

## Riverside Presbyterian Church

December 8, 2019 ~ Second Sunday of Advent

Ask an usher for audio hearing units

Please silence your cell phones.

Childcare for children through preschool is available upstairs.

\* Indicates please stand in body or Spirit.



Heaven and  
Nature Sing!

300 years of  
**JOY**  
to the World

“Joy to the World” turns 300 this year.

Composer Isaac Watts’ interpretation of Psalm 98 invites us to sing a new song—and it is a powerful cosmic performance of all creation being renewed and freed.

We gather to worship the One who is Joy and as we come together,  
our hearts are expanded.

We remember the heavens declare God’s praise as the sun rises and light multiplies. And we witness that all of nature yearns to reach and expand toward the Light so that all might know joy.

## WE PREPARE

CHIMING THE HOUR

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SHARING OUR JOYS & CONCERNS

\* PASSING THE PEACE (Responsive)

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

## WE GATHER

PRELUDE

*Zu Bethlehem geboren*

Walcha

CALL TO WORSHIP Sung response vs 1 #134

O sing to the Beloved a new song, for Love has done marvelous things!

By the strength of your indwelling Presence, we, too, are called to do great things: we are set free through Love's forgiveness and truth.

Yes, your steadfast Love and faithfulness are ever-present in our lives. All the ends of the earth have seen the glory of Love's Eternal Flame.

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;**

**let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,**

**and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and heaven and nature sing.**

\* INVITATION TO PRAYER

\* PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (Responsive)

Holy God, you are our joy. You are the joy that runs deep and wide underneath all of life. This is our hope, that You are ever-present and constantly shifting our fear to compassion, and grinding our swords into plows.

**Let us prepare him room in our hearts this day.**

**Let us prepare him room in our church this day.**

**Let us prepare him room in the world this day.**

(Silent prayers)

\* ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

\* HYMN 82

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

**WE LISTEN**

THE CHILDREN LIGHT THE ADVENT WREATH

The Candle of Love

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 2:1-5

Romans 13:11-14

MEDITATION

\* HYMN 611

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

**WE RESPOND**

INVITATION TO OFFER OUR GIFTS

ANTHEM

*The Angel Gabriel*

arr. Howell

\* SUNG RESPONSE #113 Refrain

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**THE JOYFUL FEAST OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD**

Communion is open to all and is served by intinction. Please come forward, by the main aisles, take a piece of bread (crackers are gluten free), dip it in the chalice and commune. Return to your seats by the outer aisle.

The chalice contains juice, the bowl contains wine.

INVITATION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Responsive)

May it be well with you.

**And also with you.**

Life is a gift and we its celebration.

**May we rejoice in all its beauty.**

We give thanks...our celebration to all people, saying:

**Holy, holy, holy, re-creating God,**

**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.**

We remember... we remember everyone is welcome to be here.

**In this way, we lift up a world of inclusion,  
where all people live with respect and dignity.**

Everyone present will receive a share.

**In this way, we lift up a world of generosity, where, as in the  
examples of Jesus, abundance overcomes scarcity so all are fed.**

And now we pray the prayer that Jesus taught:

**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 OF GOD'S PEOPLE

During Communion you are invited to sing #137 *He Came Down*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

### **WE DEPART**

\* HYMN 136

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

\* BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Hark the Glad Sound V*

Bouman

#### **PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE**

***Liturgist:*** Matt Lisle

***Ushers:*** Deb Pike and Thom DeVries

***Communion Servers:*** Martha Heine, Frank Gangware, Wendy Seifert and  
Serina Ranft

***Flowers*** are given by Martha Heine in celebration of her 85th birthday on  
December 7 and given by Carol Sprunger in celebration of her 92nd birthday  
on December 8.

***Fellowship Time*** is the Free Community Dinner.

***Trustees of the Month:*** Patti Perry and Fred Kitch

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**THEOLOGY ON TAP— Final Meeting December 9.** We will explore a documentary short film. Meal is catered AND COSTS \$10 per person, so please call the office and make reservations (BYOB).

**CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** The Session has called a congregation meeting immediately following worship on Sunday, December 8 for the election of officers.

Session Class of 2022: Ben Dickerson, Ellen Hamilton, Serina Ranft  
Deacon Class of 2022: Claire Gangware, Sylvia Schade, Susanne Vogel  
Deacon Class of 2021: Joyce VanCura  
Trustee Class of 2022: Paula McCracken, Tom Radigan, Brad Staubus  
Trustee Class of 2021: Mike Heine

### **SAVE THE DATE**

December 15 – Messiah, 4 pm  
December 22 – Children’s Pageant, 10:00 am  
December 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship, 7:00 pm  
December 29 – Fifth Sunday, Worship as Mission at BEDS Plus



**FREE COMMUNITY DINNER TODAY AFTER WORSHIP —** We are asking church members to bring a dish to share — with the Mission Committee taking the lead. Please look for new faces at this event —or invite anyone you think would enjoy a free meal and good conversation. All are welcome!

**CARERS GIVING TREE—** The CARERS Giving Tree benefits women and children sheltered in the Constance Morris House. The ornaments on the tree list Christmas gift items. Take some ornaments, purchase the items and place the unwrapped gifts under the tree. Gifts accepted through Sunday, December 15.

**SR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP BOWLING OUTING—Today**  
Meet at RPC at 5:15 pm. We are going out to eat and bowling.





