

Welcome to  
**Riverside Presbyterian Church**

January 14, 2024

Please silence your cell phones.

\* Please stand in body or Spirit. **Bold** indicates congregational response.



**WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD**

PRELUDE

*Intermezzo #1*

Ponce

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (Epiphany 2B)

God of the prophets, call to us today.

**Call us into Your ways of love, justice and righteousness.**

God of the poets, remind us again how much You love us.

**Sing to us Your ways of love, justice and righteousness.**

God of the disciples, teach us how to follow You.

**Teach us Your ways of love, justice and righteousness.**

God of all creation, help us to know Your ways.

***We gather to hear Your call, to sing Your praise, to teach each other,  
to pray and worship as the Body of Christ.***

OPENING PRAYER

God of Righteousness, grant us your life-giving presence.

Guide us in our time of worship, and remain with us as we step out into the world, that we may face injustice with courage and love.

May we come to see that the end we seek is a society at peace with itself, a society that can live with its conscience.

The timing may feel off; the end of the road might be out of sight, yet we trust in your holy presence.

How long? Not long, because no lie can live forever.

How long? Not long, because you still reap what you sow.

How long? Not long. Because the arm of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.

How long? Not long, because you are our God,  
and all may take refuge in the shadow of your wings. **Amen.**

\*HYMN #339

*Lift Every Voice and Sing*

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us approach God with confidence, trusting in God's grace as we humbly confess our sins.

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of justice, we confess that in the pursuit of our own dreams and desires, we have not always been civil, not always humane, not always right. Guided by your Spirit, what we would like to do is change the world – make it a little simpler for people to feed, clothe, and shelter themselves as You intended them to do. Help us to be your witnesses, by fighting for better conditions, by crying out unceasingly for the rights of the workers, the poor, of the destitute – the rights of the worthy and the unworthy poor, so that we can, with your help, change the world. Enlarge our hearts to love each other, to love our neighbor, and to love our enemy as our friend. **Amen.** (Silence is kept.)

\*SUNG RESPONSE

*There Is a Balm in Gilead*

GG#792

**There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;  
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.**

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Psalm 103:17)

“The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.” Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

\*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

*(Please greet those around you with a sign of Christ's peace.)*

## CHILDREN'S MOMENT

*Children K-5th grade are invited to River Kids at this time and will be brought to fellowship in the social hall after. Younger children may go to childcare.*

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 11:2-11

NT p. 11

SERMON

"Martin the Baptist"

## OUR FAITHFUL RESPONSE

\*HYMN #834

*Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**I refuse to believe that we are unable to influence the events around us. I refuse to believe we are bound by racism, war, and injustice.**

**I believe those around me are my brother and my sister.**

**I believe in dignity every day and that our brokenness can be healed.**

**I believe we can overcome oppression and violence, without resorting to it. This means I seek to reject revenge and retaliation.**

**I remember, "Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can."**

CALL FOR THE OFFERING (Acts 20:35)

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, who said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

THE OFFERING & OFFERTORY

*On Eagle's Wings*

Joncas/Wagner

\*SUNG RESPONSE *Have Thine Own Way*

**Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!**

**Thou art the potter, I am the clay.**

**Mold me and make me after thy will,  
while I am waiting, yielded and still.**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION FOR OFFERING**

Holy God, these offerings are only a portion of all that you have given us. We gratefully present these gifts and entrust them to your work in this world. May our gifts share the good news of the gospel to those who are in need. May these gifts help unburden those with the heaviest of loads. **Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**SILENT PRAYER**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

**GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD**

**\*HYMN #70**      *What Does the Lord Require of You?*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**CHORAL BENEDICTION**

**WORSHIP NOTES**

Call to Confession, Assurance of Pardon, Call for the Offering, Prayer of Dedication written by Teri McDowell Ott for The Presbyterian Outlook. Call to Worship written by Rev. Mindi. Opening Prayer written by Rev. Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy. Prayer of Confession written by Eric Thomas. Affirmation of Faith drawn from the writings of Martin Luther King by Abigail Reichard.



