



FOURTH SUNDAY OF *Advent*

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

December 20, 2020: Fourth Sunday of Advent (LOVE)

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

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE: *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"* (by Phillip Moore) / Robert Phillips, Organist

TRINITY BELLS / Robert Phillips, Organist

ADVENT LITURGY (LOVE) / Don and Lyn Knowles

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent - the Sunday of LOVE!

John 13:34-35

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Love. May the Word sent from God through the prophets lead us to the way of Love.

(All) O come, O come, Emmanuel.

ADVENT CANDLE SONG: *"Christ, Be Our Light!"* / All (Led by Joshua Ponnuraju; Bells by Gayla Lonsbery and Carmen Lonsbery; Accompanied by Robert Phillips, Organist)

Christ, be our light! Shine in our
 hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.
 Christ, be our light! Shine in your
 Church gath - ered to - day.

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH CANDLE OF ADVENT (LOVE) (While singing the Advent Candle Song) / Don and Lyn Knowles, Co-Liturgists

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Adapted from Luke 1*) / Don Knowles, Co-Liturgist

(Liturgist) God looks kindly on us when we are at our lowest.

(All) Rejoice in God our Savior.

(L) God has done great things for us in times past. God will do great things for us in days to come.

(All) Rejoice in God our Savior.

(L) Christ's mercy is upon us, offering hope in times of despair.

(All) Rejoice in God our Savior.

(L) Christ's love has made us whole.

(All) Rejoice in God our Savior.

(L) The Spirit's power disarms our pride and prejudice.

(All) Rejoice in God our Savior.

(L) The Spirit's power strengthens our mercy and compassion.

(All) Rejoice in God our Savior.

(L) Even as we are filled this day, may we go forth to nourish a world in need.

(All) Rejoice in God our Savior. Amen!

WELCOME / Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER / Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

- Sharing of Joys & Concerns
- Pastoral 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 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.**

CHILDREN'S TIME / Lyn Knowles

SCRIPTURE READING: Titus 3:3-7 (NIV) / Don Knowles, Co-Liturgist

Love of God Appeared

³ At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. ⁴ But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

(Liturgist) This is the Word of God for the People of God!

(All) Thanks be to God! Amen!

INTERLUDE: "*Angels We Have Heard on High*" Traditional French Carol (Video) / Robert Phillips, Keyboard; Gayla Lonsbery, Carmen Lonsbery and Jason Handen, Handbells; The Response: Steve Grimes, John Zeeb, John Simmons, Bob Banks, Jeff Ashworth, Rebel Harrell and Bev Devine.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 1:26-38 (NRSV) / Lyn Knowles, Co-Liturgist

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.' ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' ³⁴Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' ³⁵The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.' ³⁸Then Mary said,

'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

(Liturgist) This is the gospel of Christ!

(All) Glory to You, O Christ! Amen!

SERMON: "LOVE HAS A NAME: JESUS" / Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

HYMN OF DEDICATION: #218 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" (words by Edmund H. Sears; music by Richard Storrs Willis) / **All** (Led by Joshua Ponnuraju, Robert Phillips, Organist)

Verse 1

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
From heaven's all gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.

Verse 2

Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains,
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

Verse 3

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road,
And hear the angels sing!

Verse 4

For lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophets seen of old,

When with the ever-circling years
Shall come the time foretold
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world send back the song
Which now the angels sing.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING / Don Knowles, Co-Liturgist

(Liturgist) Dear Church Family and Friends: I invite you to give your tithes and offerings generously to support our church's missions and ministries. You can give online 24/7 through our church's website: www.firstchurchriverside.org/giving/ You can simply mail your offering to the church address. Or you can also drop off your offering envelope into the church office mail slot. You may also consider setting up automatic draft through your bank. Thank you for being faithful to God through our Church!

(All) Amen!

DOXOLOGY #95 / All (Led by Joshua Ponnuraju, Accompanied by Robert Phillips)

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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (UNISON) / All (Led by Don Knowles, Co-Liturgist)

Just as our souls magnify the Lord, may our offerings glorify God. Surely, we are blessed. We rejoice in the mercy that you have shown us from generation to generation. We remember the powerful promise you bring: hope to the hopeless and strength to the weak. With joy, we pray in gratitude and praise. Amen.

SENDING HYMN: #220 "Angels from the Realms of Glory" (words by James Montgomery, music by Henry T. Smart) / All (Led by Joshua Ponnuraju; Accompanied by Robert Phillips, Organist)

Verse 1

**Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:**

Chorus

**Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

Verse 2

**Shepherds, in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,**

God with us is now residing;
Yonder shines the infant light:

Verse 3

Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations;
Ye have seen His natal star:

Verse 4

Saints, before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear;
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His temple shall appear:

BENEDICTION / Rev. J. T. Kim

POSTLUDE: *"The King of Glory Comes"* (by Wayne L. Wold) / 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:

Advent Liturgy: Don and Lyn Knowles

Co-Liturgists: Don and Lyn Knowles

Children's Time: Lyn Knowles

Organist: Robert Phillips

Hymn Leader: Joshua Ponnuraju

Interlude: Jason Handen, Gayla Lonsbery & Carmen Lonsbery, Bell Ringers;

Robert Phillips, Keyboard; The Response: Steve Grimes, John Zeeb, John Simmons, Bob Banks,

Jeff Ashworth, Rebel Harrell and Bev Devine

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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POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS 2020

*In Memory of Richard and Laurie Williams
by Pat Williams*

*In Honor of our Family and Friends, who are so important to us,
and in Memory of our Loved Ones who have gone before us
by Loretta and Dave Cudney*

*In Memory of Dr. Edwin A. Roberts
by Bob, Benita and Joan Roberts*

*In Honor of Steven Beals, Kristin Beals,
Josie, Melissa and Jonathon Williams
and in Memory of Steve, Denny and Doug Beals,
and Don and Margaret Henderson
by Pat Beals*

*In Honor of Katrina, Patrick, Shawna
and their families,
and in Memory of my mother Gerry Marr
and daddy, Clint Marr
by Cindy Marr*

*In Memory of Loved Ones
by James and Genette Sizer*

*In Memory of Mary Nelson
by Bob Nelson*

*In Memory of Bert Rakow
by Norma Nelson*

*In Honor of Alice Wymer
and in Memory of our Parents
by Ron and Dianne Purkey*

*In Honor of Pastor and Mrs. J. T. Kim
by Roy and Cheryl Riggs*

*In Memory of our Parents
Sylvia and Jim Alfred
With love, by Anne Alfred*

*In Memory of our son David
By Bill and Lynn Ashworth*