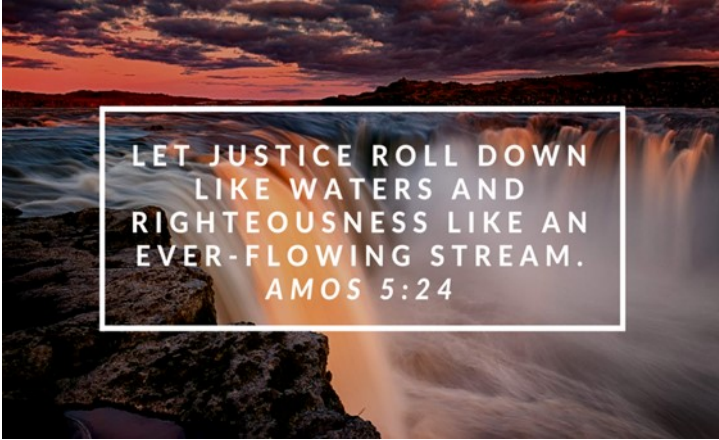


Welcome to  
**Riverside Presbyterian Church**

December 17, 2023

Please silence your cell phones.

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



**WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD**

PRELUDE                      *How Lovely Shines the Morning Star*                      arr. Manz

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14)

O God our Guide and Helper, we come to worship you!

**You stay beside us as we journey through life.**

O God our Just and Holy One, we come to thank you!

**You lead us in your path of justice and peace.**

O God, our Trustworthy Leader, we come to praise you!

**We know we can always rely on your promises.**

**O God, we gather to worship, praise and thank you. Amen.**

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

We are a people who seek to be brought together by the love of Christ.  
Our faith teaches us that God gives us unconditional love and forgiveness.  
Acknowledging God's free gift of grace, we light the Candle of Love.

\*HYMN #89     *For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits*  
vs. 1, 3, 5, 6 all sing    vs. 2 women of choir    vs. 4 men of choir

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

When we come to worship God, we must first remember who we are, and we are people who often sin and turn from the ways of God. Relying on God's abundant grace, let us offer our confession together, knowing that we will be offered forgiveness in Christ.

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, long ago you sent Christ to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, and to proclaim liberty to the captives. You then asked us to go and do the same, for we are the church of Jesus Christ. Forgive us, we pray, for we have not continued to share the good news. We have focused on ourselves and neglected to help others. Help us to continue to share the healing and loving words of Christ to all the world and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We ask this in Jesus' name, **Amen.** (Silence is kept.)

\*SUNG RESPONSE (# 95) *Prepare the Way of the Lord*  
**Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord,  
and all people will see the salvation of our God.**

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news! Through the grace and love of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Thanks be to God! 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.)*

ANTHEM

*Gloria*

Cain

THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Please bring your items to the stage when the narrator indicates the part of the story you have come to represent.

Childcare is available for our youngest worshippers. See the greeter for information.

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Amos 5:18-24

OT p. 854

SERMON

"Justice Will Roll Down Like Water"

## OUR FAITHFUL RESPONSE

\*HYMN #466 x3

*Come and Fill Our Hearts*

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

In this holiday season, we find many demands made upon our time and resources. Yet in worship we are called to remember who is the author of all that we are and all that we have. In response to God's gracious action in our lives, we are called to give an offering to God.

THE OFFERING & OFFERTORY *On this Day Earth Shall Ring* arr. Cherwien

\*SUNG RESPONSE (#92) *While We Are Waiting, Come*

**While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.**

**Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION FOR OFFERING

Thank you, God, for all that we have and all that we are. We take these gifts given today and dedicate them ever and only to you. **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 #87            *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

\*BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE            *Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel*            arr. Peterson

## WORSHIP NOTES

Call to Worship written by Joan Stott.

## PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

**Thank you** to the Riverside Ringers and Singers for joining today's Ministry of Music.

**Greeter:** Lynda Nadkarni

**Advent Wreath Lighters:** Janet Perryman and Mary Ann Sadilek

**Liturgist:** Nancy Dvorak

**Children's Moment:** Lynda Nadkarni

**Flowers** are given with appreciation for this church family from Lynda Nadkarni.

**Fellowship:** Milk, coffee and cookies in the social hall

Elizabeth Musick, Donna Ulrich, John Lynch,  
Lloyd Bradbury, Jack Smith

Prayers of comfort and peace for family and  
friends grieving the death of Gregory Reichle.

