



Riverside Community Church

*\*for those able, please stand*

## Gathering Music & Lighting of Candles

### Centering Silence & Prayer

#### Prelude

#### Words of Welcome & Introduction to Offerings of Love

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

#### \*Call to Worship *We Arise Today!*

*Adapted from a Prayer by St. Patrick*

#### \*Opening Song “The First Noel” vs 1-3 #229

#### \*Sharing God’s Peace

#### Preparing Our Hearts

#### Offering of Love “Home by Another Way”

*James Taylor*

#### Reading

“For Those Who Have Far to Travel”

*Jan Richardson*

#### Offerings of Love “Moonlight Sonata”

*Beethoven*  
Silverton Gebhard

#### “I Just Can’t Wait to be King”

*Elton John & Tim Rice*  
Louisa Gebhard

#### A Time of Offering & Announcements

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

*A partridge in a pear tree, 2 turtle doves, 3 french hens,  
4 calling birds, 5 Gold Rings, 6 geese a laying,  
7 swans a swimming, 8 maids a milking, 9 ladies dancing,  
10 lords a leaping, 11 pipers piping,  
12 drummers drumming.*

*I am a child of God,  
nothing can shake my confidence;  
I am a child of God,  
no one can take my inheritance;  
Never alone I’ll stand,  
strengthened by God’s own hand,  
I am a child, I am a child, a child of God.*

#### Bible Bits & Scripture Isaiah 60:1-6 Matthew 2:1-12

#### Offerings of Love

“Clair de Lune” *Debussy*  
Annelisa Gebhard

#### “Tie A Yellow Ribbon Round the Ole Oak Tree”

*Levne & Brown*  
Karen Harding

#### Offerings of Love "A Safe Place to Land"

*Sara Bareilles and Lori McKenna*  
Molly Fauth & Jennifer Hackett

#### Celebration of Holy Communion

*This is Christ’s table and all are welcome. Please come forward by the center aisle and return by the side aisles. If you would like to remain seated, raise your hand and we will gladly come to you.*

#### 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 “The First Noel” vs 4,5 #22

#### \*Benediction

#### \*Congregational Response “Amen”

*African American Spiritual*

Rev. Vicky Stifter | Minister  
Katie Cook | Youth Program Coordinator  
Lydia Warren | Piano & Vocals  
Ruby & Alison Betzing, Susan Bell & Lizz O'Bannon | Diaconate  
Bonnie New & Beth Hartwell | Readers  
Kathryn Murray | Audio Visual & Sound System  
Jeannie & Steve Chance and The Lytle Family | 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.

**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 AT RIVERSIDE**  
**TODAY**

All are welcome after worship for coffee, connection &  
refreshments in the Riverview Room.  
Music & Arts Board meets in the Ruth Wells Room

**WEDNESDAY**  
Bible Study at Parkhurst 2:30 | Meditative Prayer 3:30  
Somos Inmigrantes at 12<sup>th</sup> & May Streets 4 PM  
Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:30  
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**FRIDAY**  
Those of all ages are invited to an interfaith gathering for  
peace with justice in Palestine. 4:30– 5:00 PM at 2<sup>nd</sup> and State  
streets.

**SATURDAY**  
Celebration of Life for Jerry Mohar at 2 PM.  
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**MARTIN LUTHER KING CELEBRATION JANUARY 19**  
Riverside hosts a community-wide celebration of the life & legacy of  
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.  
Workshop at 3 PM | Freedom Choir Rehearsal at 1:45 PM  
Celebration at 5 PM | Community Meal at 6:30 PM.

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING JANUARY 25 AT NOON**  
All Riverside members and friends are invited to participate as we  
celebrate our ministry in 2025 and make important decisions for  
the year ahead including leadership, budget, and RCC bylaws.  
***POTLUCK – BRING A DISH TO SHARE!***

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*United Church of Christ*

**WHO WE ARE**  
We are a vibrant, Spirit-filled community following the ways of  
Jesus-loving our neighbors, seeking justice, and sharing God’s  
extravagant welcome.

**OPEN AND AFFIRMING**  
We fully embrace LGBTQ+ individuals in all aspects of church life  
and ministry.

**IMMIGRANT WELCOMING**  
We stand in solidarity with our immigrant siblings, documented  
and undocumented.

**CARING FOR CREATION**  
We divest from fossil fuels, invest in renewable energy, and strive  
to reduce our environmental impact.

**MINISTRIES & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**  
Youth Ministry - Sunday School, teen groups, and Our Whole Lives  
(OWL), a comprehensive human sexuality program. Contact: Katie  
Cook 541-980-0505 or [katie@riversideucc.com](mailto:katie@riversideucc.com)

**JUSTICE & WITNESS**  
Engaging in advocacy & service  
Contact: Jeannie Chance 541-806-6648 [stjechance@gmail.com](mailto:stjechance@gmail.com)

**“CHEERS” CARE TEAM**  
Providing meals and support during times of transition  
and challenge.  
Contact: Pastor Vicky 541-386-1412 [pastor@riversideucc.com](mailto:pastor@riversideucc.com)

**CONNECT & GROW**  
Men's Discussion Group  
Monthly Book Group  
Adult Education Classes  
Bible Study & Reflection

**STAY CONNECTED**  
Weekly Newsletter, The Current  
Sign up at [kathy@hungerchronicles.com](mailto:kathy@hungerchronicles.com)  
Follow Us on Facebook - Riverside Community Church

**Learn more about the United Church of Christ at [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)**



*“Wise Women also Came” Jan Richardson*

**RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
United Church of Christ  
Epiphany Service  
**SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2026**