



*\*All who are able, please stand*

Gathering Music & Lighting of Candles

Choral Prelude      “Emmanuel”      *Pote*

Centering Silence & Prayer

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 candles of hope & peace*

\*Opening Song  
“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”  
*#154 verses 1 & 2*

Sharing God’s Peace

Preparing our Hearts

Reading  
“Making the House Ready for the Lord”  
*Mary Oliver*



A Time of Offering, Dedication & Announcements

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

Draw the Circle Wide

***Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.  
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,  
standing side by side.  
Draw the circle wide.***

Bible Bits & Scripture    Luke 3:1-6

Song of Response “You are the Light”” *2x*  
*Tom Fette*  
***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.***

Christmas Play “The Christmas Story:  
A Modern-Day Rendition”

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!***



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  
“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”  
*#154 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  
Diana Beterbide | Piano, Organ & Chancel Choir Director – Dawn Rankin | Flute  
Bill Light & Sharon Scott | Diaconate  
The Bingener Family | Lighting of the Advent Candles  
Donna McCoy & Bonnie New | Readers  
Kim Vogel | Audio-Visual & Sound System  
Eileen Utroske | 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. No Sunday School due to Christmas Play. 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.

**Tuesday.** Advent meditation at noon | Zoom link available at [www.riversideucc.com](http://www.riversideucc.com)

**Wednesday.** Adult Ed & Spiritual Nurture Board at 10:30 AM

- Bible Study at Down Manor 1:30-2:30 PM
- Meditative Prayer at 3:30 PM | OWL at 6:45 PM
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 PM

**Thursday.** Cheers team meets at 10:30 AM | Ruth Wells Room.

- Grounding & Preparing at 5:30 – 7:30 PM (see below)

**Friday.** Advent concert at noon | Paul Klemme, organist.

- Communications team meets at 3:00 PM | Ruth Wells

**Next Sunday.** Third Sunday of Advent.

- “All Creation Awaits” 9:15 – 10:00 AM | Ruth Wells Room.
- Music by Tim Mayer, Kristen Warnock & the Gospel Ensemble.
- Council meets after worship | Ruth Wells Room.

**POINSETTIAS:** Would you like to honor a loved one with a poinsettia this season? Flowers dedicated in memory / honor of are \$20 each. Please contact [office@riversideucc.com](mailto:office@riversideucc.com).

**GROUNDING & PREPARING** In light of recent election results, how do we ground and prepare ourselves for the challenging times ahead? How do we avoid isolation and resist fear? What specific actions can we take together? If these questions are of interest to you, please join us on Thursday, Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> in the Riverview Room for a light supper and interactive discussion from 5:30 - 7:30 PM. **Sign up today** or RSVP by December 9<sup>th</sup> to: [office@riversideucc.com](mailto:office@riversideucc.com).

Welcome to Riverside Community Church.  
United Church of Christ  
*We are blessed by your presence.*

*Bienvenidos a la iglesia Riverside. Su presencia es una bendición para nosotros.*

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 gay, lesbian, bisexual 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 sibling’s 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 striving to reduce 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 541.980.0505 or [katie@riversideucc.com](mailto:katie@riversideucc.com).*

Our Justice and Witness & Immigrant Welcoming teams promote engagement with the Warming Shelter, FISH Food Bank, Somos Uno, Columbia Gorge Climate Action Network. *Contact Jeannie Chance at (541) 806-6648 or [stjechance@gmail.com](mailto:stjechance@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: 541-386-1412 / [pastor@riversideucc.com](mailto: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](mailto:office@riversideucc.com) or call 541.386.1412 for more information.*

Keep up on what’s happening! Sign up for our weekly online newsletter, The Current, by contacting editor Kathy Watson, [kathy@hungerchronicles.com](mailto:kathy@hungerchronicles.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)*

*For more information about the United Church of Christ visit <http://www.ucc.org>  
Visit our Facebook page: Riverside Community Church, UCC*



**Riverside Community Church**  
*United Church of Christ*  
*Second Sunday of Advent*

**December 8, 2024**