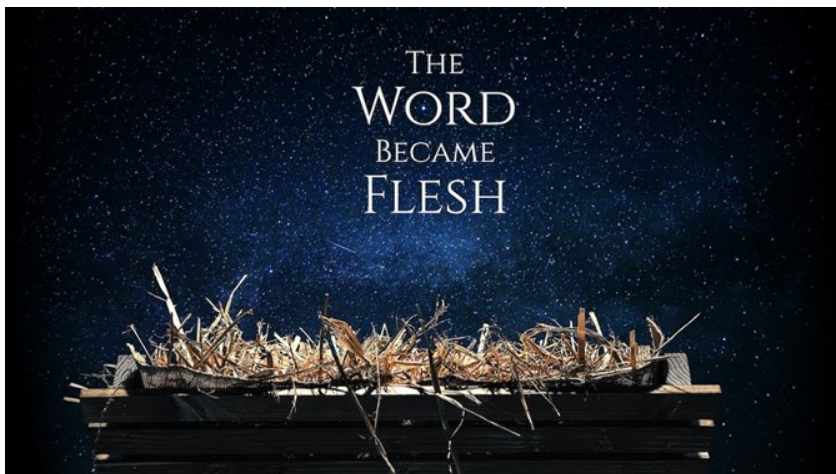


# Riverside Presbyterian Church

116 Barrypoint Road, Riverside, IL 60546

708-447-1520, rpcusa.org

December 24, 2023, 4:00 pm



## THE CHRISTMAS STORY IN WORD & SONG

PRELUDE

*Carol of the Bells*

arr. Sherman

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

The Premkumar Family

Tonight is the night for which we have all been waiting.

Our Advent wreath will now be completed by the lighting of our Christ candle. "For unto us a child is given, unto us a Savior is born and the order of the world will be upon his shoulders." With the birth of Jesus, our lives will be forever changed. We will be transformed by his model and message. We light this candle to represent that Christ is truly the center of our lives.

CHILDREN'S INTROIT

*Holy Jesus Child*

Patterson

WELCOME

Rev. Mark A. Zimmerly

CALL TO WORSHIP

We waited.

**And imagined a savior.**

We imagined power.

**One like the world but stronger and on our side.**

We imagined a king on a white horse wielding a sword.

**We got a baby born in a stable among the livestock.**

We imagined the work done for us through the destruction of our enemies.

**We receive a baby who will teach us our calling to seek reconciliation and to love expansively.**

Praise be to God for the unexpected babe of Bethlehem.

**Praise to the wisdom of love. Amen!**

**\*THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.

**And also with you.**

(Please share a sign of Christ's peace with one another.)

**\*HYMN #133 v. 1 & 2**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

**THE FIRST READING**

Isaiah 9:2,6,7

Nancy Dvorak

**HYMN (see insert v. 1 & 2)**

*The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*

**THE SECOND READING**

Luke 1:26-37

Elizabeth Gardner

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

*Noël* Schalk

**THE THIRD READING**

Matthew 1:18-23

Ellen Hamilton

**HYMN #114 v. 1 & 2**

*Away in a Manger*

**THE FOURTH READING**

Luke 2:1-7

Stephen Marcus

**\*HYMN #147 v. 1 & 2**

*The First Noell*

**THE FIFTH READING**

Luke 2:8-14

Alice McLean

**HYMN #119 v. 1 & 2**

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

**THE SIXTH READING**

Luke 2:15-18

Lynda Nadkarni

HYMN #136 v. 1 & 2      *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

THE SEVENTH READING      John 1:1-5, 9-14      Natalie Witek

REFLECTION

\*HYMN #134 v. 1 & 2      *Joy to the World*

POEM      The Work of Christmas by Howard Thurman      Ethan Ranft

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:  
    To find the lost,  
    To heal the broken,  
    To feed the hungry,  
    To release the prisoner,  
    To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among brothers,  
    To make music in the heart.

WE SHARE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

*(As we sing the carol please pass the light of Christ to those in the pew next to you.  
It is our Christmas prayer that in the dark streets of our world the light of Christ will  
shine forth peace, love and joy.)*

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

HYMN #122 v. 1 & 2      *Silent Night, Holy Night!* (see insert)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE      *Vom Himmel hoch da Komm ich her*  
Pachelbel

**Greeters:** Lynda Nadkarni and Nancy Dvorak

**Minister of Music:** Dr. Sally Sloane

Call to Worship written by Tim Graves. Benediction from *Miracle in the Manger*.

Lighting the Christ Candle written by Rev. Jolene Cadenbach.

**Thank you** to the acaBELLa Ringers, the Riverside Ringers & Singers and the Chancel Choir for joining today's Ministry of Music.

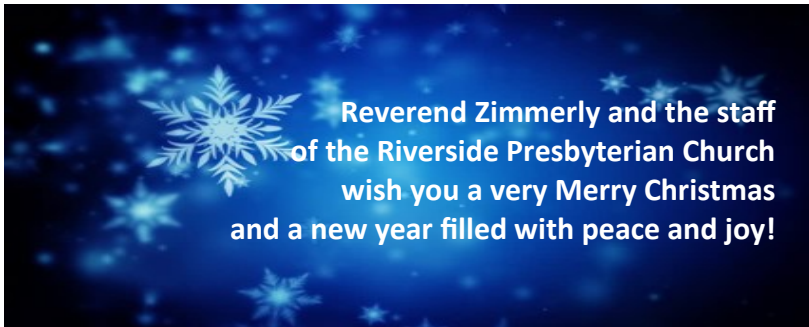
**Flowers** today are given in memory of our dad, Paul McCracken, with love from Paula McCracken and Linda Langer.

Flowers are also given from Nancy and Joe Dvorak "Celebrating parents! Our parents, our children as parents and honoring the most important job in the world: parenting."



Learn more about us!

**GIVE!**



**LITTLE FOOD PANTRY APPEAL**—During this time of year, it's more important than ever to remember those who rely on our Little Food Pantry for added sustenance. Donations are welcome, especially of canned goods with protein such as canned meats, beans, soup with meat, whole meals (like ravioli). Thank you for supporting our neighbors in need.