



*\*for those 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 **We Arise Today**  
*(adapted from a prayer by St. Patrick)*

\*Opening Song  
"I Will Sing of the Mercies" #60

\*Sharing God's Peace

Preparing Our Hearts

Reading "An Avowal" *Denise Levertov*



Gospel Ensemble "Get Together"

Reading "Cleaning Up"  
*Garnaas-Holmes*

Blessed to Be a Blessing

A Time of Offering & Announcements  
God is good....**all the time...**  
and all the time...**God is good!**

Children's Time

***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 Matthew 18:21-35

Sermon "Forgiven"

Silent Reflection



Song of Response "Mercy Now"  
*Mary Gauthier*

A Time of Prayer  
*God in your grace... **Hear Our Prayers***

\*The Prayer of Jesus  
*(as created by members of Riverside's  
"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 "Amazing Grace!" #422

\*Congregational Response "Amen"  
*African American Spiritual*

Rev. Vicky Stifter | Minister  
Katie Cook | Youth Program Coordinator & Kristen Daly | Nursery Care Provider  
Tim Mayer | Pianist & Gospel Ensemble Director & Paul Thompson | Bass  
Betty Shalhope, Sandy Spellecy & Steve Chance | Diaconate Team  
Rev. John Boonstra & Gail Lyon | Readers  
Kim Vogel | Audio-Visual & Sound System  
Katie & Dave Skakel | Hospitality

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

**VISITORS** 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 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.

**Tuesday.** Bible Study at Down Manor with Pastor Vicky  
10:30-11:30 AM  
Circles of Solace 5:30 – 6:30 PM

**Wednesday.** Meditative Prayer - 3:30 PM | OWL 6-45 PM |  
Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM

**NEW ARTWORK:** Curious about the new artwork in the Riverview Room? Join Karen and/or Beth after worship today or next Sunday as they share information, answer questions, and hear your thoughts.

**THAT’S AMORE!** RCC’s Fall Fundraising Event  
Sat, Sept 30 4:30–9:00 PM., live music, cocktail hour, silent, live & dessert auction. Tickets available after worship or online at [www.betterworld.org/events/thats-amore](http://www.betterworld.org/events/thats-amore).

**THANKSGIVING COMMUNITY MEAL**  
Have a knack for planning, organizing, and having fun too? Join the team to support the annual Thanksgiving Community meal. Contact Kathryn at 541.386.1412.

**ELECTRIFY EVERYTHING**  
Tuesday Oct. 3rd 6 – 9 PM Riverview Room. Learn to have a healthier home, reduce your energy bills & emissions. Light dinner provided. RSVP [office@riversideucc.com](mailto:office@riversideucc.com) by Sept 28<sup>th</sup>. Questions: [jonboonstra@msn.com](mailto:jonboonstra@msn.com)

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

**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 gays, lesbians, bisexuals 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 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 reducing 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 [katie@riversideucc.com](mailto:katie@riversideucc.com).*

Our Justice and Witness team promotes engagement with the Warming Shelter, FISH Food Bank, Somos Uno, Columbia Gorge Climate Action Network. *Contact Ann Harris at [harris.annj@gmail.com](mailto:harris.annj@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: [pastor@riverssideucc.com](mailto:pastor@riverssideucc.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) for more information.*

Keep up on what’s happening! Sign up for our weekly online newsletter, *The Current*, by contacting editor Kathy Watson, [kathy@watsonx2.com](mailto:kathy@watsonx2.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)***



***“Forgiveness” Mario Sanchez Nevado***

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**Sunday, September 17, 2023**