

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God.

Hosanna in the highest.

Long ago our tradition says...a child of our humanity.

We pledge ourselves to be embodiments of the dream he dreamed. Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

* HYMN 31 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

* BENEDICTION

* CHORAL BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE *Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying* Nicolai/Behnke

* *You are invited to stand if able.*



Welcome to
Riverside Presbyterian Church

December 3, 2017 ~ First Sunday of Advent

Ask an usher for audio hearing units. ~ Please silence your cell phones.
Childcare is available for children 1st grade and younger in the upstairs childcare room.



CHIMING THE HOUR

WELCOME

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

* PASSING OF THE PEACE (Responsive)
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

PRELUDE
Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel 15th century/ Behnke

CALL TO WORSHIP
Anyone who has ever been in therapy knows that shining a light on our past requires courage... and hope. When the Ghost of Christmas Past makes a visit, Scrooge is immediately afraid of the light that emanates from it. But as he begins the terrifying journey, he sheds a tear for the disappointment of his own past and compassion slowly begins to make an appearance in his life. How

will we be inspired to share hope in the midst of the world's heartbreak?

* HYMN 2 *Come Thou Long- Expected Jesus*

* CALL TO CONFESSION

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Holy Living God, Blessed Jesus, Guiding Spirit, as we embark on a journey of remembering the past, we look to you, the redeemer of all of life and thank you that, through you, no past hurt, disappointment or grief is outside of your care and forgiveness. Open us to your miracle just begun and in this season transform us into those whose giving brings hope in a turbulent world. Open us to you, to each other, and to the voices no one hears so that your reign of mercy, justice and love can be made known to all.

Silence is kept.

* SUNG RESPONSE HYMN 44 vs 4 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
o come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!**

* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE

Children are invited forward

HYMN 56 refrain *The First Nowell*

**Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, born is the King of Israel.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, born is the King of Israel**

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:8-14

MEDITATION *The Remembrance of Christmas Past:
Hope from Heartbreak*

* HYMN 43 vs 1-3 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

INVITATION TO OFFER OUR GIFTS

ANTHEM *The Snow Lay on the Ground* arr. Coates, Jr.

* HYMN OF RESPONSE 23 refrain *Angels We Have Heard on High*
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE JOYFUL FEAST OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

Communion is open to all. Communion is served in the pews. As you receive the elements please hold them until all have been served and we will commune together.

INVITATION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Responsive)

In time beyond our dreaming...living creatures of grace and beauty!
We offer this our thanks and praise.

Our stories go... Ruth stayed loyal.

We give thanks for women and men in many different cultures and times who spoke about our connectedness with each other, and with all the universe.

In this age and season...celebration to the adoration of all people:
Holy, holy, holy, compassionate God,