



July 30, 2023

## We Gather Together

<u>Prelude</u>	Sherry Steele
<u>Welcome and Announcements</u>	Rev. Valerie Oden
<u>Introit</u>	<i>Come and Find the Quiet Centre</i> vss 1-2 VU 374
<u>Call to Worship</u>	<i>(Written by Nancy Townley)</i> Dave Rumbold, Lay Reader

One: The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed.

**All: It is a small seed, but has some surprises in store for us.**

One: When it is grown, it is a very large shrub.

**All: Even the birds can find places in its branches for their nests.**

One: God's transforming love begins in small ways to enter our hearts.

**All: May these amazing seeds of transforming love be planted in us that they may grow into compassion for others.**

Opening Prayer *(In Unison)* *(Inspired by Nancy Townley)*

**God of mustard seeds and yeast, we gather today seeking your way. Give us wisdom to find you in the tiny moments of life. Give us courage to be yeast for the rising of hope and peace throughout the world. May our hearts always be open to your redeeming love. And may we respond with our lives. Amen.**

Lighting the Christ Candle

*"Who are you?" "I am the Light."*

\*Opening Hymn *We Praise You, O God* VU 218

## We Listen for the Spirit Stirring

Scripture Reading Psalm 119, Part 1 VU 838  
Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-46

Reflection "Great Things in the Tiny" Rev. V. Oden

\*Hymn of Response *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace* VU 684

Prayers of the People *(Sharing our Joys and Concerns)*

Prayer Hymn *Don't Be Afraid* MV 90

Silent, Personal Prayer

Pastoral Prayer, The Lord's Prayer

## We Respond with our Gifts and our Lives

Offering our Gifts / Offertory Sherry Steele

*Offering plates and envelopes can be found in the narthex. Electronic gifts are welcome to either church. We give in gratitude for God's grace and in the hope that peace may spread to all.*

Offering Prayer of Dedication

\*Closing Hymn *We Are Pilgrims* VU 595

\*Benediction

\*Musical Response *Come and Find the Quiet Centre* vs. 3 VU 374

Postlude Sherry Steele

*\*denotes you are invited to stand as you are able if you wish*

"VU" refers to the red hardback hymnal *Voices United*

"MV" refers to the spiral bound songbook *More Voices*

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**Welcome** to this worship partnership with St. Paul's UC and Riverbend UC. Throughout July, we worshiped together at St. Paul's UC and beginning next week - **August 6<sup>th</sup> - we will worship together at Riverbend United** at 14907 – 45 Avenue NW. If you're new with us, we'd love to meet you. Feel free to introduce yourself to your neighbour in the pew or to the worship leaders.



## Riverbend United Church ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Rev. Valerie Oden** is away from July 31<sup>st</sup> returning on August 9<sup>th</sup>. In her absence Rev. Karen Bridges will provide emergency pastoral support. Please call the office at 780.430.7275 for contact information.

**Camp Dragonfly** Southminster-Steinhauer United Church is hosting a summer camp from **August 25 to 27th** for trans\* and gender-creative youth age 6-13 where they can be their authentic selves, meet trans\* role models, and have fun. For more information contact [camp-dragonfly.com](http://camp-dragonfly.com) or email them at [info@camp-dragonfly.com](mailto:info@camp-dragonfly.com).

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