***GIVE!***



## PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

**Greeter:** Wendy Seifert

**Liturgist:** Elizabeth Gardner

**Children's Moment:** Nancy Dvorak

**Healthy Fellowship + Mission Fundraiser:** hosted by Marilyn Slanec.



Learn more  
about us!



Dear RPC,

Happy Epiphany! While the feast of Epiphany is traditionally celebrated on January 6th, the whole season between Christmas and Lent is meant to be a time of new insight or realization. As the snow and frigid temperatures keep us indoors, we are invited to focus on the inner life instead—to cultivate spiritual growth and to seek a deeper experience of God.

So what might help along this kind of growth? What can we do to facilitate an epiphany?

My guess is that you already know. The Holy Spirit who lives within us is speaking to us in this season – leading and guiding us toward light and life. We need only to listen to that still, small voice. To tune in to it. To fan the flame until it sets our hearts on fire.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Mark

**STATE OF THE CHURCH SATURDAY**— January 27th, 9am-12pm. The purpose of this leadership gathering is to consider where we have been, where we are now, and where we are going. We will revisit the results of last year's Holy Cow assessment and begin a conversation around strategic planning for congregational renewal. All are welcome and encouraged to come and see what the Holy Spirit is up to at RPC.

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** —Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, immediately following worship. Please submit annual reports to the office ASAP. The business of the meeting includes a presentation of the annual budget and a vote on pastoral terms of call. We will also be voting on two new recommendations from the Nominating Committee.

Elizabeth Musick, Donna Ulrich, John Lynch,  
Lloyd Bradbury, Jack Smith  
Healing for Dylan, fiancée of Kayla, childcare  
provider.



**RIVER KIDS** — Jill McClain will lead a story about John the Baptist. Leading Sunday school is as easy as 1) reading the story, 2) asking questions, 3) facilitation a project or game. Just ask Jill! See Lynda if you'd like to participate. Upcoming stories are the wedding at Cana, Mary and Martha, and Transfiguration.

**STREAMS OF LIVING WATER—9am Sundays in the Library** —Next Sunday, January 21 will focus on “Global Pentecostalism”.

**SUNDAYS WITH TED & FRIENDS** —6:00 pm In person and via Zoom. Contact Doug Asbury for more information at [dougasbury@gmail.com](mailto:dougasbury@gmail.com).

**1/14** — Gabor Maté— Authenticity Can Heal Trauma

**STEWARDSHIP 2024** — When you have had time to reflect and pray, please make your 2024 Stewardship Pledge to Riverside Presbyterian Church. Pledge cards are available in the back of the church or church office or simply by connecting to [https://rpcusa.org/form\\_pledge](https://rpcusa.org/form_pledge). **Please return all cards asap.**



**IT'S TACO  
TIME**

**TACO DINNER FUNDRAISER** — Tickets now on sale for the Taco Dinner fundraiser for refugee resettlement on February 3 from 4:00 – 7:00 pm. You can purchase them through the church office or use the QR code.



Adults are \$15 and children under 10 are \$5 for all you can eat chicken, beef and vegetarian tacos, rice, beans, chips dessert and soft drinks. Adult beverages available for an additional donation.

**LITTLE FOOD PANTRY** — Each month the Mission Committee challenges the congregation to stock the shelves with a particular food group. Items of the month for January are **oatmeal, cereal, cereal bars** - any variety. Consider buying a case of 12.

**WORSHIP AT CALEDONIA** —Sunday, January 21 at 2:30 pm. Contact Steve Marcus (847-224-5590) if you can help or for more information.

**CONFIRMATION MENTORS** — This year we have four students participating in a joint confirmation program with First Presbyterian Church of La Grange. They have been meeting weekly on Sunday nights since September, and will continue on to Pentecost Sunday, May 19th. Please keep praying for them! At this time we are also looking to pair our confirmands with adult mentors from the congregation. If you feel called to this form of service, please contact Pastor Mark.

