



**All who are able, please stand*

Gathering Music & Lighting of Candles

Centering Silence & Prayer

Prelude “Lo, How a Rose” *arr. Smith*

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 joy and love.

*Opening Song

“People, Look East” #161

*Sharing God’s Peace

Preparing our Hearts

Reading “A Blessing Called Sanctuary”

Jan Richardson



Choral Anthem “I Shall Know Him When He Comes” *by Wagner*

Reading “After Anunciation”

Madeleine L’Engle

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 Luke 1:39-55

Sermon “Mothers of God”

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

J. Philip 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 “like a child” #162

*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
Diana Beterbide | Piano & Organ | Riverside Chancel Choir
The Diem Family | Lighting of the Advent Candle
Steve Chance, Elaine Johnson, Karen Roof, Donna McCoy | Diaconate Team
Anna Diem and Frank Haskell | Readers
Tom Hackett | Audio-Visual & Sound System
Elaine & Paul Thompson | 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.

- Caroling! Meet at 4:30 at the Hood River Care Center 729 Henderson Road. All ages welcome

Tuesday. Office Closed.

- Meditation at noon via Zoom. See www.riverwideucc.com for the link.
- Christmas Eve Service at 7 PM.

Wednesday. Merry Christmas! Office Closed

Friday. Community Action for Ceasefire in Gaza 2nd & State 4:30 PM

Next Sunday. Songs of Christmas Celebration at 10:30 AM. Music by Tim Mayer, Kristen Warnock & Friends.

JANUARY 26 - SAVE THE DATE: Annual Congregational meeting after worship. All members and friends of Riverside are welcome as we celebrate the past year and make important decisions for 2025.

Riverside is blessed by your presence.

Welcome to Riverside Community Church.
United Church of Christ
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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.*

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.*

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*

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 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 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*

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Visit our Facebook page: Riverside Community Church, UCC*



“Mary and Elizabeth” Lauren Wright Pittman

Riverside Community Church
United Church of Christ
Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024