



**Sunday
August 23, 2026**

We Gather Together

Prelude

Sherry Steele

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Hugh MacGregor

Lighting the Christ Candle

***Opening Hymn** *Come In, Come In and Sit Down* VU 395

Call to Worship

God calls us to open our eyes.

To see our ministry and our call.

God calls us to open our lives.

To live our ministry and our call.

God calls us to open ourselves.

To be our ministry and our call.

So come, sisters and brothers, come followers of Christ.

We come to worship our God!

Opening Prayer

Inviting God, you call us to follow in many ways. You call some of us to witness with public deeds of justice, and you call some of us to do the quiet work of companionship. You call some of us to proclaim your truth in stirring speeches, and some to sing your love in gentle lullabies. Invite us to follow you by respecting the many different ways of witness and rejoicing that we have so many chances to answer your call. Amen.

We Listen for God

Children's Time

Reading

John 17: 20 – 24

Hymn

Draw the Circle Wide

MV 145

Reflection

A Brief History of Christianity or Schismatics 101

***Hymn**

The Church's One Foundation

VU 331

We Respond with our Gifts and our Lives

Invitation to Offering Our Gifts

Offering plates can be found in the narthex. 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.

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Prayer Hymn

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

VU 400

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

***Parting Hymn**

The Church is Wherever

VU 579

***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*

"TLUS" refers to *Then Let us Sing*

Children and Youth are invited to stay for the service. There is also a Family Room for wee ones behind the piano where a volunteer will assist parents and the service can be seen and heard.

Welcome to Riverbend United Church. If you're new with us, we'd love to meet you. If you are worshiping with us from St. Paul's United Church – welcome! Feel free to introduce yourself to your neighbour in the pew, and/or fill out a Welcome Card in the pews if you wish to be updated on upcoming activities or receive a call from our minister.



Riverbend United Church

Sunday, August 23, 2026

10:30 a.m.