

**Rio Terrace Church
Order of Worship
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 6, 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: We are in this together

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Gathering

***Call to Worship (adapted portions of Psalm 119 and 149)**

Sing to God a new song;

sing God’s praise in the congregation of the faithful.

Let us rejoice in our Maker;

let us be joyful in our God.

Incline our hearts to your ways;

turn our eyes from watching what is worthless.

Fulfill your promise to your servants,

give us life in your ways.

Let us praise God’s name;

for God takes pleasure in God’s people.

***Hymn of Gathering: Part of the Family**

Refrain: *Come in, come in and sit down, you are a part of the family.*

We are lost, and we are found, and we are a part of the family.

1. You know the reason why you came, yet no reason can explain;
so share in the laughter and cry in the pain, for we are a part of the family.

God is with us in this place, like a mother's warm embrace.

We're all forgiven by God's grace, for we are a part of the family. **(Refrain)**

2. Children and elders, middlers and teens, singles and doubles and in-betweens,
strong eighty-fivers and street-wise sixteens, for we are a part of the family.
Greeters and shoppers, long-time and new, nobody here has a claim on a pew;
and whether we're many or whether we're few, we are a part of the family.
(Refrain)

3. There's life to be shared in the bread and the wine; we are the branches, Christ is
the vine.
This is God's temple, it's not yours or mine, but we are a part of the family.
There's rest for the weary and health for us all; there's a yoke that is easy, and a
burden that's small.
So, come in and worship and answer the call, for we are a part of the family.
(Refrain)

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Centering

Poem:

Instead of a poem this week, we will share in some words regarding the importance of a faith community in our lives – words adapted from those used by other Moravians – that remind us that we are part of something much bigger than us.

Almighty God, enthroned above all, you alone are God over the nations of the earth.
Even the planets, the stars, and the galaxies are placed by your hand.

**Where could we go from your Spirit? Where could we flee from your presence?
If we go up to the heavens, you are there; if we go down into the caves of the earth
or the depths of the sea, you are there.**

God of all creation, we sing praises to your name; we stand jubilant before your glory,
power, and beauty.

God of certainty, God of truth, our confidence is in you and in your alone.

Yet we live in a fallen world and we are an imperfect people. Our world is filled with
pain and alienation.

We know of illness when body or mind is failing, and the loneliness of spirit it brings.

We know of separation from parent and child, from friend or neighbour, and the emptiness of life it brings. We know of challenges in new communities and in changing communities, and the longing it brings.

We know of alienation caused by unemployment or poverty or discrimination, and the pain it brings. So, how can we sing God's song in a strange land? Let our cry for help come to you.

"I am nearby", says the Almighty. "Do I not fill heaven and earth? I am your God. I have called you out from the peoples and you shall be holy to me."

We rejoice that you have called us out of darkness into your wonderful light. We are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to you.

So, let us in faith keep our eyes fixed on the promises of God.

Let us run with perseverance the race that set before us trusting that God is with us every step of the way.

Musical Meditation

Listening

Scripture readings

First Reading: Exodus 12:1-14

Second Reading: Romans 13:8-14

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:15-20

Message: Rev. Rob Key

Responding

***Hymn of Response: There's a Quiet Understanding**

1. There's a quiet understanding when we're gathered in the Spirit,
it's a promise Jesus gives us when we gather in his name;
2. There's a love we feel in Jesus, there's a manna that he feeds us,
it's a promise Jesus gives us when we gather in his name.
3. And we know when we're together, sharing love and understanding,
that our brothers and our sisters feel the oneness Jesus brings.
4. Thank you, Jesus, thank you Jesus, for the way you love and feed us,
for the many ways you lead us; thank you, gracious Lord. Thank you gracious Lord.

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Sharing Together – Blessings, Concerns, Spirit Sightings

Praying Together

Sending

***Sending Forth Hymn: Draw the Circle Wide**

Refrain:

Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.

1. God the stillpoint of the circle
'round whom all creation turns
nothing lost, but held forever,
in God's gracious arms.
2. Let our hearts touch far horizons,
so encompass great and small;
let our loving know no borders
faithful to God's call.

3. Let the dreams we dream be larger,
than we've ever dreamed before
let the dream of Christ be in us,
open every door.

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***Benediction**

Postlude

*Please stand as able