



May 3, 2026

Communion Sunday

We Gather Together

Prelude

Sherry Steele

Welcome

Rev. Valerie Oden

The Life and Work of the Church

Introit

God Spoke to the Darkness vs. 1 TLUS 7

Call to Worship

Nathan Schoenhardt, Lay Leader

One: We gather in wonder at the beauty of creation.

All: We are held by the divine, in a universe still unfolding.

One: Among stars and seasons, breath and belonging, we are here.

All: Let us worship the Holy One present in all creation.

Opening Prayer (In Unison)

**Holy Mystery,
Source of life and breath,
open our eyes to the magnificence of your ongoing
creation.**

**Set our feet in this earth and our hearts in your grace.
And may we be ever grateful for the gift of life. Amen.**

*Opening Hymn

For the Beauty of the Earth

VU 226

Tune: VU 81 DIX

Children are invited to go downstairs (if they wish) after this hymn. They will return to the sanctuary for Communion. There is a Family Room behind the piano where a volunteer will assist you with little ones.

We Listen for the Spirit

Scripture Readings

Psalm 8
Romans 8: 18-22

VU 732

Anthem

With Each Passing Moment (Sandell-Berg, J. Martin)

Reflection

An Unfolding Creation 1 Rev. Valerie Oden

*Hymn of Response

Deep in our Hearts

MV 154

We Share in Prayer and Meditation

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

Prayer Hymn

In the Presence of Your Holy Silence TLUS 71

Guided Meditation

Prayer Hymn

In the Presence of Your Holy Silence TLUS71

We Share at the Table

Please see Insert

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

All Things Bright and Beautiful
Chorus, vss 1 – 2, Chorus, vss 3 – 4, Chorus

VU 291

Benediction

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 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.

Newcomers Welcome is today

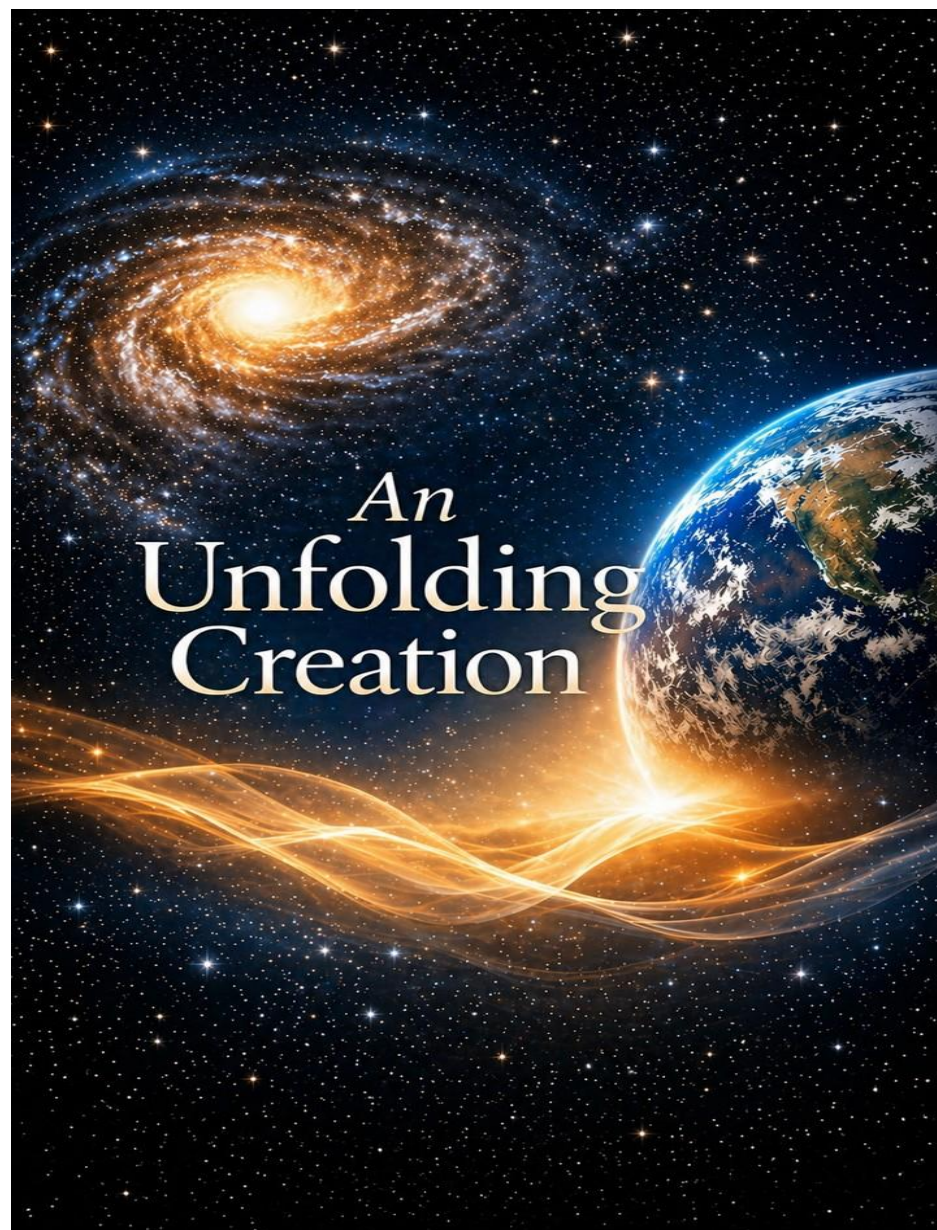
Immediately following worship, newcomers to RUC are invited to the Chapel, to your left as you exit the sanctuary, for a light lunch and to meet other newcomers, lay leaders, and hear more about the ministries of RUC. It's a chance for us to get to know you as well!

