

# Riverside Presbyterian Church

December 24, 2020

*this night, we are*  
THOSE WHO  
DREAM  
*Christmas Eve*

Worship by internet: Website – click on the Worship Videos tab on the homepage  
[www.rpcusa.org](http://www.rpcusa.org) or YouTube – <http://bit.ly/RPCyoutube>

You can join us on YouTube or call in and listen to the service at 1(312) 626-6799 Meeting ID: 969 7640 3496 Passcode: 411726 call in only available at 10:00 a.m. The service can be viewed on YouTube at any time following the premier.

To watch the service via Zoom at 10:00 a.m. use this link <https://bit.ly/RPCChristmasEve>

Our Soloists are Cameo Humes, Erika Morrison & Nick Ward

Liturgies adapted and used by permission from: Sanctified Art, The Work of the People, re:Worship

Prelude: *Pastoral Symphony from The Messiah*; Händel © Oxford

*Joy to the World* Text: Isaac Watts; Music: Handel; Text & Music—Public Domain

*Before the Marvel of This Night* Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda © Concordia; Music: Carl Schalk © GIA Publications

*Infant Holy Infant Lowly* Text & Music: Polish Carol—Public Domain

*Silent Night, Holy Night* Text: Joseph Mohr; Music: Franz Xaver Gruber; Text & Music Public Domain

Postlude: *Silent Night*; arr. Diemer © Augsburg publisher

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PRELUDE      *Pastoral Symphony from The Messiah*      Händel

WELCOME

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

CALL TO A TIME OF WORSHIP

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH      The Christ Candle  
The Zander Family

CHRISTMAS CAROL      *Joy to the World*

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.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrow grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness,  
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,  
And wonders, wonders of his love

OPENING PRAYER

### THE CHRISTMAS STORY IN WORD & SONG

THE FIRST READING      Luke 1:26-35, 38

MUSICAL REFLECTION      *Mary Did You Know?*

THE SECOND READING      Luke 2:1-7

MUSICAL REFLECTION      *O Holy Night*

THE THIRD READING  
MUSICAL REFLECTION

Luke 2:8-16  
*I Wonder As I Wander*

THE FOURTH READING  
MUSICAL REFLECTION

John 1:1-14  
*Sweet Little Jesus Boy*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

One: We believe in telling the story—

**All: The story of a loving and merciful God,  
Who will not let God's people go;  
The story of a baby who grew up and changed the world;  
The story of our faith.**

One: We believe in speaking up—

**All: For our neighbors, for the oppressed,  
For the overlooked and marginalized.**

One: We believe in speaking out—

**All: Against violence, greed, abuse, fear,  
Scarcity mindset, and bigotry.**

One: We believe in passing the mic—

**All: So that we are not the only ones speaking,  
So that we can lift up the voices of those around us,  
So that we too might listen and learn.**

One: We believe in the good news of the gospel.

**All: We believe that this good news is too good to keep to ourselves.  
We believe that those who dream cannot keep silent. Amen.**

CHRISTMAS CAROL

*Before the Marvel of This Night*

Before the marvel of this night, adoring, fold your wings and bow,  
Then tear the sky apart with light, and with your news the world endow.  
Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace, that fear and death and sorrow cease:  
Sing peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace!

Awake the sleeping world with song, this is the day the Lord has made.  
Assemble here, celestial throng, in royal splendor come arrayed.  
Give earth a glimpse of heavenly bliss, a teasing taste of what they miss:  
Sing bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss!

The love that we have always known, our constant joy and endless light,  
Now to the loveless world be shown, now break upon its deathly night.  
Into one song compress the love that rules our universe above:  
Sing love, sing love, sing God is love, sing love, sing God is love!

AMAZING PEACE: A CHRISTMAS POEM by Maya Angelou

CHRISTMAS CAROL

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;  
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.

In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,  
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;  
but his mother only, in her maiden bliss,  
worshiped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

WE SHARE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

CHRISTMAS CAROL

*Silent Night, Holy Night*

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child; holy infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!  
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light;  
radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
with the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King:  
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Silent Night*

arr. Diemer