



**for those able, please stand*

Gathering Music & Lighting of Candles

Centering Silence & Prayer

Prelude

Words of Welcome & Introduction to Songs of Christmas

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

*Opening Song "O Little Town of Bethlehem" #180

Reflection by Beth Hartwell

*Sharing God's Peace

Preparing our Hearts

Reading "Christmas Poem" *Howard Thurman*

Songs of Christmas "First Snowfall" *Tim Mayer*
Reflection by Tim Mayer



Reading "It is Not Over" *Ann Weems*

A Time of Offering & Announcements

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

Children's Time

"Twelve Days of Christmas"

Bible Bits & Scripture John 1:1-5

Songs of Christmas

"Mary, Did You Know?" #192
Reflection by Steve Chance

"Silent Night" #186
Reflection by Marin Smith

Selections from the Congregation



A Time of Prayer

God in Your Grace . . . ***Hear Our Prayers***

All who desire are welcome to come forward and light a candle to symbolize a prayer of grief, gladness, concern and/or a hope for the New Year.

*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

"Do You Hear What I Hear?" (*insert*)
Regney & Shane

*Benediction

Congregational Response

***Gloria, gloria, gloria,
glory be to God on high!
And on earth be peace to the people
in whom God is well pleased.***

Vicky Stifter | Pastor
Tim Mayer and Kristen Warnock | Musicians
Alison Betzing, Pam Riedl and Betty Shalhope | Diaconate
Steve Chance and Beth Hartwell | Readers
Michele Beaman | Audio Visual & Sound System
Nancy Pavlenko & Elaine Johnson | 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. No Sunday School today. 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. Poinsettias purchased in memory of a loved one can be taken home.

Wednesday. Happy New Year!

- All scheduled activities are cancelled.

Thursday. Chancel Choir rehearsal 7:00 – 8:00 PM

Friday. Community Action for peace in Gaza. 4:30 – 5:00 PM at 2nd & State Streets.

Next Sunday. We will celebrate Epiphany and the coming of the Wise Ones. Those of all ages are welcome to share an “offering of love” in the form of music, poetry, dance, art or another offering from the heart. To participate, please contact pastor@riversideucc.com by Jan. 2nd

PASTOR VICKY AWAY December 31 – January 2. If you need assistance during this time, please contact office@riversideucc.com.

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.

RIVERSIDE’S ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING.

Sunday, January 26 after worship. Your participation is needed as we celebrate the past year and vote on important matters to guide the future of Riverside.



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*



“Singing in the Rain, Sleet and Snow” M. Sullivan

Riverside Community Church
United Church of Christ
Songs of Christmas

Sunday, December 29, 2024