RUC Garage Sale – May 7 – 9

Donations are now being accepted. If you can help set up tables downstairs after worship, we'd be grateful!

An Unfolding Creation

- May 3** **Creation Unfolding**
Living inside a creation still in progress.
- May 10** **Life Connecting**
How relationship and cooperation helped life grow.
- May 17** **The Universe Waking Up**
Creation becoming aware—and entering wonder.
- May 24** **Humanity Becoming**
What future can emerge through our shared choices?



Riverbend United Church

May 3, 2026

10:30 a.m.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Riverbend United Church

May 3, 2026

Invitation to the Table

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to God.

Leader: Let us give thanks for the gift of life.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The leaders continue...

Holy are you, God of life,
Creator of light, Giver of all life, Source of love.
You guide the sun, cradle the moon,
and toss the stars.

At your word the earth was made
and spun on its course among the planets.

You breathe life into us and sustain us
along the way.

Even when we turn away from you,
You do not forsake us.

Creator, Christ, and Spirit,
we praise you for your love revealed to us in Jesus,
who walks with us, our Wisdom, our Way.

He shares our joy and sorrow,
includes the marginalized,
feeds the hungry and sets the captives free.
He offers us faith, hope, and love in all things.

Musical Response

MV 203

***O Holy, Holy, Holy God, O God of time and space.
All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace.
Hosanna in the highest heav'n, creation sings your praise.
And bless-ed is the One who comes and bears your name
always!***

Blessing the Elements

Musical Response

MV 204

***Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,
Christ will come again!
Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,
Christ will come again!***

Prayer for Transformation (Leader)

O God, send your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon these gifts, that we who receive them
may be the body of Christ, bringing his love in the world.

The Lord's Prayer (All)

Our Father (or Creator), who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Musical Response

MV 205

***Amen, Amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!
Amen, Amen, O Holy One, Hosanna and Amen!***

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Music by Sherry Steele

*Please come forward as you are able and receive the bread, dip it in the cup,
then return to your seat by the outside aisle. Gluten free bread is available at
the centre serving station. We use grape juice. If you wish to be served in your
seat, please lift a hand and the elements will be brought to you.*