

**Rio Terrace Church
Order of Worship
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 23, 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: Where do we fit in?

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Gathering

***Call to Worship (adapted portions of Psalm 138)**

We will give thanks to you, O Lord, with our whole hearts;

before all others we will sing your praise.

When I called, you answered me;

you increased my strength within me.

Though the Lord be high, God cares for the lowly;

God perceives the haughty from afar.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble,

you keep me safe.

O Lord, your love endures for ever;

do not abandon the works of your hands.

***Hymn of Gathering: Let Us Build a House**

1. Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

- All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.
2. Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek God's dream for all anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.
3. Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone to heal
and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.
4. Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

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Centering

Poem:

Instead of a poem this week, we will share in some words regarding unity – words that declare we are not meant to go it alone:

Almighty God, you are the one who called this universe into being. Out of nothing you created everything that is.

By your power you hold together all space and time and substance.

By your hand alone, Creator God, the inanimate elements became alive so that we could live and move and have our being.

We celebrate life, the precious life you have given us, and we celebrate that unity of mind and emotions, of body and soul, that you want us to enjoy and share with each other.

We rejoice in the centrality of Jesus Christ in all your works, for he was with you from the very beginning, and is supreme over all creation.

We praise you that Christ is before all things, and that in him all things hold together, especially our very fragile, vulnerable, and often broken lives.

We acknowledge that we often try to run away and hide from you thinking we can live without you. Treating others as though they did not matter and failing to love as you love us.

Help us to rejoice with those who are feeling joy and delight. Help to taste the agony of those who are hurting. Take away jealousy and resentment from our hearts when we see others achieving success.

Teach us to love all people. Teach us to bear with one another in love.

Musical Meditation

Listening

Scripture readings

First Reading: Exodus 1:8-2:10

Second Reading: Romans 12:1-8

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:13-20

Message: Rev. Rob Key

Responding

***Hymn of Response: Many are the Light Beams**

1. Many are the light beams from the one light. Our one light is Jesus.
Many are the light beams from the one light; we are one in Christ.
2. Many are the branches of the one tree. Our one tree is Jesus.
Many are the branches of the one tree; we are one in Christ.
3. Many are the gifts giv'n, love is all one. Love's the gift of Jesus.
Many are the gifts giv'n, love is all one; we are one in Christ.
4. Many ways to serve God, the Spirit is one, servant spirit of Jesus.
Many ways to serve God, the Spirit is one; we are one in Christ.

5. Many are the members, the body is one, members all of Jesus.
Many are the members, the body is one; we are one in Christ.

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Sharing Together – Blessings, Concerns, Spirit Sightings

Praying Together

Sending

***Sending Forth Hymn: As a Fire is Meant for Burning**

1. As a fire is meant for burning with a bright and warming flame,
so the church is meant for mission, giving glory to God's name.
Not to preach our creeds or customs, but to build a bridge of care,
we join hands across the nations, finding neighbours everywhere.
2. We are learners; we are teachers; we are pilgrims on the way.
We are seekers; we are givers; we are vessels made of clay.
By our gentle, loving actions, we would show that Christ is light.
In a humble, listening Spirit, we would live to God's delight.
3. As a green bud in the springtime is a sign of life renewed,
so may we be signs of oneness mid earth's people, many-hued.
As a rainbow lights the heavens when a storm is past and gone,
may our lives reflect the radiance of God's new and glorious dawn.

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***Benediction**

Postlude

*Please stand as able