Prayers of comfort and peace for family and friends grieving the death of  
Nancy Schulze.

Prayers of comfort and peace for family and friends grieving the death of  
Randy Womack.

For Diana Moreno, preschool teacher, and her family on the death of her  
grandfather.





To sign up for the weekly emailed announcements, contact the church office, [rpcoffice@rpcusa.org](mailto:rpcoffice@rpcusa.org) or 708-447-1520

Dear RPC,

*“What do you want for Christmas?”*

I used to think that Santa had this backwards – that we should be asking instead what it is that God wants from us. But of course that’s not how our story goes. God really does want to bless us and make us happy (even if we’ve been naughty). So the season of Advent is an ideal time to reflect on our God-given desires; our longings; what it is that our hearts really want. Christ Jesus is truly the “desire of nations” (Haggai 2:7), and yet most of us have to work through all the other stuff on our wish lists before we can desire him ourselves.

May this be the aim of all our Christmas preparations, for as St Augustine once put it, “Our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee.”

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Mark

**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP** — We will have a traditional Sunday service at 10:00 am and a service of Lessons and Carols featuring the acaBELLa Ringers, Ringers & Singers and Chancel Choir at 4:00 pm.

**NEW YEAR’S EVE WORSHIP** — 10 am Carols and Cocoa — Join us for a time of singing Christmas Carols together. Here’s a great opportunity to sing all your favorites. This casual service will not include a sermon or the choir. Come and help us make a joyful noise unto the Lord.

**RIVER KIDS** — this week, the pageant is in lieu of River Kids (Sunday School). Next week’s story is The Peaceable Kingdom. On December 31, kids will participate in the hymn sing. The new year kicks off with stories of Jesus’ baptism, John the baptizer, and the Wedding at Cana. A teacher is desired for January 14 (John the Baptizer). Lynda provides a child-friendly version of the story, questions and a project. Let her know if you can lead the lesson!

**INTRODUCING THE GRACE SPACE** — Session endorsed and trustees acted to create a space in the sanctuary designed to be family-friendly. Whether for part of worship (childcare is still available) or all of worship, we hope children and their families will find this to be a space that enhances their growing in faith. Questions, suggestions and celebrations may be shared with Lynda Nadkarni.

**READERS WANTED FOR CHRISTMAS EVE 4:00 PM SERVICE** — Please let Pastor Mark know if you can read a short scripture selection.

**WORSHIP AT CALEDONIA TODAY** —Sunday, December 17 at 2:30 pm.

**STREAMS OF LIVING WATER**—Will be on break until Sunday, January 7th when the focus will be on “Anglican & Methodist Spirituality”.

**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. Envelopes are at the back of the sanctuary and in the office. Please give as you are able.

**STEWARDSHIP 2024** —The 2024 Stewardship campaign is underway! Here’s how you can help. Pray daily for energy, enthusiasm, love. Pray for RPC to be a vital, thriving community of joy-filled servants of Jesus Christ.

Ask yourself - for what gifts in your life are you grateful to God? Where do you see Riverside Presbyterian Church partnering each day with God? What would you like to see our congregation do better or in addition to our current ministries?

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 by December 29.**

**PRESCHOOL** — The preschool students invite you to attend their Holiday Show on Friday, December 22 at 9:00 am with a reception to follow in the social hall.

**PASTOR MARK AWAY**—Pastor Mark will be away December 25—January 1.

**OFFICE SCHEDULE** — December 26-28 the office will be staffed on an as-needed basis. Please call before coming in.

**SAVE THE DATE** — Taco Dinner, Saturday, February 3, 4:00—7:00 pm.

**ADVENT DEVOTIONAL** For those who appreciate daily readings during the season of Advent, here is a guide put together by an ecumenical organization called Living Compass. The scripture passages and reflections began with Sunday, December 3rd, and are based around the Revised Common Lectionary. Printed copies are available in the church office and online (<https://bit.ly/3uFvZ03>). Family devotionals are on the bulletin board.

