

## Riverside Presbyterian Church

December 15, 2019 ~ Third Sunday of Advent

Ask an usher for audio hearing units

Please silence your cell phones.

Childcare for children through preschool is available upstairs.

\* Indicates please stand in body or Spirit.



Heaven and  
Nature Sing!

300 years of  
**JOY**  
to the World

“Joy to the World” turns 300 this year.

Composer Isaac Watts’ interpretation of Psalm 98 invites us to sing a new song—and it is a powerful cosmic performance of all creation being renewed and freed.

Sometimes it is difficult to see joy when so much in the world feels out of sync with joyful expression. Joy does not depend on everything being right with the world. Indeed Mary’s world was completely upside down having found out she was pregnant before her marriage. It was dangerous even. But this does not stop her from unabashedly singing out with all of heaven and nature, that what was about to be born would turn the world right side out.

## WE PREPARE

CHIMING THE HOUR

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SHARING OUR JOYS & CONCERNS

\* PASSING THE PEACE (Responsive)

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

## WE GATHER

PRELUDE

*Mary Did You Know?*

arr. Inman

CALL TO WORSHIP Sung response vs 4 #134

Make a joyful noise to the Beloved all the earth; break forth into grateful song and sing praises. Yes sing songs of praise extolling Love's way; lift up your hearts with gratitude and joy!

**He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.**

\* INVITATION TO PRAYER

\* PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (Responsive)

Holy God, you are the source of love. You are the joy that runs deep and wide underneath all of life. You are the one that helps us reach out in love, especially to those whose fear makes it hard for them to love. Help us when our fear gets in the way of joining the chorus of joy.

**Let us make your blessings known in our hearts this day.**

**Let us make your blessings known in our church this day.**

**Let us make your blessings known in the world this day.**

(Silent prayers)

\* ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

\* HYMN 101

*No Wind at the Window*

**WE LISTEN**

THE CHILDREN LIGHT THE ADVENT WREATH

The Candle of Joy

Children fifth grade and under are invited to Sunday School

SUNG RESPONSE 115 VS 1

*Away in a Manger*

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 35:1-10

Luke 1:46b-55

MEDITATION

\* HYMN 769

*For Everyone Born*

**WE RESPOND**

INVITATION TO OFFER OUR GIFTS

ANTHEM

*A Child Is Born in Bethlehem*

Schalk

\* SUNG RESPONSE #113 Refrain

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## WE DEPART

\* HYMN 129 *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

\* BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Vom Himmel hoch, da Komm ich her* Pepping

### **PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE**

***Liturgist:*** Steven Teune

***Ushers:*** Megan Foran and Claire Gangware

***Sunday School Teachers:*** Mary Beth Wynn and Bret Jackson

***Fellowship Time*** In lieu of coffee fellowship, come to the Wassail Bowl after the Messiah today.

***Trustees of the Month:*** Patti Perry and Fred Kitch

***Thank you*** to Sandra Kappmeyer for joining today's Ministry of Music.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **SAVE THE DATE**

December 22 – Children’s Pageant, 10:00 am

December 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship, 7:00 pm

December 29 – Fifth Sunday, Worship as Mission at BEDS Plus



**HANDEL’S MESSIAH TODAY AT 4 PM** — What takes over 250 hours to prepare for, and 75 minutes to enjoy? Preparing for the Messiah concert starts mid-summer and ends today. Best 75 minutes of the week, and one of the best ways to start the Christmas spirit in your heart. Concert begins at 4:00!

**WASSAIL BOWL RECEPTION** — Please join us for the Wassail Bowl Reception following The Messiah.

**SERRV FUNDRAISER** —FAIR TRADE, HANDMADE, NONPROFIT —The SERRV shop will be open during the Wassail Bowl reception following the Messiah. **SERVV** is dedicated to fighting poverty through fair trade since 1949 and works with global artisans to bring you the world’s most beautiful handcrafts.

### **CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE 7:00 PM.**

Join us for a traditional service of lessons and carols focusing on joy, the hymn “Joy to the World” to be exact. “Joy to the World” turns 300 this year. Composer Isaac Watts’ interpretation of Psalm 98 invites us to sing a new song—and it is a powerful cosmic performance of all creation being renewed and freed.

Christmas Eve we gather to worship the One who is joy. As we come together, our hearts will be expanded. We remember that the heavens declare God’s love is as limitless as the stars above. And we will witness that all of nature yearns to reach and expand toward the light of God so that all might know joy.

**CARERS GIVING TREE**— The CARERS Giving Tree benefits women and children sheltered in the Constance Morris House. The ornaments on the tree list Christmas gift items. Take some ornaments, purchase the items and place the unwrapped gifts under the tree. Gifts accepted through Sunday, December 15.

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT** — The Sunday School Children's Christmas Pageant is Sunday, December 22 at 10:00 am. A required rehearsal is Saturday morning, December 21 at 9:00 am. Details have been sent to families whose children we know are participating. All children are welcome to join in the festivities (even those in Ringers & Singers). Please let Sandra Kappmeyer know if your child would like to participate.

