



*\*All who are able, please stand*

Gathering Music & Lighting of Candles

Centering Silence & Prayer

Prelude

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 and joy.*

\*Opening Song

*"Come Now, O Prince of Peace" # 157*

\*Sharing God's Peace

Preparing our Hearts

Reading "Rejoice Over Everything"

*Susan Virginia Hull*

Gospel Ensemble

"Go Tell it on the Mountain"

*arr Tim Mayer*

Reading "Joy Is Not A Crumb" *Mary Oliver*

A Time of Offering & Announcements

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

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

*Today's Pockets of Plenty offering will benefit the  
Books for Kids project.*

Offertory "Joy to the World"

*arr Tim Mayer*

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!*

Sermon "What Then Should We Do?"

Silent Reflection

Song of Response

*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.***



A Time of Prayer

*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

*"The King of Glory Comes" #159*

\*Benediction

\*Congregational Response

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

*Godspell*

Rev. Vicky Stifter | Minister  
Katie Cook | Youth Program Coordinator & Kristen Daly | Nursery Care Provider  
Tim Mayer, Paul Thompson, Kristen Warnock & Gospel Ensemble | Musicians  
The Lyon Family | Lighting of the Advent Candle  
Sandy Spellecy, Liz Barteld & Gail Lyon | Diaconate Team  
Joy & Adam Brake | Readers  
Tom Hackett | Audio-Visual & Sound System  
Bonnie New & Tertia King | 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. Plastic recycling. Council meets in the Ruth Wells Room.

- Submit Celebration of Service nomination forms in the Riverview Room.

**Tuesday.** Meditation at noon via Zoom. See [www.riverwideucc.com](http://www.riverwideucc.com) for the link.

**Wednesday.** Bible Study at Down Manor 1:30 PM

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

**Thursday.** Building & Maintenance meets 11:30 AM in the Riverview Room to honor Joe Smith.

- Book Group meets at Betty Shalhope’s home 10:30 AM, 3477 Avalon #123. Potluck lunch following.
- Gorge Ecumenical Ministries (GEM) Winter Social 5:30 PM. All are welcome. Bring a dish to share!

**Friday.** Advent concert at noon. Tim Mayer & Friends.

- Community Action for Ceasefire in Gaza 2<sup>nd</sup> & State 4:30 PM

**Saturday.** Longest Night Campfire gathering at the Vogel’s, 1105 Methodist Road, 4:30 PM. All are welcome.

**Next Sunday.** Fourth Sunday of Advent. We light the candle of love.

- Christmas Caroling for our elders. Meet at the HR Care Center at 4:30 PM.

**GIVING CAMPAIGN.** We give thanks to all who have submitted their 2025 pledge. If you’ve not yet done so, there’s still time! Place in offering plate or return to office.

### ***Riverside is blessed by your presence.***

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 [stjchance@gmail.com](mailto:stjchance@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*



*“Euphoria” Joy Richardson*

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

**December 15, 2024**