

Welcome to
Riverside Presbyterian Church

December 3, 2023

Please silence your cell phones.

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



WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

PRELUDE

Fantasy on a Bavarian Carol

arr. Behnke

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (Romans 13:11-14 and Matthew 24:36-44)

The day is near. And so we wait. We wait with hope, for the brokenhearted to be healed, for the downtrodden to be lifted up.

We wait for the coming of the Christ child.

In this meantime, We will sing into the silence.

We will light a candle for hope in the midst of the darkness.

(Lighting of the Advent Candle)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of breath, You promised new life to your people in exile by breathing into a valley full of dry bones. Breathe new life into us, so that we might live passionately for you. Amen.

*HYMN #88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Preparing for Christ's coming requires honest examination of our lives and our hearts. Let us turn to God in prayer to confess our sins.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

You call us to be your voices in this world
and we stay silent.

You call us to be your hands in this world
and we keep them hidden.

You call us to be your feet in this world
and we go our own way.

When we meet those who are doubting and say nothing,
forgive us.

When we meet those who need your touch and do nothing,
forgive us.

When we are called to take up your cross and carry nothing,
forgive us.

Breathe life into these bones, bring freedom to these lives
that we might declare with heart and soul and voice that you are our Lord and our God. Amen. (Silence is kept.)

*THE GLORIA PATRI (# 581)

Glorify be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. 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 back for the baptism and communion. Younger children may go to childcare.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING	Ezekiel 37:1-14	OT p. 806
SECOND READING	Acts 8:34-39	NT p. 127
SERMON	"Can These Bones Live?"	

OUR FAITHFUL RESPONSE

*HYMN #286 *Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

GATHERING AT THE FONT *Wade in the Water*

INTRODUCTION TO BAPTISM

PRESENTATION OF BAPTISMAL CANDIDATE Kinsley Harper Notarnicola

COVENANT QUESTIONS

*PROFESSION OF FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

**I believe in God the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to our God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise. (Pastor continues)

BAPTISM
WELCOME

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

We join together to praise you and give you thanks, saying:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

CALL FOR THE OFFERING (2 Peter 3:8-15)

“All things in heaven and earth belong to God, who is coming in glory to reveal a new creation.” Let us present our tithes and offerings to the Lord.

THE OFFERING & OFFERTORY

Lullaby

Beck

*THE DOXOLOGY *“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”* #606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above ye heavenly host; Praise God, praise Christ, praise Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION FOR OFFERING (Ezekiel 37: 1-14)

O God, accept and bless these gifts which we offer in response to the gracious gift of your life-giving Spirit to us.

May these gifts and our lives be used to flesh out your love and justice, mercy and peace as they are revealed in and through Jesus, your Son and our Savior. **Amen.**

GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN #482

Baptized in Water

*BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Greeter: Lynda Nadkarni

Advent Wreath Lighters: April Notarnicola, Marika Miller, Kathryn Nadkarni, Chloe Floros

Liturgist: Elizabeth Gardner

Children's Moment: Lynda Nadkarni

Flowers are given for the blessings of the Advent season from the Sloane/Kazarian family.

Fellowship is hosted by Sara Vacek.

Trustee of the Month: Lynda Nadkarni

To sign up for the weekly emailed announcements, contact the church office, rpcoffice@rpcusa.org or 708-447-1520



Dear RPC,

Advent is upon us! This is meant to be a season in which we anticipate both the birth of Christ in our lives and the return of Christ at the end of time. We are watching and waiting for the in-breaking Kin*dom of God!

At least, that's the intent. Oftentimes we are so busy baking and decorating and shopping that the "reason for the season" gets crowded out.

But since God is at work in all things, why not look for the Holy Spirit in the midst of it all? Can we find God in the gingerbread men and stockings and ugly Christmas sweaters? If Jesus was born in a barn, perhaps we'll find him this year at a holiday stroll! You just never know.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Mark

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TODAY FOLLOWING WORSHIP — The church officer nominating committee will present a slate at the meeting. The Session is also recommending some changes to the church bylaws. Copies are available for review.

Elizabeth Musick, Janet Perryman, Wendy Seifert,
Donna Ulrich, John Lynch, Lloyd Bradbury,
Jack Smith, Greg Reichle
Michael McGillicuddy, friend of Ellen Hamilton.
Larry Buttimer and Mary Harris, brother-in-law and
stepmom of Jeanine Buttimer.



LOOSE COIN OFFERING—Today we dedicate all loose coins in the offering plates to the Presbytery of Chicago Hunger Fund. In lieu of loose coins, indicate Presbytery Hunger Fund in the memo line of a check or online.

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 begin on 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.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP —We will have a service of Lessons and Carols featuring the acaBELLa Ringers, Ringers & Singers and Chancel Choir at 4 pm.

STREAMS OF LIVING WATER: 9am Sundays in the Library —Next Sunday, December 10 will focus on “Ignatian Spirituality”.

SUNDAYS WITH TED & FRIENDS —6:00 p.m. In person and via Zoom. Contact Doug Asbury for more information at dougasbury@gmail.com.

12/3 — Historian Ilan Pappé - The Myth of Israel

12/10 — No Sundays with TED today due to Messiah and Wassail Bowl.



MESSIAH — **The heavens are telling the glory of God!** Handel's Messiah is as close to angelic that you can hear, unless you have heard the angels themselves. **December 10th at 4:00 pm**, come hear the heavenly sounds of Christmas as we celebrate Christmas through Handel's Messiah. No halo's required.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT IN WORSHIP — Think creatively, not literally! What do you have around your house that could stand in for a wise person? A book by someone you consider to be wise? A superhero doll? What about for the animals? Any stuffed animal will do! Even a unicorn. An angel? A star? Those are pretty straight forward. Children of all ages are desired to participate in this pageant! Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/rpcpageant>

WASSAIL BOWL VOLUNTEERS — We need volunteers to help with our traditional Wassail Bowl following the Messiah on Sunday, December 10. 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 or 708-822-9557.

MESSIAH MEMORIALS — Express your love in memory or honor of family and friends through a memorial donation. All memorials will be printed in the Messiah concert program. Forms available outside the sanctuary and in the rack outside the office. Make your checks payable to Riverside Presbyterian Church or donate at www.rpcusa.org **LAST DATE TO RETURN TO THE CHURCH OFFICE IS MONDAY, DECEMBER 4.**

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.

TREASURER/BOOKKEEPER WANTED — Contact Pastor Mark if you are interested or have any leads in either or both of these essential jobs. Copies of the job descriptions are in the rack outside the church office.

REFUGEE FAMILY UPDATE — Meet the family from Central African Republic by way of Chad: Father Ahmat, mother Nafissa, daughters Madanian, Fane, Gama and Khadidja. They are settling in and appreciate your support and prayers.



THIS WEEK**Today**

9:00 am Christian Spirituality Class
 10:00 am Worship
 11:00 am Congregational Meeting
 11:15 am Fellowship
 11:30 am Hospitality & Outreach Mtg
 6:00 pm Sundays with TED

Monday

5:15 pm Volleyball

Tuesday

6:30 am Men's Forum
 7:00 pm Deacons Meeting

Wednesday

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

Thursday

7:00 pm Membership & Nominating

Saturday

10:00 am Messiah Choir Rehearsal

Sunday

9:00 am Christian Spirituality Class
 10:00 am Worship
 No Fellowship Today
 11:30 am Green Team Meeting
 1:30 pm Messiah Dress Rehearsal
 4:00 pm Handel's Messiah
 5:00 pm Wassail Bowl

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