



**for those able, please stand*

Gathering Music & Lighting of Candles

Centering Silence & Prayer

Prelude

Words of Welcome

*This is the day that our God has made...
let us rejoice and be glad in it!*

*Opening Song “Arise, Your Light is Come!”
#231

*Sharing God's Peace

Preparing our Hearts

Offerings of Love
*Lily Pricher
Louisa Gebhard*

Choral Anthem “March of the Wise Men”
Keveren

Offerings of Love
*Silverton Gebhard
Stu Watson*

A Time of Offering & Announcements
God is good **all the time...**
and all the time...**God is good!**

Children's Time
***I am a child of God,
nothing can shake my confidence;
I am a child of God,
no one can take my inheritance;
Never alone I'll stand,
strengthened by God's own hand,
I am a child, I am a child, a child of God.***

Bible Bits & Scripture
Isaiah 60:1-6
Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon

Silent Reflection

Offering of Love
Nate Gebhard

Celebration of Holy Communion

This is Christ's table and all are welcome. Please come forward by the center aisle and return by the side aisles. If you would like to remain seated, raise your hand and we will gladly come to you.

A Time of Prayer
*God in your grace... **Hear Our Prayers***

*The Prayer of Jesus

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.

*Closing Song “We Three Kings”
#233 verses 1, 2 & 5

*Benediction
You are welcome to be seated after the benediction.

Postlude

**Rev. Vicky Stifter | Pastor
Diana Beterbide, Pianist, Organist, Chancel Choir Director
Ann Becker, Karen Roof & Alison Betzing | Diaconate
Patricia Mitchell | Reader
Kim Vogel | Audio Visual & Sound System
Ann Becker & Elaine Johnson | Hospitality**

Welcome to Riverside Community Church
United Church of Christ

VISITORS We are blessed to worship with you today. Thank you for the gift of your presence. We invite you to fill out a “welcome card” and place it in the offering plate or give it to Pastor Vicky after the service.

CHILDREN AT RIVERSIDE We joyfully welcome children of all ages at Riverside. Those 5+ are invited to join Katie Cook for Sunday School after Children’s Time. Those birth-age 4 are invited to the nursery, located in the Fireside Room from 10:15 am – 12 noon.

THIS WEEK & NEXT SUNDAY AT RIVERSIDE

Today. All are welcome after worship for coffee & conversation in the Riverview Room. Council meeting in the Ruth Wells Room.

Tuesday. Bible Study at Down Manor 10:30-11:30 AM

Wednesday. Meditative Prayer - 3:30 PM | Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM | Circles of Solace 5:30 PM

Next Sunday. Music by Tim Mayer and the Gospel Ensemble (GE). Rehearsal at 9:15 for all interested in singing with the GE.

MARTIN LUTHER KING CELEBRATION JANUARY 15

Riverside will host a community-wide celebration, in word and music, of the life and legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The event, “We Stand Together” will take place on January 15 at 4:30 p.m., with a reception to follow. Those who would like to sing in the Community Gospel Choir are invited to contact Kristen Warnock: kristen@iglou.com. Rehearsal begins at 3:30.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING. JANUARY 28 AT NOON

All Riverside members and friends are invited to participate as we recognize and celebrate our ministry in 2023 and make important decisions for the year ahead. Topics include leadership, budget, bylaws, the launch of a capital campaign and presentation of the Celebration of Service award.

2024 DAVID WARNOCK CALENDARS Are now available for purchase after worship. 50% of proceeds benefit Riverside Church.

Riverside is blessed by your presence.

We are . . .

. . . a vibrant, Spirit-filled community of people who seek to follow in the ways of Jesus: loving our neighbors, doing justice and sharing the extravagant welcome of God with the whole of creation.

. . . an “*Open and Affirming*” congregation—affirming the full inclusion of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender persons (LGBTQ+) in the church's life and ministry.

. . . an “*Immigrant Welcoming*” congregation—called by our faith to stand together with our undocumented and documented immigrant brothers & sisters and their families.

We seek to honor and protect the gifts of God’s creation--divesting our financial resources from the fossil fuel industry, reinvesting in renewable energy and reducing our use of fossil fuels.

Riverside’s youth ministry team supports: Sunday School, teen groups, and Our Whole Lives (OWL)--a comprehensive human sexuality program. *Contact Youth Leader Katie Cook at katie@riversideucc.com.*

Our Justice and Witness team promotes engagement with the Warming Shelter, FISH Food Bank, Somos Uno, Columbia Gorge Climate Action Network. *Contact Ann Harris at harris.annj@gmail.com*

Our “Cheers” team offers care, comfort and meals to those with health, aging issues, new parenthood or other transitions. *Contact Pastor Vicky if you have a need: pastor@riverssideucc.com*

More ways to connect, learn and feed the spirits of those of all ages: Men’s Discussion Group, monthly book group, adult education classes and a Tuesday Bible study & reflection group. *Contact office@riversideucc.com for more information.*

Keep up on what’s happening! Sign up for our weekly online newsletter, *The Current*, by contacting editor Kathy Watson, kathy@watsonx2.com. Or visit our Facebook page: Riverside Community Church, UCC.

On the Web: Riverside’s web site, www.riversideucc.com, includes: a calendar of all events, the most recent Current newsletters, a way to give electronically, and everything about the life of our congregation.

Riverside is one of more than 5,000 communities of faith that make up the “*United Church of Christ*” (UCC). The UCC has been on the cutting edge of justice movements in the U.S. since its work to abolish slavery in the 1800’s. For more information about the United Church of Christ visit <http://www.ucc.org>

***For more information about Riverside
contact the church office at 541-386-1412 OR office@riversideucc.com
or visit www.riversideucc.com***



“Wise Women also Came” Jan Richardson

Riverside Community Church
United Church of Christ

Sunday, January 7, 2024