



**for those able, please stand*

Gathering Music & Lighting of Candles

Welcome, Centering Silence & Prayer

Prelude "In Dulci Jublio" *arr Martin*

*Lighting of the Christ Candle
Come now, Holy One, come

*Opening Song "Joy to the World" #179

*Sharing God's Peace

Readings "Mary, Nazareth Girl" *Ann Weems*
Luke 1:26-38

Choral Anthem. "African Noel" *Johnson*

Words of Reflection

"ChristMESS: Are You Ready?"

Readings "Hush" *Lucinda Hynett*
Luke 2:1-7

All Sing "Still, Still, Still" #214



A Time of Prayer

"Help us to love, respect and protect them all"

Choral Anthem "Breath of Heaven"

arr Courtney

Readings "Most Amazing Word" *Madeline L'Engle*
Luke 2:8-20

*All Sing "Angels We Have Heard on High"
#188

A Time of Offering

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

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

*A portion of this offering will be used to provide
emergency rental assistance, food, lodging and other
support to our Gorge neighbors in times of crisis.*

Reading "How The Light Comes"

Jan Richardson

Passing of the Christ Light

*The ushers will come to each pew and light the candle
of the person sitting near the aisle. You are invited to
pass the light to your neighbor with the words
"Receive the Light of Christ." Please tip only the unlit
candle. After your candle is lit, stand if you are able
and remain standing through the end of the service.*



*All Sing "Silent Night"

*You are invited to begin singing after the first verse is
presented in sign language by Riverside children and
youth, led by Sue Hukari.*

***Silent Night, holy night, All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.***

***Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia; Christ the Savior,
is born! Christ the Savior, is born.***

***Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.***

Benediction

Postlude "Silent Night"

*Please place your candle in one of the baskets near the
entry doors. All are invited for refreshments in the
Riverview Room after the service.*

Rev. Vicky Stifter, Minister
Diana Beterbide, Piano, Organ & Chancel Choir Director
Anders Foster | Trumpet - John Bengston | Drum
The Betzing's, E. Johnson, K. Roof & S. Spellecy, D. McCoy | Diaconate
The Fauth & Hackett Families, Ann Harris, Kathryn Murray,
and Kathy & Stu Watson | Readers
Kim Vogel | Audio Visual & Sound
Corinda Hankins-Elliott, Ann & Stephanie Harris
and Adam Pennavaria | Hospitality



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.*

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.*

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

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



Welcome to Riverside Community Church United Church of Christ

GUESTS We are blessed to worship with you this evening. 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 hand it to Pastor Vicky after the service.

CHILDREN AT RIVERSIDE We joyfully welcome children of all ages at Riverside. There is no Sunday School or nursery care available this evening. However, parents with young children in need of a break are invited to listen to the service in the Riverview Room, or the back of the sanctuary where toys and books are provided.

WE GIVE THANKS . . . To all who contributed to the Giving Tree. Your gifts benefitted Helping Hands Against Violence and our Native American siblings. It took three carloads to deliver the gifts. Love Abounds!

NEXT SUNDAY Songs of Christmas service at 10:30 AM with music by Tim Mayer and Kristen Warnock.

FRIDAY Community Action for peace in Gaza and singing of Ceasefire Carols. 4:30 – 5:30 PM at 2nd & State Streets.

POINSETTIAS. Thank you to all who purchased the poinsettias adorning the church:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>IN MEMORY OF . . .</u>
Alison Betzing	Andrew Urie
Donna McCoy	Jean & Glynwood (Bud) Mangus
Doug & Karen Roof	Wilton & Betty Moore
Barbara Grant	Rob Grant
Anna & Jim Diem	Grandad John Diem
Bill Light	Jackie Light and Holly & Bill Light

MLK EVENTS ON JANUARY 20—SAVE THE DATE!

Workshops at 3:00 PM, Celebration at 5:00 PM, followed by a community meal. All are welcome.



"Christmas Eve" Robert Griffith

Riverside Community Church United Church of Christ *Christmas Eve Service*

Tuesday, December 24, 2024