**VOLUNTEER TREASURER and PAID BOOKKEEPER WANTED** — Contact Pastor Mark if you are interested or have any leads in either or both of these essential jobs. The bookkeeper position is 7 hours per week. Copies of the job descriptions are in the rack outside the church office.  
Bookkeeper Job Description: <https://bit.ly/3RlxNPh>  
Treasurer Job Description: <https://bit.ly/3v3vQUY>

**REFUGEE FAMILY UPDATE** — The Noh family had a fun and educational week, seeing downtown Chicago, learning to use appliances, riding an escalator, and much more! Every experience has been photo documented with a Central African Republic flag in the photo. They are very eager to learn all there is about life in America!



**LITTLE FOOD PANTRY** — The item of the month is **canned fruit**! Any variety. Consider buying a case of 12!

**MESSIAH** — Alleluia! Thank you God for giving us such an outstanding group of volunteers at Riverside Presbyterian Church, who are always there to help, spread joy and happiness. The support that we were so blessed with is so heart-warming during this Christmas season. Thank you everyone for a successful Handel's Messiah and Wassail Bowl Reception evening.

—Deb and Jon Jansky

**LOST & FOUND** — Our lost and found box is over-flowing. All items are on the bench in the hallway outside of Pastor Mark's office. Items not claimed by December 17 will be donated.

**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).

**12/17** — A Parkland Teacher's Homework for Us All—Diane Wolk-Rogers, TED Talk 2018. **12/24 to 1/7** — Sunday with TED will be on break.

**CAROLERS WANTED** — to join a caroling group on December 23 from about 5 pm to 6:30, to sing for a holiday party on Scottswood, in exchange for a generous donation to the Little Food Pantry. Contact Betsy for details [gardnerem@mac.com](mailto:gardnerem@mac.com)

**FUNERAL FOR GREGORY REICHLER** — Gregory Reichle, husband of Shelley Reichle, died December 12. There will be a funeral service for Greg on Monday, December 18 at 10 am at RPC. Please keep his family and friends in your thoughts and prayers.

<https://www.conboywestchesterfh.com/obituary/gregory-reichle>

**THIS WEEK****Today**

9:00 am Christian Spirituality Class  
 10:00 am Worship—Christmas Pageant  
 11:00 am Fellowship  
 11:30 am Mission Committee  
 2:30 pm Worship at Caledonia  
 6:00 pm Sundays with TED

**Monday**

10:00 am Gregory Reichle Funeral  
 Service at RPC  
 5:15 pm Volleyball

**Tuesday**

6:30 am Men's Forum  
 7:30 pm Session Meeting

**Wednesday**

12:00 pm Finance Meeting  
 1:00 pm Staff Meeting  
 4:15 pm Ringers & Singers  
 6:30 pm acaBELLa Ringers  
 7:30 pm Chancel Choir

**Thursday**

6:00 pm Theology on Tap  
 Friday  
 9:00 am Preschool Holiday Show

**Sunday**

10:00 am Worship  
 11:00 am Fellowship  
 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Family Service

**Riverside Presbyterian Church**

116 Barrypoint Road, Riverside, IL 60546  
 (708) 447-1520, rpcusa.org  
 Sermons available at  
 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; 708-202-9874  
**Linda Hutcheson**, Office Manager,  
 rpcoffice@rpcusa.org  
**Dr. Sally Sloane**, Minister of Music,  
 musikhse@comcast.net  
**Lynda Nadkarni**, Coordinator of Children's  
 Ministries, lynda@rpcusa.org  
**Ellen Hamilton**, Treasurer,  
 treasurer@rpcusa.org  
**Sara Vacek**, Tech Manager,  
 rpcvideo@rpcusa.org  
**Doug Asbury**, Volunteer in Mission,  
 dougasbury@gmail.com

**2023 CHURCH LEADERSHIP**

	2023	2024	2025
Elders	Lisa Aulerich Marciniak Jon Jansky Sandra Kappmeyer	Susan Lynch Carrie Staubus Mary Beth Wynn	Betsy Gardner Ellen Hamilton Serina Ranft Mary Ann Sadilek, Clerk
Deacons	Nancy Dvorak Elizabeth Musick Marilyn Slanec	Jim Marciniak Steve Marcus Wendy Seifert	Thom DeVries Paula McCracken Open
Trustees	Doug Harvin Henry Vogel Open	John McGlennon Lynda Nadkarni Open	Deb Jansky Tom Radigan Open