

Welcome to
Riverside Presbyterian Church

January 7, 2024

Please silence your cell phones.

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



WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

PRELUDE

Follow Now Oh Shepherds

Guard

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (inspired by Matthew 3:1-12, Romans 15:7)

The Reign of God is drawing near:

The prophet calls us to change our lives!

Prepare the way for the Lord:

A just and peaceful path!

Welcome one another, for Christ welcomes you:

For the glory of God!

OPENING PRAYER

Holy God,

We long for your peace, and trust in your promise; we hear your call to turn toward you, to change our lives and welcome you in.

Meet us here and fill our minds with your wisdom and our hearts with your peace, that our worship together may open us to the challenge of your dream of wholeness for all.

In the Name of the One who is coming, we pray. **Amen!**

*HYMN #475 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(Inspired by Mark 1:9-11, Matthew 3:13-17, Epiphany 1C, Luke 3:21-23)

We are incredibly stubborn, O Lord.

We have entered the season in which Your Light has been given to the world, your blessings have been poured out on the world, and yet all we can think about is our own problems, our own needs, our own desires. Help us to desire you, Lord. Help us to yearn for your presence.

Pour your baptismal waters over us again, cleansing us from our self-pity and arrogance. Nourish and heal us so that we may joyfully serve you.

Wash away our jealousy, greed, and all negative thoughts and behaviors that stand in the way of our truly being the people you have called us to be. Again let us receive the blessings offered in creation, in the birth and baptism of Jesus, and in the ministry of the saints of light.

We ask this in Jesus' Name. **Amen.** (Silence is kept.)

*THE GLORIA PATRI (# 581)

Glory 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

The heavens part, the waters swirl and the dove descends, reminding us that we, too, are God's beloved children. We are covered by God's grace and forgiven in Jesus Christ. 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 communion. Younger children may go to childcare.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING	Genesis 1:1-5	OT p. 1
SECOND READING	Mark 1:4-11	NT p. 34
SERMON	"The Beloved"	

OUR FAITHFUL RESPONSE

*HYMN #490 *Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters*

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (inspired by Mark 1:9-11, Matthew 3:13-17,
Luke 3:21-23, Galatians 3:27, Romans 6:3-6)

I believe in God who speaks through the prophets
and lifts our gaze up to high and beautiful paths and peaks.

**I believe in Christ Jesus, free of corruption yet willingly numbered
among the sinners, baptized in the waters of the Jordan.**

I believe in the Spirit who rested on Jesus like a dove, and who inspired
him with such love as the world has not seen before or since.

**I believe that those who are baptized into Christ shall share his Spirit,
his mission and his ultimate victory over sin and death.**

I believe that there is no human ability that cannot be enlarged,
and no weakness that cannot be used by Christ to the praise of God.

**I believe that this believing is a gift from God, not to be used for self-
gratification but for the building up of the church and for humble
service the world**

I believe in myself as a baptized child of God, the recipient of a healing
grace which precedes and supersedes all my efforts to be true.

**With the help of God, I will attempt to live my belief all the days of my
life, and by his grace, dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Amen!**

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

We are called in virtue of our baptism to a life of service. We are equipped through the gifts and grace of the Holy Spirit. Let us live into our baptismal calling, sharing from what we have received according to the measure of Christ's gift.

THE OFFERING & OFFERTORY *Once in Royal David's City*
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

Holy God, we trust in the provisions of your love and the abundance of your grace. May the gifts we offer bring glory to you in the ways they bear your love into the world. We ask this in Jesus' name, **Amen.**

INVITATION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Responsive)

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.

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.

COMMUNION OF GOD'S PEOPLE
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN #482 *Baptized in Water*

*BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

WORSHIP NOTES

Assurance of Pardon, Call for the Offering, Prayer of Dedication written by Stephanie Sorge for The Presbyterian Outlook. Affirmation of Faith written by Bruce Prewer.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Thank you to the Ellen Hamilton and George Kazarian for joining today's Ministry of Music.

Greeter:

Liturgist:

Children's Moment: Lynda Nadkarni

Flowers: Happiest Birthday Wishes to Jim from Alice and family.

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





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

Dear RPC,

“New year, new me.” Did you make any resolutions for 2024? January is a great time to work on getting back into shape – physically, emotionally, relationally, spiritually. . . And we are more likely to keep up new habits if we work on them with others. So let’s make some goals together!

On Saturday, January 27th, we will have an open meeting to discuss the current state of the church and where we feel led as a congregation this year. Join us as we consider opportunities for growth, current obstacles, and God’s promise to make all things new—including us!

Semper Reformanda,
Pastor Mark

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING —Sunday, January 28th, 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 looking to fill a vacant seat on the 2024 nominating committee as well as a vacant one-year seat on Session.

RIVER KIDS — This week’s lesson is Jesus baptism. Next week, 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) facilitating 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.

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.

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.

STREAMS OF LIVING WATER—9am Sundays in the Library —Next Sunday, January 14 will focus on “Evangelical Spirituality”.

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

1/7 — Sunday with TED will be on break.

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. **Please return all cards asap.**

PRESCHOOL — Preschool resumes this week with a full house of 30 students! Please pray for our new students as they enter school for the first time. That can be a scary thing even in a loving environment.

SAVE THE DATE — Taco Dinner to support Refugee Resettlement, Saturday, February 3, 4:00—7:00 pm.

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.

REFUGEE FAMILY UPDATE — The two high school girls with very little knowledge of the city and no conversational English will be navigating the 20 minutes on the CTA to access school on Monday. If that makes you nervous imagine how they feel! Here's how to help:

- 1) looking for an old phone wiped clean to load Life 360, Google translate and the Ventra app
- 2) sponsor service for the phone which is \$15 per month
- 3) sponsor transportation costs

You can donate online or in the collection plate on Sunday!



THIS WEEK

Today

9:00 am Christian Spirituality Class
10:00 am Worship
11:00 am Fellowship
11:30 am Hospitality & Outreach

Monday

5:15 pm Volleyball

Tuesday

6:30 am Men's Forum

Wednesday

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

Thursday

7:00 pm Personnel Committee Meeting

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
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

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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