by Alison Grant-Preville

Welcome to Riverbend United Church!



If you're new with us, we'd love to meet you. Please stop by the Connection Corner in the narthex (foyer) where you'll find a **Welcome Card** and hosts.

Cookies and punch **for all** at the Connection Corner!

Newcomers' Welcome May 3

If you're new to the church in the last year, please join us to learn more about the church and meet some leaders and other newcomers. Held after worship.

RUC Garage Sale – May 7 - 9

Donations accepted beginning May 3rd.

