



First United Methodist Church of Riverside (<https://firstchurchriverside.org>)

January 3, 2021: Epiphany and Holy Communion

ALL ARE WELCOME TO WORSHIP ONLINE (Livestream): 10:00 AM

<https://facebook.com/firstchurchriverside/live>

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE: "Noël (Grand Jeu et Duo) – Cold December Flies Away"

(by Louis-Claude Daquin)

Robert Phillips, Organist

TRINITY BELLS

Robert Phillips, Organist

GREETING

Rev. Bev Devine

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Bev Devine

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Loretta Cudney, Liturgist

The babe is born. God has come. God is with us!

Let us worship him in Spirit and in truth.

The Magi searched earnestly for the Messiah.

We also seek him with longing and humility.

Having been led by a star, they bowed before him.

We, too, kneel before the Lord our God, our Maker.

They presented their gifts, the best they had to offer.

**We come as well,
giving our whole hearts in praise and worship.**

O Come, let us adore him.

O Come, let us adore him.

O Come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

HYMN #254: "We Three Kings" (by John H. Hopkins, Jr.)

Led by Yvonne Flagg

Verse 1

We three kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

Chorus

O star of wonder, star of light,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to Thy perfect light.

Verse 2

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign.

Verse 3

Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, voices raising,
Worshipping God on high.

Verse 4

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

Verse 5

Glorious now behold Him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, alleluia,
Sounds through the earth and skies.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 2:1-12 [The Message] Loretta Cudney, Liturgist
1-2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem village, Judah territory – this was during Herod’s kingship – a band of scholars arrived in Jerusalem from the East. They asked around, “Where can we find and pay homage to the newborn King of the Jews? We observed a star in the eastern sky that signaled his birth. We’re on pilgrimage to worship him.”

3-4 When word of their inquiry got to Herod, he was terrified – and not Herod alone, but most of Jerusalem as well. Herod lost no time. He gathered all the high priests and

religion scholars in the city together and asked, "Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?"

⁵⁻⁶ They told him, "Bethlehem, Judah territory. The prophet Micah wrote it plainly:
It's you, Bethlehem, in Judah's land,
no longer bringing up the rear.
From you will come the leader
who will shepherd-rule my people, my Israel."

⁷⁻⁸ Herod then arranged a secret meeting with the scholars from the East. Pretending to be as devout as they were, he got them to tell him exactly when the birth-announcement star appeared. Then he told them the prophecy about Bethlehem, and said, "Go find this child. Leave no stone unturned. As soon as you find him, send word and I'll join you at once in your worship."

⁹⁻¹⁰ Instructed by the king, they set off. Then the star appeared again, the same star they had seen in the eastern skies. It led them on until it hovered over the place of the child. They could hardly contain themselves: They were in the right place! They had arrived at the right time!

¹¹ They entered the house and saw the child in the arms of Mary, his mother. Overcome, they knelt and worshiped him. Then they opened their luggage and presented gifts: gold, frankincense, myrrh.

¹² In a dream, they were warned not to report back to Herod. So they worked out another route, left the territory without being seen, and returned to their own country.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Loretta Cudney

MESSAGE: "HONOR BOUND"

Rev. Bev Devine

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Rev. Bev Devine

Joys

Benita Roberts 1/3

Julie Williams 1/3

Cheryl Riggs 1/4

Teiapa's "Paa" Tupou 1/5

John-Paul McDonald 1/7

Robert "Bob" Binford 1/8

Dylan Grimes 1/8

Concerns

Barbara Spencer

Grimes Family
Pam and Jim Conlin's Family
Cindy Qualtieri's Cousin by Marriage, Christina Weaver

Comfort for:
Family of Phyllis Chandler
Family of Barbara Jo Wilson
Laird Family

PASTORAL PRAYER

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

INTERLUDE: "I Will Sing New Songs" (by Antonin Dvorak) Yvonne Flagg, Soloist
Accompanied by Robert Phillips on Piano

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Rev. Bev Devine

Offertory

DOXOLOGY: "What Child is This" (*verse 3*) No. 219

Led by Yvonne Flagg

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh
Come, peasant, king, to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.**

Offering Prayer

Loretta Cudney

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING - HOLY COMMUNION

Led by Rev. Bev Devine

(Congregation speaks bold)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.
Before the mountains were brought forth,
or you had formed the earth,
from everlasting to everlasting, you alone are God.
You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth.

You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ,
in whom you have revealed yourself, our light and our salvation. You sent a star to guide wise men to where the Christ was born; and in your signs and witnesses, in every age and through all the world, you have led your people from far places to his light.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Sing:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN: #383 "This Is a Day of New Beginnings" (words by Brian Wren, music by Carlton R. Young), Led by Yvonne Flagg

Verse 1

This is a day of new beginnings,
Time to remember and move on,
Time to believe what love is bringing,
Laying to rest the pain that's gone.

Verse 2

For by the life and death of Jesus,
God's mighty Spirit, now as then,
Can make for us a world of difference,
As faith and hope are born again.

Verse 3

Then let us, with the Spirit's daring,
Step from the past and leave behind
Our disappointment, guilt, and grieving,
Seeking new paths, and sure to find.

Verse 4

Christ is alive, and goes before us
To show and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings;
Our God is making all things new.

Verse 5

In faith we'll gather round the table
To taste and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings;
Our God is making all things new.

WORDS OF BLESSING

Rev. Bev Devine

Go out as one body, Christ's body.
Love. Forgive. Show mercy.
Make peace.
And tell the good news of Christ, the world's light. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE: "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright" (by Dietrich Buxtehude)

Robert Phillips, Organist

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God Bless You! Stay in Love with God!



A UNITED METHODIST CONGREGATION

(Our Big Thanks to the Worship/Media Team members who have faithfully served today:

Preaching: Rev. Bev Devine

Liturgist: Loretta Cudney

Organist: Robert Phillips

Hymn Leader: Yvonne Flagg

Media/Livestream Team: Dan Lonsbery, Cassie Lonsbery, & Steve Grimes

Online Greeter: Kris Lovekin

Advent Décor: Rev. Beverly Devine and the Décor Team)

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