



Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion
(In-Person & Online)

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Friday, December 24, 2021, 11 p.m.
First United Methodist Church of Riverside

First United Methodist Church of Riverside (<https://firstchurchriverside.org>)
December 24, 2021: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Holy Communion

ALL ARE WELCOME TO WORSHIP IN-PERSON OR ONLINE AT 11 PM

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

(Audio Only: To listen to the Livestreaming Service - Call 1-877-755-5136)

ORDER OF WORSHIP

*Please stand if you are able.

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES / Joseph and Justice Juarez, Acolytes

PRELUDE: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" (By Johannes Brahms) / Robert Phillips, Organist

***TRINITY BELLS** / Robert Phillips, Organist

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Adapted from John 1:1-5, 12-14) / Matt Gorder, Liturgist

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

(People) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

(Liturgist) He was in the beginning with God.

(People) All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

(Liturgist) What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

(People) The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it...

(Liturgist) To all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God,

(People) who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

(Liturgist) 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.

(People) Tonight, we light the Christ Candle.

(Liturgist) This Candle radiates the hope of Jesus Christ to all who are willing to receive it.

(People) 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!

***LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE** (While Singing the Christ Candle Song) /
Matt Gorder, Liturgist

***CHRIST CANDLE SONG:** "*Christ, Be Our Light!*" / All (Led by Kris Lovekin)

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.

INTERLUDE: "*Ding Dong! Merrily on High*" (Arranged by Anna Laura Page)
/The Allegro Ringers (Directed by Gayla Lonsbery; Accompanied by Robert Phillips)

***HYMN:** #234 "*O Come, All Ye Faithful*" (Verses 1, 3, 5 only) (By John F. Wade, trans. by
Frederick Oakeley) / All (Led by Kris Lovekin; 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;

Refrain

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;
[Refrain]

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?
[Refrain]

SCRIPTURE READING: Hebrews 13:1-2 (NRSV) / Matt Gorder, Liturgist

Show Hospitality to Strangers

¹Let mutual love continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.

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

(All) Thanks be to God! Amen!

INTERLUDE: “Breath of Heaven (Mary’s Song)” (By Chris Eaton and Amy Grant, arranged by Roger Emerson) / Val Othon, Kris Lovekin, India Lovekin, and Kate Lovekin

***GOSPEL READING: Luke 2:1-14 (NRSV) / Matt Gorder, Liturgist**

The Birth of Jesus

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The Shepherds and the Angels

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

(Liturgist) This is the Gospel of Christ!
(All) Glory to You, O Christ! Amen!

SERMON: "GOD'S NINE AMAZING GIFTS OF C.H.R.I.S.T.M.A.S." (Sermon Series 3 of 3) / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

***HYMN OF DEDICATION: #238 "Angels We Have Heard on High"** (Trad. French carol; trans. *Crown of Jesus*; Music: French carol melody, arr. by Edwin S. Barnes, harm. By Austin C. Lovelace) / All (Led by Kris Lovekin; accompanied by Robert Phillips)

Verse 1

Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain

Glo - - - - - ri - a,
in excelsis Deo!
Glo - - - - - ri - a,
in excelsis Deo!

Verse 2

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song?
[Refrain]

Verse 3

Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
[Refrain]

Verse 4

See him in a manger laid,
whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while our hearts in love we raise.
[Refrain]

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING: (Adapted from Matt. 2, Luke 2) / Matt Gorder,
Liturgist

(Liturgist) Kings brought gifts. Angels sang praise. Shepherds told tales. Every gift we have to offer the Christ child is a precious gift, blessed by God. Bring your gifts. Bring your hearts. Bring your lives, in gratitude and celebration of the Christ child whose birth we celebrate this night.

(All) Amen!

***DOXOLOGY:** #95 *"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"* (Words by Thomas Ken; Music attr. to Louis Bourgeois) / 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.

***UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** (Adapted from Isa 9, Titus 2, Luke 2) / All (Led by Matt Gorder, Liturgist)

Beautiful Savior, we are so grateful for your birth so many years ago, and we are so joyful to have your presence in our lives this night. In gratitude, we offer our gifts, however humble they might be. Transform our gifts with your glory and grace, that our gifts might become grace and love, and light and hope, for a world in need of you. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION ON CHRISTMAS EVE

A COMMUNION HYMN FOR CHRISTMAS / All (Led by Kris Lovekin; Accompanied by Robert Phillips)

D D^{2sus}/E D/F# Em⁷ A^{2sus} A D D/C#

1. Gath - ered 'round Your ta - ble on this ho - ly eve,
 2. Prince of Glo - ry, grac - ing Heav'n ere time be - gan,
 3. Beth-lehem's In - car - na - tion, Cal - v'ry's bit - ter cross,
 4. With pro - found - est won - der we Your bo - dy take -
 5. Christ - mas Babe so ten - der Lamb who bore our blame,

5 Bm B^{2sus} Bm F#m Gmaj⁹ Em/G A⁷ A⁹ F#m/A A⁷ D D D^{2sus}/E D/F#

view - ing Beth-lehem's sta - ble we re - joice and grieve. Joy to see You
 now for us em - brac - ing death as Son of Man. By Your birth so
 wrought for us sal - va - tion by Your pain and loss. Now we fall be -
 Laid in man - ger yon - der, bro - ken for our sake; Hushed in ad - o -
 how shall sin - ners ren - der prais - es due Your name? Do Your own good