**PICKLEBALL IN THE GYM** — Kathi Roccanova and Serina Ranft are now helping facilitate groups of four people to play pickleball on our new court in the gym. If you would like to join in, the best way to find a time to play is to download the free app, TeamReach, and enter the code, 116Barrypoint. Beginners are welcome and we have extra paddles to share.

**CALLING ALL MUSICIANS AND MUSICIANS-TO-BE!** The acaBELLa Ringers, RPC's adult bell choir has been in existence since 2004. We have always welcomed non-members and middle school and high school students as well as RPC members. Since the pandemic, we are in need of more ringers and subs. We will train you! It's a great group of 12+ people who enjoy making music and fellowship together. HS students - did you know there are college scholarships for bell ringing? You can add this skill to your resume. Seniors - this is a fantastic brain enhancing activity. So pass the word and please send a few new ringers our way. Rehearsals are Wednesdays evenings from 6:30 - 7:30 during the school year. [sallysloane@me.com](mailto:sallysloane@me.com) or 708/822-0655

**WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE PIPE ORGAN?** RPC's mighty pipe organ has been silent since 12/20/23. The Wednesday before Christmas Eve our ancient (1950's) blower finally gave out. The blower was one of the very few things not addressed when we did the Capital Improvement program in 2016. At that time the organ received a much-needed \$75,000 renovation. Christmas Eve was accompanied by piano and guitar. Almost immediately RPC friends and members began to send \$\$ to the Organ Renovation Fund. While we don't know the exact cost of the renovation yet, we have started a very healthy fund for the renovations. Our organ technician is currently working on the extent of the repair. More checks are welcome of course! Should you choose to give online please indicate Organ Renovation Fund. Until the organ returns, there will be no postludes. The silence is deafening.

**THIS WEEK**

**Today**

9:00 am Christian Spirituality Class  
10:00 am Worship  
11:00 am Fellowship  
11:30 am Green Team Meeting  
6:00 pm Sundays with TED

**Monday** Martin Luther King Holiday

Office Closed

5:15 pm Open Volleyball

**Tuesday**

6:30 am Men's Forum

7:30 pm Session Meeting

**Wednesday**

12:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting

1:00 pm Staff Meeting

4:15 pm Ringers & Singers

6:30 pm acaBELLa Ringers

7:30 pm Chancel Choir

**Saturday**

11:00 am Open Pickleball

**Sunday**

9:00 am Christian Spirituality Class

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Fellowship

11:30 am Green Team Meeting

6:00 pm Sundays with TED

**Riverside Presbyterian Church**

116 Barrypoint Road, Riverside, IL 60546

(708) 447-1520, [rpcusa.org](http://rpcusa.org)

Sermons available at

[Youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

Riverside Presbyterian, IL

**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**

**Rev. Mark Zimmerly**, Pastor,  
[mark@rpcusa.org](mailto:mark@rpcusa.org); 708-202-9874

**Linda Hutcheson**, Church Administrator,  
[rpcoffice@rpcusa.org](mailto:rpcoffice@rpcusa.org)

**Dr. Sally Sloane**, Minister of Music,  
[musikhse@comcast.net](mailto:musikhse@comcast.net)

**Lynda Nadkarni**, Coordinator of Children's  
Ministries, [lynda@rpcusa.org](mailto:lynda@rpcusa.org)

, Treasurer,

[treasurer@rpcusa.org](mailto:treasurer@rpcusa.org)

**Sara Vacek**, Tech Manager,  
[rpcvideo@rpcusa.org](mailto:rpcvideo@rpcusa.org)

**Doug Asbury**, Volunteer in Mission,  
[dougasbury@gmail.com](mailto:dougasbury@gmail.com)

**2024 CHURCH LEADERSHIP**

	2024	2025	2026
Elders	Open Carrie Staubus Mary Beth Wynn	Betsy Gardner Serina Ranft Dennis Zander	John McGlennon Debra Myers Steven Teune Mary Ann Sadilek, Clerk
Deacons	Jim Marciniak Steve Marcus Wendy Seifert	Nancy Dvorak Thom DeVries Paula McCracken	Brad McClain Natalie Witek Virginia Yang