



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

**January 10, 2021: First Sunday after the Epiphany**

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

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

## **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**PRELUDE: "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright"** (by David Bednall) / Robert Phillips, Organist

**TRINITY BELLS** / Robert Phillips, Organist

**CALL TO WORSHIP** / Sarah Overton-Fraser, Liturgist

(Liturgist) Light of God, illumine the path that leads us to healing, hope and salvation.

**(All) Glory of God, fill our homes and expose the darkness that stalks our souls.**

(L) Light of God, shine on us such brightness that we marvel in awe.

**(All) Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN: #249 "There's a Song in the Air"** (by Josiah G. Holland, music by Karl P. Harrington) / All (Led by Kris Lovekin, Hymn Leader; Accompanied by Robert Phillips)

### **Verse 1**

There's a song in the air!

There's a star in the sky!

There's a mother's deep prayer

And a baby's low cry!

And the star rains its fire

While the beautiful sing,

For the manger of Bethlehem

Cradles a King!

### **Verse 2**

There's a tumult of joy

O'er the wonderful birth,

For the Virgin's sweet boy  
Is the Lord of the earth.  
Ay! the star rains its fire  
While the beautiful sing,  
For the manger of Bethlehem  
Cradles a King!

Verse 3

In the light of that star  
Lie the ages impearled;  
And that song from afar  
Has swept over the world.  
Every hearth is aflame,  
And the beautiful sing  
In the homes of the nations  
That Jesus is King!

Verse 4

We rejoice in the light,  
And we echo the song  
That comes down through the night  
From the heavenly throng.  
Ay! we shout to the lovely  
Evangel they bring,  
And we greet in His cradle  
Our Savior and King!

**COMMUNITY PRAYER (UNISON) / Led by Sarah Overton-Fraser, Liturgist**  
**God of promise and light, open our eyes this morning, that we may see your light in the darkness.**

**Open our hearts, that we may perceive your promises of justice and righteousness fulfilled in the babe of Bethlehem.**

**May we, like the Magi, have a star to guide us on our journey quest to find the one who will truly set us free.**

**May this time of worship bring us closer to you, that the good news of the birth of light and love will transform our lives. Amen.**

**WELCOME / Rev. Roy Riggs**

**THE CHURCH AT PRAYER / Rev. Roy Riggs**

- 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, forever. Amen.”**

**CHILDREN’S TIME / Sarah Overton-Fraser**

**GOSPEL READING: Matthew 2:9-11 (NRSV)/ Sarah Overton-Fraser, Liturgist**

**<sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.**

**HYMN: #245 “The First Noel” (Traditional English Carol) / All (Led by Kris Lovekin, Hymn Leader; Accompanied by Robert Phillips)**

**Verse 1**

**The first Noel the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

**Chorus**

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
Born is the King of Israel.**

**Verse 2**

**They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the east, beyond them far;  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night.**

**Verse 3**

**And by the light of that same star  
Three wise men came from country far;  
To seek for a king was their intent,  
And to follow the star wherever it went.**

**Verse 4**

**This star drew nigh to the northwest,  
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;**

And there it did both stop and stay,  
Right over the place where Jesus lay.

Verse 5

Then entered in those Wise Men three,  
Full reverently upon the knee,  
And offered there, in His presence,  
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

**SERMON: "THE FOURTH WISE MAN" / Rev. Roy Riggs**

**INTERLUDE: "Night of Silence" (by Daniel Kantor) / Kris Lovekin, Soloist (Accompanied by Robert Phillips)**

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING / Sarah Overton-Fraser, 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/](http://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 Kris Lovekin, 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 / All (Led by Sarah Overton-Fraser, Liturgist)**

**God of light and promise, we bring our gifts to further your work in a dark world. May they bring your light to those overwhelmed by darkness, pain, and loneliness. Accept these gifts of money and time, indeed, the gift of our very selves. Let them shine for all to see, and be brought into the sphere of your love and righteousness. Amen!**

**SENDING HYMN: #733 "Marching to Zion" (by Isaac Watts, music and refrain by Robert Lowry) / All (Led by Kris Lovekin; Accompanied by Robert Phillips)**

Verse 1

**Come, we that love the Lord,  
And let our joys be known;  
Join in a song with sweet accord,  
Join in a song with sweet accord  
And thus surround the throne,  
And thus surround the throne.**

### Chorus

We're marching to Zion,  
Beautiful, beautiful Zion;  
We're marching upward to Zion,  
The beautiful city of God.

### Verse 2

Let those refuse to sing  
Who never knew our God;  
But children of the heavenly King,  
But children of the heavenly King  
May speak their joys abroad,  
May speak their joys abroad.

### Verse 3

The hill of Zion yields  
A thousand sacred sweets  
Before we reach the heavenly fields,  
Before we reach the heavenly fields,  
Or walk the golden streets,  
Or walk the golden streets.

### Verse 4

Then let our songs abound,  
And every tear be dry;  
We're marching thru Emmanuel's ground,  
We're marching thru Emmanuel's ground,  
To fairer worlds on high,  
To fairer worlds on high.

BENEDICTION / Rev. Roy Riggs

POSTLUDE: *"We're Marching to Zion"* (by Gordon Young) / Robert Phillips, Organist

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***God Bless You! Stay in Love with God!***



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

*Liturgist: Sarah Overton-Fraser*

*Children's Time: Sarah Overton-Fraser*

*Organist: Robert Phillips*

*Hymn Leader: Kris Lovekin*

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

*Online Greeter: Kris Lovekin*

*Altar Décor: Rev. Beverly Devine and the Décor Team)*

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