10 Em⁷ A^{2sus} F#m/A A#⁷ Bm Bm/A G D/F#

ly - ing in Your man - ger bed, weep to see You
 low - ly, by Your love so true, by Your cross most
 -fore You in this ho - ly place, pros - trate we a -
 -ra - tion we ap - proach the cup - Beth-lehem's pure ob -
 plea - sure in the lives we bring; In Your ran - somed

14 E^{2sus} Em A⁷ D^{sus} D G D

dy - ing in our sin - ful stead. A - men.
 ho - ly, Lord, we wor - ship You!
 -dore You for Your gift of grace.
 -la - tion free - ly of - fered up.
 trea - sure reign for - ev - er King!

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

(Pastor) The Lord be with you.

(People) And also with you.

(Pastor) Lift up your hearts.

(People) We lift them up to the Lord.

(Pastor) Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

(People) It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(Pastor) It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. 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.

In the fullness of time you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to be our Savior, and at his birth the angels sang glory to you in the highest and peace to your people on earth. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**(All 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.**

(Pastor) Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. As Mary and Joseph went from Galilee to Bethlehem and there found no room, so Jesus went from Galilee to Jerusalem and was despised and rejected. As in the poverty of a stable Jesus was born, so 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.

As your Word became flesh, born of woman, on that night long ago, so, 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.

(All Sing) Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

(Pastor) 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.

**(All) Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.**

(All Sing) Amen. Amen. Amen.

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

(Pastor) Please take your Bread and Cup now in this sanctuary and at your home if you are partaking in this communion via online or telephone!

*CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHTING

(Pastor first lights his candle from the Christ Candle; then gives it to the designated Light Bearers.)

(Pastor) The Light of God is given for you – given to you – and by you it is given to others!

(All) Jesus is our Light! Amen!

***SENDING HYMN: #239 “Silent Night, Holy Night”** (Verse 1 only) (Words by Joseph Mohr; trans. by John F. Young; Music by Franz Gruber) / All (Led Kris Lovekin, accompanied by Robert Phillips)

Verse 1

Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

***RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION** (Luke 2:14) / All (Led by the 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!

Merry & Blessed Christmas!



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

Liturgist: Matt Gorder

Acolytes: Joseph and Justice Juarez

Organist: Robert Phillips

Hymn Leader and Online Greeter: Kris Lovekin

Quartet: Val Othon, Kris Lovekin, India Lovekin, and Kate Lovekin

Bells: The Allegro Ringers

*Communion Coordinator: Lee Ann Salmon
Media/Livestream Team: Dan, Gayla, Cassie and Carmen Lonsbery & Don Knowles
Altar Décor: Rev. Beverly Devine and the Décor Team*



In Honor of all of the healthcare workers who have worked through the pandemic.
by Loretta and Dave Cudney

In Memory of our dear son and brother, Dr. Edwin A. Roberts
By Bob, Benita and Joan Roberts

In Memory of Cliff Berger
By Margaret Berger

In Memory of Mary Nelson and Bert Rakow
By Bob and Norma Nelson

In Honor of Family and Friends here and now,
and in Memory of Berkley Kaufhold and all of our
other friends and family who are with us in spirit:
We miss your presence in this world.
By Paula Kaufhold

In Honor of Rev. and Mrs. J. T. Kim
and our FUMCOR Family, in Thanksgiving for all

your love and support through 2021!
By Rev. Roy and Cheryl Riggs

In Memory of Gerry and Clint Marr
and in Honor of Family: Pat, Renee and Teagan Bong,
Shawna, Troy, Cora and Quinn Reupert,
Katrina, John, Lillian and Julia Zeeb
By Cindy Marr

In Memory of Loved Ones
By Genette and Jim Sizer

In remembrance of our son David
By Lynn and Bill Ashworth

In Memory of Laurie Williams and her father, Richard Williams
By Pat Williams

In Honor of our mother and father,
Sylvia and Jim Alfred, and my brothers,
John and Mike Alfred
With love, Anne Alfred

In Memory of my mother, Eula Robison, and
my grandparents, William and Burnice Germain
By Pam Conlin

In Memory of my parents, Manette and C. Bruce Tomlinson,
and Susan's mother, Judy Lamers
By Susan and Brian Tomlinson

In Honor of my 103-year-old aunt,
and in Memory of my parents and grandparents
by Linda Rydzik

In Memory of Rev. Dr. Lambert W. All
By Mike Alfred

In Memory of Phyllis Chandler
By Jeanne Gaut

In Honor of Becky Ruiz and Stephanie Chandler
By Mary L. Herrmann

In Memory of Bob Waddell
by Elizabeth Waddell

In Memory of lost loved ones in my family
and the church family
by Marcia Bales

In Memory of Albert and Helen Fraser, June G. Ward-Overton,
Charles B. Overton, Maude L. Ward
By Sarah Overton-Fraser and David Fraser

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Interlude 1: "Ding Dong! Merrily on High," arranged by Anna Laura Page. CCLI Song #7032711, CCLI License #11231812.

Interlude 2: "Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song)," by Chris Eaton and Amy Grant, arranged by Roger Emerson; CCLI Song #1128784, CCLI License #11231812.

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