**HANDEL'S MESSIAH— DECEMBER 14, 4:00 PM  
CAN THE NEW YORK TIMES BE WRONG?**

They can be, but not when it comes to their opinion of Handel's Messiah. "The excitement and anticipation of lighting the Christmas tree at Rockefeller's Plaza is similar to that of listening to Handel's Messiah." Come find out for yourself on December 15 at 4:00 pm.

**WASSAIL BOWL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** — We need volunteers to help with our traditional Wassail Bowl following the Messiah performance on Sunday, December 15. If you can bring baked goods, or are able to help with set-up, serving or clean-up, contact Deb Jansky at [newhorizons002@gmail.com](mailto:newhorizons002@gmail.com) or 708-822-9557.

**HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS**—The office will be closed December 24 through January 1. Phone messages and emails will be checked regularly. Regular office hours resume January 2.

**2019 PER CAPITA** — If you have not already paid your per capita, it is \$34.22 per member. Please consider rounding up or paying an extra per capita for those who find it a difficulty.

**THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING** is one of four church-wide special offerings of the PC (USA). It supports current and former church workers, their families, and offers education and leadership development at Presbyterian-related racial-ethnic colleges and other schools. Please give generously, or as you are able.

**PLEDGE CARDS**—If you have not returned your pledge card, please do so at your earliest convenience.



**GIFT CARDS FOR THE HOLIDAYS** — Help RPC Preschool and get a head start on holiday shopping using gift cards from Shop with Scrip. The office has order forms. Please return your order form with a check made out to RPC in the office by Thursday for following week delivery. **THIS IS AN ONGOING FUNDRAISER.**

**LITTLE FOOD PANTRY DONATION:** Canned ham and boxed stuffing.



**CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS**—Due to the timing of Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas, we will not be decorating the sanctuary with poinsettias this year. If you have traditionally given a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one, we encourage you to give to the Messiah Memorial. Messiah Memorials will be included in the December 15 Sunday worship bulletin and Messiah program. Please use the included Messiah Memorial form. The deadline is December 8.

**CARERS NEWS DECEMBER**— To stave off the chill of winter for those in need, please fill the CARERS trunk with **hot soups, hot cereals and hot boxed foods**. No breakable containers please. The contributions will be distributed to local food pantries.



**FIFTH SUNDAY**—BEDS PLUS , 9601 Ogden, LaGrange—We will meet at the church at 10:00 and carpool to Bed Plus. At 10:30 we will invite the residents to join us in a brief Christmas Service filled with Christmas Music followed by a Pot Luck Brunch. Please bring enough food to share with the residents.

**ALL CHURCH FAMILY WORK DAY** — Join the Trustees for our next All Church Work Time: Wednesday evening, December 11, 6 to 8 pm, when we polish the sanctuary and spruce up the social hall for the Messiah concert and Christmas services. All hands welcome!

**ANNUAL REPORT REMINDER** — All committee annual reports are due on or before Thursday, January 2. Contact the office if you have any questions or need detailed instructions.

**DECEMBER CALENDAR AND BIRTHDAYS** — Copies of the December calendar and birthdays are at the back of the sanctuary and in the rack by the office.

**HUMAN SCENE**—is discussing the Book of Luke, Sundays at 9:00 am in the Parlor.

**DAILY DEVOTIONALS** — Copies of the January-February Upper Room are in the rack outside the office.

**THIS WEEK****Today**

10:00 am Worship  
 11:00 am Called Congregational Meeting  
 11:15 am Free Community Dinner  
 11:15 am Support & Endowment  
 5:15 pm Sr. High Bowling

**Monday**

5:30 pm Volleyball  
 6:30 pm Theology on Tap  
 7:30 pm Trustees

**Tuesday**

6:30 am Men's Forum

**Wednesday**

4:15 pm Ringers & Singers  
 6:30 pm acaBELLa Ringers  
 7:30 pm Chancel Choir

**Thursday**

6:30 am Women's Forum

**Sunday**

9:00 am Human Scene  
 10:00 am Worship  
 10:15 am Sunday School  
 11:00 am Fellowship  
 2:00 pm Worship at Caledonia  
 4:00 pm Messiah  
 6:00 pm Wassail Bowl

**Riverside Presbyterian Church**

116 Barrypoint Road, Riverside, IL 60546  
 (708) 447-1520, rpcusa.org  
 Sermons available at  
<https://vimeo.com/riversidepresbyterian>

**Our Mission Statement:**

We gather as a church to:  
 Celebrate God's presence,  
 Nurture the Spiritual Life,  
 Carry the light of Christ into the world,  
 Serve God by serving others.

**RPC Staff**

**Dale Jackson,**  
 Pastor, 502.592.1617 pastor@rpcusa.org  
**Linda Hutcheson,**  
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**Ellen Hamilton,**  
 Treasurer, treasurer@rpcusa.org

**2019 CHURCH LEADERSHIP**

Elders	2019	2020	2021
	Jeanine Buttimer	Frank Gangware	Gwen Heine
	Patti Friend	Martha Heine	Allan Halline
	Susan Lynch	Lynda Nadkarni	Matt Lisle
	Lisa Aulerich- Marciniak	Dennis Zander	Mary Ann Sadilek, Clerk
Deacons	Ellen Hamilton	Lloyd Bradbury	Deb Jansky
	Sandy Kappmeyer	Charlie Juister	Serina Ranft
	Steve Teune	Sally Sloane	Wendy Seifert
		Jeanne Smith	
Trustees	Cyril Friend	Patti Perry	Thom DeVries
	Fred Kitch	Doug Harvin	Fred Mitchell
	Brad Staubus	Hank Vogel	