



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

**December 24, 2020: Christmas Eve**

ALL ARE WELCOME TO WORSHIP ONLINE (Livestream): 7:00 PM

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

## **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**PRELUDE:** *"Greensleeves"* (by Richard Purvis) / Robert Phillips, Organist

**TRINITY BELLS** / Robert Phillips, Organist

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE** / Bob Nelson, Liturgist

(Liturgist) Tonight is the night our Savior Christ Jesus is born!

[John 1:1-5, 12-14]

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it... To all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Tonight, we light the Christ Candle. This Candle radiates the hope of Jesus Christ to all who are willing to receive it. Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness flees as the light grows in power and beauty.

**(All) Christ is born; give Him glory! Amen!**

(Liturgist lights the Christ Candle while everyone is singing the Christmas Eve Candle Song)

**CHRIST 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.

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (Adapted from Isa 9, Ps 96, Titus 2, Luke 2) / Bob Nelson, Liturgist (Liturgist) Christ is here on this night of nights.

**(All) Christ is here indeed.**

(L) Christ's love has called us here.

**(All) Christ's love has bathed us in holy light.**

(L) Let's sing with the angels and celebrate with joy.

**(All) For Christmas arrives this night. Amen!**

**CHILDREN'S PRESENTATION:** "Away In A Manger" / Children (Singing) with Elizabeth Updegraff (Dancing)

**CHRISTMAS STORY:** Reading of "Twas the Night Before Christmas" / Youth, Young Adults, Children and Their Families

**HYMN:** #234 "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (Verses 1, 3, 5 only) (by John F. Wade) / All (Led by Joshua Ponnuraju; Accompanied by Robert Phillips)

**Verse 1**

O come, all ye faithful,

Joyful and triumphant,

O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.

Come and behold Him,

**Born the King of angels;**

**Chorus**

**O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.**

**Verse 3**

**Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation;  
O sing, all ye citizens  
Of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;**

**Verse 5**

**Child, for us sinners  
Poor and in the manger,  
We would embrace thee  
With love and awe.  
Who would not love thee,  
loving us so dearly?**

**CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER (UNISON) / All (Led by Bob Nelson, Liturgist)**

**Light of the world, shine upon us this night.**

**Shine in our lives, that we may shine with your love.**

**Shine in our world, that your light may overcome all darkness and fear.**

**Shine through our worship, that our souls may be strengthened with the power of your light and love.**

**In the name of love, we pray. Amen.**

**MUSIC INTERLUDE: "Angels We Have Heard On High" (by Edwin Shippen Barnes and James Chadwick) / The Response with Bells and Keyboard**

**GOSPEL READING: Luke 2:8-14 (KJV) / Bob Nelson, Liturgist**

***Unto You Is Born a Savior - Christ the Lord***

**<sup>8</sup>And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. <sup>10</sup>And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.**

**<sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.**

**<sup>12</sup>And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.**

**<sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, <sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”**

(Liturgist) This is the gospel of Christ!

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

**ANTHEM:** *“Moonlight On The Manger”* (by John F. Wade, Vicki Tucker Courtney, John Parker; sung by Aldersgate Chorale)

**CHRISTMAS MESSAGE:** *“THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS”* / Rev. J. T. Kim

**MUSIC INTERLUDE:** *“You’re Here”* (by Ben Glover and Francesca Battistelli) / Steve Grimes, Rebel Harrell, and Lauren Grimes

Now you are invited to sing along the Christmas Hymn “Silent Night, Holy Night” with the 2020 Worldwide United Methodist Christmas Virtual Choir. Please be aware that the first verse is sung in English, then the same verse in German, and Spanish follows. Also, included are two verses that are sung in humming so that you can sing in your own language. Then, we will all join singing the final verse in English. Are you ready for “Silent Night”?

**SENDING HYMN:** *“Silent Night, Holy Night”* (Video) (by Joseph Mohr and Franz Gruber) UMC Worldwide Christmas Virtual Choir / **All**

**RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION** (Luke 2:14) / Rev. J. T. Kim

(Pastor) Glory to God in the highest heaven,

**(All) and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased. Amen!**

**POSTLUDE:** *“Carillon on ‘Antioch’”* (by Mary Beth Bennett) / 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 tonight:*

*Liturgist: Bob Nelson*

*Children's Presentation: Elizabeth Updegraff, Dancer; Camille Arguelles, Gabriel Arguelles, Hannah Arguelles, Kristin Beals, Carolyn (Corona UMC), Yvonne Flagg, Rafael Gamboa (Corona UMC), Robert Phillips, Itsel Updegraff, Miletta Updegraff, Julia Zeeb, Lillian Zeeb*

*Christmas Story: LJ, Joy, Camille, Gabriel and Hannah Arguelles; Kristin Beals and Pat Beals; Andrew and Catalina Gaumer; Allison, Ian and William George; Kyle and Dylan Grimes; Steve, Lizzie, and Karen Holloway; Wayne and Lucy Speirs; Leslie Tomlinson; Derek, Elizabeth, Itsel, Miletta and Sylvie Updegraff; and John, Katrina, Lillian and Julia Zeeb  
"Away in a Manger" music presented by Steve Grimes and John Simmons.*

*Organist: Robert Phillips*

*Hymn Leader: Joshua Ponnuraju*

*Interlude "Angels We Have Heard on High:" The Response: Jeff Ashworth, Bob Banks, Bev Devine, Steve Grimes, Rebel Harrell, John Simmons, John Zeeb; Bells: Jason Handen, Carmen Lonsbery, Gayla Lonsbery;  
Keyboard: Robert Phillips*

*Interlude: "You're Here:" Steve Grimes, Rebel Harrell, and Lauren Grimes*

*Anthem: Aldersgate Virtual Choir: Lynn Ashworth, Phil Bremenstuhl, Bev Devine, Yvonne Flagg (Director), David Fraser, Allison George, Lyn Knowles, Kate Lovekin, Kris Lovekin, Peggy McMeans, Bob Nelson, Norma Nelson, Val Othon, Robert Phillips, Joshua Ponnuraju, Leslie Tomlinson, Jennifer Walker, Ruth Walker, Pat Williams*

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

*Online Greeter: Kris Lovekin*

*Christmas Eve Décor: Rev. Beverly Devine, Lee Ann Salmon, and Barbara Jo Wilson)*

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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*