Riverbend United Church
Exploring Faith, Engaging Community

August 10, 2025

"Around me the trees stir in their leaves and call out, 'Stay awhile.'"
--Mary Oliver

We Gather Together

Prelude — Jessica Robertson

Welcome — Rev. Valerie Oden

The Life and Work of the Church

Introit — *We Are One* vs. 1 — VU 402

Call to Worship

One: This moment is a gift.
All: We receive it with gratitude.
One: As we worship, may we enter the mystery of life.
All: May we witness the grandeur of God in the most ordinary things of earth.

Opening Prayer (Unison)

God of Life, we listen for your holiness, for the sacredness of life that pours through every moment.

**We listen for the grass rising through the earth,
for the flowers opening to the sunshine,
for the harvest being made ready for the nourishment of our bodies.**

We listen for the rain as it supports all things growing.

**Through it all, we listen for the promise of new life,
for the love that weaves all things in balance. Amen.**

*Opening Hymn — *All Creatures of our God and King* — VU 217
(verses 1, 3, 5)

We Listen for the Promise of New Life

Scripture Reading — Matthew 6: 25-34

Reflection — *Mindful Living 2: Nature as Teacher* — Rev. V. Oden

*Hymn of Response — *Each Blade of Grass* — MV 37

We Share in Prayer

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Prayer Hymn — *We Are One* vs. 2 — VU 402

Silent Prayer / Pastoral Prayer / The Lord's Prayer

We Offer our Lives

Offering Our Gifts

Offering plates can be found in the foyer. Gifts designated to St. Paul's will go there. Electronic gifts to Riverbend 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 — *Called by Earth and Sky (vss. 1, 2, 3)* — MV 135

*Benediction

*Musical Response — *We Are One* vs. 4 — VU 402

*Postlude — Jessica Robertson

**Indicates you are invited to stand as able*
VU refers to the red hard bound hymnal, Voices United
MV refers to the small paperbound hymnal, More Voices

Welcome to this partnership worship service
between Riverbend United Church and St. Paul's United Church. In July, we worshiped together at St. Paul's. Throughout August, we worship together at Riverbend.

We're glad you're here!

Fellowship and lemonade follow worship immediately in case you can stay a few minutes.

The Summer Day
By Mary Oliver

Who made the world?
Who made the swan, and the black bear?
Who made the grasshopper?

This grasshopper, I mean--
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down--
who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.

Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.

I don't know exactly what a prayer is.
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down
into the grass, how to kneel in the grass,
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,
which is what I have been doing all day.

Tell me, what else should I have done?
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?

Tell me, what is it you plan to do
With your one wild and precious life?

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Riverbend United Church
Sunday, August 10, 2025
10:30 a.m.