

Welcome to
Riverside Presbyterian Church

December 10, 2023

Please silence your cell phones.

* Please stand in body or Spirit. **Bold** indicates congregational response.



WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

PRELUDE Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel arr. Behnke

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (Isaiah 40:1-5)

Comfort, O comfort my people!

We welcome God's tender words to us today.

Prepare the way for your God!

We gather for worship to prepare ourselves for Christ's coming.

Christ is coming! The glory of God will be revealed!

Thanks be to God for this good news!

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

We are a people who seek peace.

We know that God has told us to turn our weapons of war into instruments that benefit all humanity.

In the name of that Child who was born long ago to become the Prince of Peace, we now light the Candle of Peace.

*HYMN #106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

*CALL TO CONFESSION

God promises forgiveness through Jesus Christ. On this second Sunday of Advent, let us approach God in humility and faith.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (based on Jonah 3)

Holy God,

we would rather proclaim death to our enemies,
than see them forgiven and redeemed.

Forgive our hardness of heart, O God, and our reluctance to see your
divine image in those who hate and despise us.

Teach us to love our enemies, that our lives may proclaim your truth—
that love is stronger than hate, and mercy is greater than vengeance.

We ask this in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

(Silence is kept.)

*SUNG RESPONSE (# 95) *Prepare the Way of the Lord*

**Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord,
and all people will see the salvation of our God.**

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The one who calls us to this place calls us to reconciliation through grace.
God will not deny a repentant heart or an open spirit. Know that you are
forgiven and walk in the new way that is made known to you in God's
love. **Amen.**

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

(Please greet those around you with a sign of Christ's peace.)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

*Children K-5th grade are invited to River Kids at this time and should be picked
up in Creation Station after worship. Younger children may go to childcare.*

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING	Mark 12:38-42	NT p. 49-50
SECOND READING	Jonah 3:10-4:11	OT p. 861
SERMON	"Jonah and the Plant"	

OUR FAITHFUL RESPONSE

*HYMN #347 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

With joy and gratitude for all we have been given, let us offer our tithes and gifts to God.

THE OFFERING & OFFERTORY *Carol of the Bells* Leontovich/Wilhousky

*SUNG RESPONSE (#92) *While We Are Waiting, Come*

**While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION FOR OFFERING

Gracious God, accept these gifts in grateful response for your generosity. May these gifts bring joy to those most in need of Christ's mission and ministry. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SILENT PRAYER

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.

GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN *God Almighty We are Waiting* (see insert)

*BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Wake, Awake, For Night is Flying* arr. Behnke

WORSHIP NOTES

Call to Worship, ,Call to Confession, Call for the Offering, Prayer of Dedication written by Teri Mcdowell Ott for The Presbyterian Outlook.

Prayer of Confession written by B. J. Beu. Assurance of Pardon written by Rev. Madison Shockley.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Greeters: Jon and Deb Jansky

Advent Wreath Lighters: The Joseph Family

Liturgist: Doug Asbury

Children's Moment: Lynda Nadkarni

Flowers are from the Wynn Jacksons in celebration of Reese's 16th birthday. God is good!

Fellowship: No fellowship today due to Wassail Bowl set up.

Trustee of the Month: Lynda Nadkarni

Elizabeth Musick, Donna Ulrich, John Lynch, Lloyd Bradbury, Jack Smith, Greg Reichle Michael McGillicuddy, friend of Ellen Hamilton. For those grieving the death of Donna Hoving, sister of Lorri Floros.

Prayers of comfort and peace for family and friends grieving the death of Randy Womack.





To sign up for the weekly emailed announcements, contact the church office, rpsoffice@rpcusa.org or 708-447-1520

Dear RPC,

I can't wait for the Messiah concert this Sunday! Even though I know it is not an intentionally worshipful event, sacred music can still be a gateway to holy awe. And I have heard that this performance is particularly awe-some. So, I am getting mentally prepared to savor the experience. I am intentionally anticipating it – getting my hopes up – building an expectation for transcendence.

Can you imagine doing this for the birth of Christ also? What would it look like to prepare for God's arrival with the same energy and intentionality? May all our advent activities this year be filled with inspiration, appreciation, and joyful celebration, as we make way for the return of our Lord and Savior-- Jesus the Christ.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Mark

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL For those who appreciate daily readings during the season of Advent, here is a guide put together by an ecumenical organization called Living Compass. The scripture passages and reflections begin on Sunday, December 3rd, and are based around the Revised Common Lectionary. Printed copies are available in the church office and online (<https://bit.ly/3uFvZ03>). Family devotionals are on the bulletin board.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP —We will have a traditional Sunday service at 10am and a service of Lessons and Carols featuring the acaBELLa Ringers, Ringers & Singers and Chancel Choir at 4 pm.



MESSIAH TODAY— The heavens are telling the glory of God! Handel's Messiah is as close to angelic that you can hear, unless you have heard the angels themselves. **December 10th at 4:00 pm**, come hear the heavenly sounds of Christmas as we celebrate Christmas through Handel's Messiah. No halos required.

WASSAIL BOWL — There will be a traditional Wassail Bowl following the Messiah today, December 10 in the social hall. If you can bring baked goods, or are able to help, contact Deb Jansky at 708-822-9557.



Christmas Pageant

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT IN WORSHIP — Think creatively, not literally! What do you have around your house that could stand in for a wise person? A book by someone you consider to be wise? A superhero doll? What about for the animals? Any stuffed animal will do! Even a unicorn. An angel? A star? Those are pretty straight forward. Children of all ages are desired to participate in this pageant! Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/rpcpageant> At the end of the service, we'll unassemble our creche and you will take your item(s) home.

