



**for those able, please stand*

Lighting of Candles

Centering Silence & Prayer

Prelude “Valet will ich dir geben” *Manz*

Words of Welcome

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

*Opening Song & Palm Procession

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna” #267

*Call to Worship

**“Blessed Be the One who Comes in the
Name of Love!”** (Adapted from a
“Blessing of Palms” by Jan Richardson)

*Sharing God’s Peace

Preparing Our Hearts

Reading “A Sonnet for Palm Sunday”
Malcolm Guite

Choral Anthem “In the Name of the Lord”

Gaither, McHugh, Patty and McDonald

Reading “Coming to the City Nearest You”

Adapted from a poem by Carol Penner

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 11:1-11

Sermon “A Time to Choose”

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 “Hosanna” *Twyla Paris*

God in your grace.... Hear Our Prayers



*The Prayer of Jesus (as created at Riverside by
members of the “Greatest Prayer” reflection group)

***O Giver of all life, clear a space within us for your
light to dwell. Create your holy reign of justice and
love here today, on Earth, through our fiery hearts
and willing hands. Give us the bread and strength
we need for this day. Forgive us the harm that we
do to all that you love, as we forgive those who
harm us. And lead us not into numbness,
distraction, or greed, but bring us back from our
fears. For You are the source of all that is good and
holy—now and forever. Amen.***

*Closing Song “Ride On, Ride On, in Majesty!”
#268 (verses 1,3, & 5)

*Benediction

You are welcome to be seated for the Postlude

Postlude “O Sacred Head Now Wounded”

Rev. Vicky Stifter | Minister
Katie Cook | Youth Program Director | Kristen Daly, Nursery Care
Diana Beterbide | Piano & Organ & Chancel Choir Director
Kristen Warnock | Music Minister
Elaine Johnson & Donna McCoy | Diaconate Team
Gary McFarlen & Bonnie New | Readers
Alison Betzing, Susan Bell & The Callison Family | Hospitality
Michele Beaman | 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 in the Fireside Room from 10:15 am – 12 noon.

THIS WEEK AT RIVERSIDE

Today. All are welcome after worship for coffee & conversation in the Riverview Room. Justice & Witness Board meets in the Ruth Wells Room.

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

Wednesday. Meditation 3:30 – 4:30 Ruth Wells Room | Chancel Choir Rehearsal - 7:00 PM.

Thursday. Finance & Development Board meets at 10:30 in the Ruth Wells Room.

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.

CIRCLES OF SOLACE This five-week series offers participants a safe and sacred place to share sadness and sorrow, whether it be for personal losses, or circumstances in the broader world. “The Wild Edge of Sorrow” by Francis Weller will serve as a resource. To register or learn more: office@riversideucc.com Space is limited. \$45 for the series. Scholarships available.

MEMORIAL SERVICE: Dick O’Bannon’s Celebration of Life service at Riverside on Friday, April 12 at 2 PM. Reception following.

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@riversideucc.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.



“Hosanna in the Highest!” by Hanna-Cheriyann Varghese

**Riverside Community Church
United Church of Christ
Sunday, MARCH 24, 2024
Palm Sunday**