



**for those able, please stand*

Lighting of Candles

Centering Silence & Prayer

Prelude "Just As I Am" *Stevens*

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

*Opening Song "Surely the Presence" #131

*Sharing God's Peace

Preparing our Hearts

Reading "Ash Thursday"
Michael Coffey

Choral Anthem "You Are Mine"
Haas & Hayes

Reading "Beginning with Beloved"
Jan Richardson

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 Mark 1:9-15

Sermon "Water & Ashes"

Silent Reflection

Song of Response
"Take O Take Me As I Am"
***Take, O take me as I am;
summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart and live in me.***

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
"Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights"
#250 vs 1-3

*Benediction

*Congregational Response

Go with us, Lord, and guide the way through this and every coming day, that in your Spirit strong and true our lives may be our gift to you.

Reverend Vicky Stifter | Pastor
Katie Cook, Youth Program Coordinator
Kristen Daly, Nursery Care Provider
Diana Beterbide | Piano & Organ and Choir Director
Sandy Spellecy & Elaine Johnson | Diaconate Team
Donna McCoy & Sandy Spellecy | Readers
Bill Light, Sharon Scott & Thomas Hackett | Hospitality
Thomas Hackett | Audio Visual & Sound System

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 to age 4 are invited to the nursery, located downstairs 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.

- Capital Campaign Q&A in the Ruth Wells Room.
- Recycling of even numbered plastics. Please see Elaine Thompson.

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

Wednesday. Meditative Prayer - 3:30 PM | Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM

Thursday. Celebration of Life for Gregory Gilbertson. 5 PM.

Saturday. Celebration of Life for Helmut Riedl at 2 PM, Sanctuary.

COMMUNITY ACTION FOR PEACE On Fridays at 4:30, justice seekers of all ages are invited to join interfaith gatherings for peace and a permanent ceasefire in Gaza. We seek to create a world where the children of Palestine *and* Israel can flourish. 2nd and State streets in downtown Hood River.

LENTON BOOK STUDY on Feb 28th at 5 PM. *“The Land is Not Empty: Following Jesus in Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery”* by Sarah Augustine. Please contact pastor@riversideucc.com if you would like to participate.

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***

A Time of Stillness

During this holy season of Lent, you are invited to dwell in the peace and stillness of the sanctuary prior to the start of the worship service. If you would like to engage in conversation, you are welcome to use the Riverview Room.



Briton Rivière - The Temptation in the Wilderness

Riverside Community Church
United Church of Christ
Sunday, February 18, 2024
First Sunday in Lent