STREAMS OF LIVING WATER: 9am Sundays in the Library —Next Sunday, December 17 will focus on “Reformed Spirituality”.

RIVER KIDS — Upcoming stories are Jonah and the Whale, the Peaceable Kingdom, John 1, and Jesus’ Baptism. It’s super easy to lead a lesson. Simply read the story, ask wondering questions, and lead a project or game. Lynda provides everything you need!

SUNDAYS WITH TED & FRIENDS —6:00 p.m. In person and via Zoom. Contact Doug Asbury for more information at dougasbury@gmail.com.

12/10 — No Sundays with TED today due to Messiah and Wassail Bowl.

12/17 — A Parkland Teacher’s Homework for Us All—Diane Wolk-Rogers, TED Talk 2018

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. Envelopes are at the back of the sanctuary and in the office. Please give as you are able.

STEWARDSHIP 2024 —The 2024 Stewardship campaign is underway! Here’s how you can help. Pray daily for energy, enthusiasm, love. Pray for RPC to be a vital, thriving community of joy-filled servants of Jesus Christ.

Ask yourself - for what gifts in your life are you grateful to God? Where do you see Riverside Presbyterian Church partnering each day with God? What would you like to see our congregation do better or in addition to our current ministries?

When you have had time to reflect and pray, please make your 2024 Stewardship Pledge to Riverside Presbyterian Church. Pledge cards are available in the back of the church or church office or simply by connecting to https://rpcusa.org/form_pledge.

PRESCHOOL — Thank you for your support of Breakfast with Santa! We raised \$2135 which will help balance our 2023 budget. We're excited that with full enrollment in 2024, the preschool will be helping to support the overall church finances.

TREASURER/BOOKKEEPER WANTED — Contact Pastor Mark if you are interested or have any leads in either or both of these essential jobs. Copies of the job descriptions are in the rack outside the church office.

TRUSTEES MEETING — The Trustees will meet on Monday, December 11 at 6:00 pm in the Parlor.

DEACONS MEETING— The Deacons will meet on Tuesday, December 12 at 7:00 pm at Nancy Dvorak's home.

WORSHIP AT CALEDONIA — Sunday, December 17 at 2:30 pm. Contact Steve Marcus (847-224-5590) if you can help or for more information.

REFUGEE FAMILY UPDATE —

The Noh family is slowly acclimating to life in Chicago. They have friends who were in the same refugee camp who are helping with their transition along with the RARRT mentor team. They desire the following items: 8 x 10 rug (they are accustomed to sitting on the floor), body wash, body lotion, shampoo and conditioner for textured hair, and a smart tv so they can access programming from Africa. Please see Lynda if you can contribute any of these items or a



donation toward their purchase. lynda@rpcusa.org They bring the flag of Central African Republic with them when they leave the apartment so they can document where they are going on their new adventure. This was their first trip to Target!

LITTLE FOOD PANTRY — The item of the month is **canned fruit!** Any variety. Consider buying a case of 12!

THIS WEEK**Today**

9:00 am Christian Spirituality Class
 10:00 am Worship
 No Fellowship Today
 11:30 am Green Team Meeting
 1:30 pm Messiah Dress Rehearsal
 4:00 pm Handel's Messiah
 5:30 pm Wassail Bowl

Monday

5:15 pm Volleyball
 6:00 pm Trustees Meeting

Tuesday

6:30 am Men's Forum
 7:00 pm Deacons Meeting

Wednesday

4:15 pm Ringers & Singers
 6:30 pm acaBELLa Ringers
 7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Thursday

7:00 pm Personnel Meeting

Sunday

9:00 am Christian Spirituality Class
 10:00 am Worship—Christmas Pageant
 11:00 am Fellowship
 11:30 am Mission Committee
 2:30 pm Worship at Caledonia
 6:00 pm Sundays with TED

Riverside Presbyterian Church

116 Barrypoint Road, Riverside, IL 60546
 (708) 447-1520, rpcusa.org
 Sermons available at
 Youtube.com
 Riverside Presbyterian, IL

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

Rev. Mark Zimmerly, Pastor,
 mark@rpcusa.org; 708-202-9874
Linda Hutcheson, Office Manager,
 rpcoffice@rpcusa.org
Dr. Sally Sloane, Minister of Music,
 musikhse@comcast.net
Lynda Nadkarni, Coordinator of Children's
 Ministries, lynda@rpcusa.org
Ellen Hamilton, Treasurer,
 treasurer@rpcusa.org
Sara Vacek, Tech Manager,
 rpcvideo@rpcusa.org
Doug Asbury, Volunteer in Mission,
 dougasbury@gmail.com

2023 CHURCH LEADERSHIP

	2023	2024	2025
Elders	Lisa Aulerich Marciniak Jon Jansky Sandra Kappmeyer	Susan Lynch Carrie Staubus Mary Beth Wynn	Betsy Gardner Ellen Hamilton Serina Ranft Mary Ann Sadilek, Clerk
Deacons	Nancy Dvorak Elizabeth Musick Marilyn Slanec	Jim Marciniak Steve Marcus Wendy Seifert	Thom DeVries Paula McCracken Open
Trustees	Doug Harvin Henry Vogel Open	John McGlennon Lynda Nadkarni Open	Deb Jansky Tom Radigan Open