

Welcome to
Riverside Presbyterian Church

March 24, 2019
Third Sunday of Lent

Ask an usher for audio hearing units.
Please silence your cell phone.

Childcare is available for children 1st grade
and younger in the upstairs childcare room.

* Indicates please stand in body or spirit.

A voice will be heard in Ramah,
weeping and wailing
and mourning out loud all day and night.
The voice is Rachel's,
weeping for her children,
her children who have been killed;
she weeps,
and she will not be comforted.

Matthew 2:18

CHIMING THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- * **PASSING THE PEACE** (Responsive)
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

WE GATHER

PRELUDE & LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

arr. Burkhardt

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

We come, because we seek our God.

Every morning, every day, every evening, every moment, God is with us.

We come, because we hunger for Christ.

Jesus will feed us with hope, will replace our emptiness with grace.

We come, because we thirst for the Spirit.

Who fills our yearning for peace, who ends the drought of justice.

* HYMN 76

My Song Is Love Unknown

* INVITATION TO PRAYER

PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (Responsive)

The thirsty come,
and we offer lead-filled water;
the hungry come,
and we offer a single can from our overflowing pantries;
the lonely come,
and we cling to our cliques;
the broken come,
and we hand them an aspirin;
the needy come,
but we have wasted everything on stuff we do not need.
Have mercy on us, Steadfast love, and pour your heart into our grace-parched souls. As you have been with us in every moment, may we go to be with all around us. May we listen to the needs and hearts of others, even as you lean down to listen to us.
(Silent prayers)

* ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

* HYMN OF RESPONSE 85 Verse 1 *What Wondrous Love Is This*
What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the heavy cross for my soul,
for my soul, to bear the heavy cross for my soul!

WE LISTEN

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Children are invited forward

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 30
Matthew 2:13-18

MEDITATION

Via Dolorosa: Rachel Weeping

* HYMN 210

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

WE RESPOND

* STATEMENT FOR LENT (Unison)

I am standing before the cross in all its brutality
and feel overwhelmed by the enormity of it all.
Why could the church not have a nice life-affirming symbol instead of a cross?
Something to remind us to love each other and that love will always triumph in the end.
But perhaps that would be just too easy;
perhaps we need reminding that to love unconditionally often comes at a cost.
When we cross the barriers of prejudice and exclusion that society puts up to separate us
from the poor and despised from our traditional enemies;
when we truly stand up for what is right, we too may be rejected and ridiculed.
The cross reminds us that love has no boundaries, no limitations;
we must keep loving, regardless of the consequences.
The cross is not a symbol of defeat, but a symbol of the victory of unconditional selfless love
which should support and inspire us to follow in Jesus' footsteps.

INVITATION TO OFFER OUR GIFTS

ANTHEM

A Lenten Meditation

Wagner

* HYMN OF RESPONSE 85 Verse 2

What Wondrous Love Is This

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, to God and to the Lamb I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am, while millions join the theme,
I will sing, I will sing; while millions join the theme, I will sing!

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS:

PRAYER 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LENTEN AND EASTER SCHEDULE —Throughout Lent, we will follow the way of Jesus on the Via Dolorosa, which is Latin for the Way of Sorrow. Traditionally this is a processional route in the Old City of Jerusalem, believed to be the path that Jesus walked on the way to his crucifixion. We are going to look at various stories from Jesus' life where tears and sorrow figured prominently and seek to understand how God through Jesus transforms our lives.

- On Maundy Thursday, April 18, we will gather in the Social Hall at 6:30 pm for soup and at 7:00 pm participate in an interactive service which will conclude with communion.
- Good Friday Prayer Vigil—a sign-up sheet will be available. The sanctuary will be open during the day for prayer and meditation.
- Easter Sunday will be filled with bells, trumpets and celebrations including communion.
 - Sunday, April 28, is our annual Jazz Sunday.



LENTEN PRACTICES — **Prayer** is an essential part of the Lenten experience. There is a saying that without prayer, fasting is just dieting. Without prayer, almsgiving is just social work. Prayer connects us with our loving God. As an act of preparation for worship, you are invited to read the Scripture that will be used in worship.

