

**Rio Terrace Church
Order of Worship
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 19, 2026**

Rio Terrace Church is an inclusive, community-oriented church in the Moravian tradition. Our mission is to be “a community of spiritual journeyers who are experiencing, growing in, and living the love of God as shown in Jesus Christ.”

We humbly gather on Treaty 6 territory, traditional lands of diverse Indigenous peoples including Cree, Dene, Nakota Sioux, and Metis. We honour their enduring connection to this land and commit to respecting and learning from their histories and cultures.

Theme: Letting God Lead

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Gathering

***Call to Worship (adapted portions of Psalm 139)**

God, you have searched me out and known me:

You know my sitting down and my rising up.

You trace my journeys and my resting places

And are acquainted with all my ways.

You press upon me behind and before

And lay your hand upon me.

Where can I go then from your Spirit?

Where can I flee from your presence?

For it was you who formed my inward parts;

You knit me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

***Hymn of Gathering: Praise My Soul**

1. Praise, my soul, the God of heaven,
glad of heart your carols raise;
loved and healed, restored, forgiven,
who, like me, should sing God's praise?
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the Maker all your days!

2. Praise God for the grace and favour
Shown our forebears in distress;
God is still the same forever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Sing our Maker's faithfulness!
3. Like a loving parent caring,
God knows well our feeble frame;
Gladly all our burdens bearing,
still to countless years the same.
Alleluia! Alleluia! All within me, praise God's name!
4. Angels teach us adoration,
You behold God face to face;
sun and moon and all creation,
dwellers all in time and space,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace!

Words: Henry Francis Lyte (1834) Music: John Goss (1869). In public domain.

Centering

Poem:

Trusting God to make the right decision – following the lead of God . . . is easier said than done at times when we think we have it all figured out.

Let God by Deborah Ann Belka (revised 2025)

Let go, and let God, do what is best . . .
Even though you must go through the test.

Let go, and let faith, work all things out . . .
Even though you may have some lingering doubt.

Let go, and let the Spirit guide and lead . . .
Even though you might not see the need.

Let go, and let trust, do its part . . .
Even though you may have a wavering heart.

Let go, and let Christ, give His perfect rest . . .
So He can show you how much you are blessed!

Musical Meditation

Listening

Scripture readings

First Reading: Genesis 28:10-19

Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Message: Rev. Rob Key

Responding

***Hymn of Response: God of Life**

1. God of life, in Christ you lead us, guiding us along the way.
In our past, through joys and sorrows, you have been our strength and stay.
Keep us faithful, true disciples, in our learning and our praise.
God, who guides us, past and present, lead us on in future days.
2. God of words and Word Incarnate, words that challenge and embrace,
grant us boldness in our speaking, while we know your loving grace.
Give us words both clear and winsome, loving hearts and listening ears.
God, who guides us, past and present, lead us on in future years.
3. God of music, psalms and anthems, help us sing your faith anew:
melodies expanding worship, harmonies enriching too.
May our lives be hymns in action, tuned to Christ in note and rhyme.
God, who guides us, past and present, lead us on in future time.
4. God of days and years and eons, still you call as in the past.
Work undone demands our labour, justice yearns for peace at last.
Yours the vision and the challenge, ours the mission and the praise.
God, who guides us, past and present, lead us on in future days.

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Sharing Together – Blessings, Concerns, Spirit Sightings

Praying Together

Sending

***Sending Forth Hymn: Lord of the Dance**

1. I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came from heaven and I danced on the earth,
at Bethlehem I had my birth.

Chorus:

Dance, then, wherever you may be.
I am the Lord of the dance said he
and I'll lead you all wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance said he.

2. I danced for the scribe and the pharisee,
but they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me,
I danced for the fishermen for James and John,
they came with me and the dance went on. (Chorus)
3. I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame,
the holy people said it was a shame,
they whipped and they stripped and they hung me high
and they left me there on a cross to die. (Chorus)
4. I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black,
it's hard to dance with evil on your back,
they buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
but I am the dance and I still go on. (Chorus)
5. They cut me down and I leap up high,
I am the life that'll never, never die,
I'll live in you if you'll live in me,
I am the Lord of the Dance said he. (Chorus)

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***Benediction**

Postlude

*Please stand as able