



*\*for those able, please stand*

Lighting of Candles

Centering Silence & Prayer

Prelude "Lenten Prayer" *Glycannon*

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

\*Opening Song "Show Me Your Ways"  
*Russell Fragar*  
**Show me your ways  
That I may walk with You  
Show me your ways  
I put my hope in You**

**The cry of my heart Is to love You more  
To live with the touch of your hand  
Stronger each day  
Show me your ways**

\*Sharing God's Peace

Preparing our Hearts

Reading "Hold Only to Love"  
*Steve Garnaas-Holmes*

Choral Anthem "Magnify the Lord" *Shram*

Reading "To Begin With, the Sweet Grass"  
*(excerpt) Mary Oliver*

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

Children's Time & Blessing  
**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 8:31-38

Sermon "Gains and Losses"

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 "The Summons" #350

\*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  
Diana Beterbide | Piano & Organ and Chancel Choir Director  
Kristen Warnock | Music Minister  
Sandy Spellecy & Elaine Johnson | Diaconate Team  
Bonnie New & Betty Shalhope | Readers  
Michele Beaman | Audio Visual & Sound System  
Kathryn Murray & Kim Vogel | 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 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.

- RCC Chancel Choir performs at Valley Christian Church at 2.
- Neurodiversity Gathering in the Fireside Room 12-1 PM
- Justice & Witness meets in the Ruth Wells Room at 12 PM.

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

**Wednesday.** “Lighting the Way” info at Sandy Spellecy’s home at 2. Meditative Prayer - 3:30 PM | Lenten Book Study - 5 PM | Chancel Choir Rehearsal - 7:00 PM.

**Thursday.** Cheers meets at 10:30 in the Ruth Wells Room.

- Finance & Development Board meets at 10 am Fireside Room.

**Sunday.** “Lighting the Way” information session after worship.

**NEURODIVERSITY GATHERING** If you are the parent or caregiver of a child with who is facing particular challenges, you’re invited to join Katie Cook in the Fireside room today at noon for a time of meaningful connection and discussion.

**COMMUNITY ACTION FOR PEACE** Join us for an interfaith gathering for peace and a permanent ceasefire in Gaza. Fridays at 2nd and State Street, 4:30-5:00 p.m. on Friday.

**PLASTIC RECYCLING SUNDAY!** Next opportunity is March 17<sup>th</sup>.

***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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:kathy@watsonx2.com). Or visit our Facebook page: Riverside Community Church, UCC.

On the Web: Riverside’s web site, [www.riversideucc.com](http://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](mailto:office@riversideucc.com)  
or visit [www.riversideucc.com](http://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.*



*“Take Up Your Cross and Follow” Ain Vares*

**Riverside Community Church**  
**United Church of Christ**  
**Sunday, February 25, 2024**  
*Second Sunday in Lent*