Fasting helps us focus on God. Sometimes we are called to give up a food item. Sometimes we are called to give up something which is occupying our time, like video games or endless checking on social media. This is a good time to think about what is ruling your life. What is occupying your time and thoughts? Give that thing up. And then when Lent is over, contemplate where your focus went when you no longer had that thing. Were you more able to focus on God and others? If so, try not to let whatever you gave up take over your life again.

Almsgiving is the act of giving to the poor. Through almsgiving we share God's love with others and we recognize that the gifts we have are not really our own. If the thing you are fasting from leaves a little extra money in your pocket, then give that money to a worthy charity which helps the poor. You can also donate goods. If you really want to push yourself, give your time in direct service to another. Acts of service can be considered almsgiving, especially if you do them with the intention of sharing your gifts. You might encounter Jesus in the faces of those you are serving. This year as part of your almsgiving you are invited to bring the following items each Sunday for use in our Little Food Pantry. As an act of service, you are invited to help us stock the pantry.

- Third Sunday of Lent, March 24 – Granola & Cereal Bars - Matthew 2:13-18
- Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 31 – Oatmeal—Fifth Sunday Mission as Worship
- Fifth Sunday of Lent, April 7 – Canned Ravioli or other canned meals - John 11:17-44
- Palm Sunday, April 14 – Peanut Butter & Jelly - Luke 19:41-44
- Easter Sunday, April 21 (not a Sunday in Lent) – Canned fruit - John 20

FIFTH SUNDAY MISSION AS WORSHIP — Please remember that each of our Fifth Sunday Mission as Worship events will have something for all people, regardless of age or physical ability. As the date approaches details will be made available.

Sunday, March 31 — BEDS PLUS Meet at the church at 9:50 and we will carpool to St. Barbara's 8900 Windemere, Brookfield. The parking lot is behind the school off of Prairie Avenue. There is work for everyone regardless of age or physical ability. Some of us will build new wooden shelves (please bring any appropriate tools you have) and others of us will be able to sit at tables and organize the stuff that goes on the shelves! Once our work is complete there will be a brief service of thanksgiving at the worksite. BEDS Plus is celebrating 30 years of service. Their mission is to help vulnerable individuals stabilize their lives through housing and supportive services. Since 1988, BEDS PLUS has given the homeless a safe place to sleep, hot homemade meals, professional counseling, and the job services they need to become self-sufficient.

Sunday, June 30 — Hofmann Dam River Rats. We will join forces with the River Rats to help beautify and maintain the Des Plaines River.

Sunday, September 29 — The Boulevard

Sunday, December 29 — TBD

FUNDRAISERS — Mark your calendars now!!

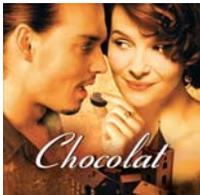
Spring Stewardship Auction Sunday, May 19, 4:30 pm This year the fall stewardship auction will be held in the spring. A themed meal will be provided. If you would like to donate items for the auction, please contact Ellen Hamilton or the church office.

Strawberry Social, Wednesday, July 17

Oktoberfest, Saturday, September 28

Trivia Night, Friday, October 25

Christkindlmarkt, Saturday, December 7



CHOCOLATE FOR LENT —Using themes from the 2000 Academy Award nominated film *Chocolat*, our next Theology on Tap series invites us to use Lent and chocolate to gain deeper insights into self-discipline, self-giving, conversion, acceptance and maturing in Christ. Monday, March 18 – Monday, April 15 we will then meet at 7:00 in the parlor for discussion and Chocolate desserts!!

SUNDAY SCHOOL — is open to all ages. In combination with Sunday School, Jr. High Youth group will meet on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am. Volunteers are needed. Sign up outside of the Christian Ed office or contact Diante. **March 31 – Spring Break**

LITTLE FOOD PANTRY — It might surprise you how often we have to restock our Little Food Pantry. Even in the bitter cold, needy people walk over for the benefit of our assistance. Remember in this cold weather, cans pop. Please donate vacuum packed or boxed items. We currently need individual packs of **oatmeal, granola bars, soft cereal bars and individual plastic fruit cups**. Thank you for supporting this worthy mission.

