



**All who are able, please stand*

Gathering Music & Lighting of Candles

Centering Silence & Prayer

Prelude

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Plainsong, arr, Carol Tornquist

Words of Welcome

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

*Call to Worship & Advent Candle Lighting

We light God's candle of hope

*Opening Song

"Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"

#160 verses 1 & 2

Sharing God's Peace

Preparing our Hearts

Reading "Drawing Near: A Blessing to
Begin Advent" *Jan Richardson*



Special Music "Mary, Did You Know?"

Lowry and Greene

Let's BE More Together!

Gail Lyon

A Time of Offering & Announcements

God is good . . . **all the time** . . .

and all the time . . . **God is good!**

Children's Time

*Star Child, earth Child, go-between of God.
Love Child, Christ Child, heaven's lightning rod:
This year, this year let the day arrive when
Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!*

Bible Bits & Scripture

Jeremiah 33:14-16. Luke 21:25-36

Sermon

Silent Reflection

Song of Response "You are the Light" 2x

Tom Fettke

You are the Light we see.

You are the truth we know.

You are the Life we live. You are the Hope.

You are the Joy. You are the Song we sing.



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 *J. Phillip Newell's "Celtic Mass for
Peace"*

**Ground of all being, Mother of life, Father of the
universe, your name is sacred, beyond speaking. May
we know your presence, may your longings be ours,
our longings in heart and action. May there be food for
the human family today, for the whole earth
community. Forgive us the falseness of what we have
done, as we forgive those who are untrue to us. Do not
forsake us in our time of conflict but lead us into new
beginnings. For the light of life, the vitality of life, and
the glory of life are yours now and forever. Amen.**

*Closing Song

"Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"

#160 verses 3 & 4

*Benediction

*Congregational Response

"Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord" *Godspell*

Rev. Vicky Stifter | Minister

Katie Cook Youth Program Director & Kristen Daly | Nursery Care Provider
David Kelly | Pianist – Pam Riedl, Karen Harding & Eileen Utroske | Song Leaders
Alison Betzing, Deanne McLaughlin & Darrin Tillson | Diaconate Team
The Pricher Family | Lighting of the Advent Candles
Crolyn Welty-Fick & Sandy Spellecy | Readers
Kathryn Murray | Audio-Visual & Sound System
Ann Harris & Dana Pricher | Hospitality

Welcome to Riverside Community Church
United Church of Christ

GUESTS 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 and wreath-making and greening of the church.

Tuesday. Meditation at noon via Zoom. For link, please see Riverside’s website: www.riversideucc.com.

Nourish & Nurture, last session 5:30 – 7:00 PM in the Riverview Room. RSVP for dinner: dana.pricher@gmail.com

Wednesday. Bible Study at Down Manor 1:30 – 2:30 PM

Meditative Prayer 3:30 PM | OWL 6:45 PM

Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM

Friday. Noon Advent concert: HRVHS Chamber Choir.

Let’s ‘BE’ More Together! Thank you for your generous support of Riverside’s mission and ministry. If you have not yet returned your 2025 pledge card, please do so by next Sunday. And thanks to the 18 plus who have committed - most of whom increased their pledges - we are a third of the way to our 5% increase goal for 2025!

CELEBRATION OF SERVICE AWARD. Who would you like to honor for their Christian witness of service to neighbors and community? Nomination forms are available in the Riverview Room. Deadline to submit forms is December 18.

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*



“Light One Candle” Rebecca Cohen

Riverside Community Church
United Church of Christ
Sunday, December 1, 2024
First Sunday of Advent