**CHRISTMAS LIST**— When you are checking off your Christmas list, please take some time to consider whether your 2019 pledge is up to date. You may also wish to consider making a year-end gift to RPC — one suggestion is to make a gift of a “13<sup>th</sup> Month” of your regular pledge. We have already received a few generous gifts from our member “angels” for which we are very grateful. We would love to be able to balance the 2019 budget before the new year rolls around, and every extra contribution helps.

**2019 PER CAPITA** — If you have not already paid your per capita, it is \$34.22 per member. Please consider rounding up or paying an extra per capita for those who find it a difficulty.

**THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING** is one of four church-wide special offerings of the PC (USA). It supports current and former church workers, their families, and offers education and leadership development at Presbyterian-related racial-ethnic colleges and other schools. Please give generously, or as you are able.



**GIFT CARDS FOR THE HOLIDAYS** — Help RPC Preschool and get a head start on holiday shopping using gift cards from Shop with Scrip. The office has order forms. Please return your order form with a check made out to RPC in the office by Thursday for following week delivery. **THIS IS AN ONGOING FUNDRAISER.**

**CARERS NEWS DECEMBER**— To stave off the chill of winter for those in need, please fill the CARERS trunk with **hot soups, hot cereals and hot boxed foods**. No breakable containers please. The contributions will be distributed to local food pantries.

**ANNUAL REPORT REMINDER** — All committee annual reports are due on or before Thursday, January 2. Contact the office if you have any questions or need detailed instructions.



**FIFTH SUNDAY**—BEDS PLUS , 9601 Ogden, LaGrange—We will meet at the church at 10:00 and carpool to Bed Plus. At 10:30 we will invite the residents to join us in a brief Christmas

Service filled with Christmas Music followed by a Pot Luck Brunch. Please bring enough food to share with the residents.

**PLEDGE CARDS**—If you have not returned your pledge card, please do so at your earliest convenience.

**DECEMBER CALENDAR AND BIRTHDAYS** — Copies of the December calendar and birthdays are at the back of the sanctuary and in the rack by the office.

**HUMAN SCENE**—is discussing the Book of Luke, Sundays at 9:00 am in the Parlor.

**DAILY DEVOTIONALS** — Copies of the January-February Upper Room are in the rack outside the office.

**WOMEN'S CIRCLE FOR FELLOWSHIP AND STUDY** — Christmas Wishes ~ May your home be filled with warmth and good cheer this Christmas season. We look forward to seeing you January 22 at 10 am in the Social Hall.

**HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS**—The office will be closed December 24 through January 1. Phone messages and emails will be checked regularly. Regular office hours resume January 2.

**ATTENTION HOLIDAY BAKERS**— A 25-pound bag of Domino sugar has been donated to RPC. Do you need sugar for your holiday baking needs? We will be dividing up the sugar into gallon size Ziploc bags. If you would like one, please see Tara Gregus after church or call her at 708-447-9551. We are asking for a small monetary donation to the Little Food Pantry in exchange for the sugar. Happy baking!

**BULLETIN DEADLINE** – If you have announcements for the bulletin, please keep in mind the deadline to submit them to the office is 12:00 pm Wednesday.

**THIS WEEK**

**Today**

10:00 am Worship  
10:15 am Sunday School  
2:00 pm Worship at Caledonia  
4:00 pm Messiah  
6:00 pm Wassail Bowl

**Monday**

5:30 pm Volleyball

**Tuesday**

6:30 am Men's Forum

**Wednesday**

4:15 pm Ringers & Singers  
6:30 pm acaBELLa Ringers  
7:00 pm Session Christmas Party  
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

**Thursday**

6:30 am Women's Forum

**Sunday**

9:00 am Human Scene  
10:00 am Worship-Children's  
Christmas Pageant  
11:00 am Fellowship  
11:15 am Mission Committee

**Riverside Presbyterian Church**

116 Barrypoint Road, Riverside, IL 60546  
(708) 447-1520, [rpcusa.org](http://rpcusa.org)  
Sermons available at  
<https://vimeo.com/riversidepresbyterian>

**Our Mission Statement:**

We gather as a church to:  
Celebrate God's presence,  
Nurture the Spiritual Life,  
Carry the light of Christ into the world,  
Serve God by serving others.

**RPC Staff**

**Dale Jackson,**

Pastor, 502.592.1617 [pastor@rpcusa.org](mailto:pastor@rpcusa.org)

**Linda Hutcheson,**

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**Ellen Hamilton,**

Treasurer, [treasurer@rpcusa.org](mailto:treasurer@rpcusa.org)

**2019 CHURCH LEADERSHIP**

Elders	2019	2020	2021
	Jeanine Buttimer	Frank Gangware	Gwen Heine
	Patti Friend	Martha Heine	Allan Halline
	Susan Lynch	Lynda Nadkarni	Matt Lisle
	Lisa Aulerich- Marciniak	Dennis Zander	Mary Ann Sadilek, Clerk
Deacons	Ellen Hamilton	Lloyd Bradbury	Deb Jansky
	Sandra Kappmeyer	Charlie Juister	Serina Ranft
	Steve Teune	Sally Sloane	Wendy Seifert
		Jeanne Smith	
Trustees	Cyril Friend	Patti Perry	Thom DeVries
	Fred Kitch	Doug Harvin	Fred Mitchell
	Brad Staubus	Hank Vogel	