CARERS TRUNK MARCH is for BEDS Plus in LaGrange. BEDS Plus provides safe overnight shelter and services for the homeless. Supplies needed: Ground Decaf Coffee, No Tea, Drink mixes - Lemonade, Cider, Cocoa.

WOMEN'S CIRCLE for Fellowship and Study — Wednesday, March 27 at 10:00 am in the Social Hall. All women are welcome to join us for coffee, fellowship and study as we discuss "God's Promise" by Amy Poling Sutherlun. Lesson Seven "God with Us as Emmanuel". Isaiah 7:10-16; Matthew 1:18-25. Led by Kate Chard.

SHARE THE HARVEST—Spring is here! Take time now to look at your outside and see where you could plant a garden for Share the Harvest.

JR & SENIOR HIGH YOUTH —Mark your calendars for these upcoming activities.

Sunday, March 31— we are serving dinner at the Boulevard. More details to follow.

Saturday, April 20 — we will be going to the movies. Please bring money to cover the cost of the ticket plus any snacks you might like.

We need an Adult Volunteer for each activity.

THANK YOU – Thank you to everyone for the flowers, meals, cards, and notes. I am regaining my strength and well on my way to recovery. If you are planning to stop by the office to see me in the next few weeks, please call first to make sure I am in the office and not working from home. — Dale

The poster features a vibrant, abstract background with shades of red, orange, and pink. In the top left corner, there is a logo for 'OAK PARK CONCERT CHORALE' in a white box. To the right, the text reads 'Oak Park Concert Choral', 'Paul Lindblad, Director', and 'Michael Wolniakowski, Composer-In-Residence PRESENTS'. Below this, the performance details are listed: 'Sunday, March 31, 4:00 pm', 'Riverside Presbyterian Church', and 'Tickets for sale in the church office. Adults \$18.00; Students & Seniors \$10.00'. At the bottom, the word 'JUBILATE' is written in large, white, serif capital letters.

OAK PARK
CONCERT
CHORALE

Oak Park Concert Choral
Paul Lindblad, Director
Michael Wolniakowski, Composer-In-Residence
PRESENTS

Sunday, March 31, 4:00 pm
Riverside Presbyterian Church
Tickets for sale in the church office.
Adults \$18.00; Students & Seniors \$10.00

JUBILATE

THIS WEEK

Today

10:00 am Worship
11:00 am Fellowship
11:00 am Worship & Music Meeting
11:15 am Mission Committee Meeting

Monday

7:00 Theology on Tap

Tuesday

6:30 am Men's Forum

Wednesday

10:00 am Women's Circle for
Fellowship and Study

Thursday

6:30 am Women's Forum

Sunday

9:00 am Human Scene
10:00 am Fifth Sunday—Beds Plus
3:00 pm The Boulevard
4:00 pm Oak Park Concert Chorale

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Liturgist: Steven Teune

Ushers: Susan Lynch and Thom DeVries

Andrew Minister: Lynda Nadkarni

Trustees of the Month: Doug Harvin and Fred Mitchell

Flowers are given in loving memory of Bill Vogel and happy birthday wishes to Henry from Vicky Vogel.

Coffee Fellowship is hosted by the Henry Vogel family.

2019 CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Elders

2019

Jeanine Buttimer

Patti Friend

Susan Lynch

Lisa Aulerich- Marciniak

2020

Frank Gangware

Martha Heine

Lynda Nadkarni

Dennis Zander

Mary Ann Sadilek, Clerk of Session

2021

Gwen Heine

Allan Halline

Matt Lisle

Deacons

Ellen Hamilton

Sandy Kappmeyer

Steve Teune

Lloyd Bradbury

Charlie Juister

Sally Sloane

Jeanne Smith

Deb Jansky

Serina Ranft

Wendy Seifert

Trustees

Susan Deems-Dluhy

Cyril Friend

Fred Kitch

Brad Staubus

Patti Perry

Doug Harvin

Hank Vogel

Thom DeVries

Fred Mitchell

Connie Nestor

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.

Riverside Presbyterian Church

116 Barrypoint Road, Riverside, IL 60546
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Sermons available at
<https://vimeo.com/riversidepresbyterian>

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