



# Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

*With Holy Communion*

Saturday, December 24, 2022, 7 p.m.

First United Methodist Church of Riverside

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

ALL ARE WELCOME TO WORSHIP IN-PERSON OR ONLINE AT 7 PM

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

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

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

\*Please stand as you are comfortable.

### LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

PRELUDE: “Greensleeves” by Richard Purvis / Robert Phillips, Organist

### \*TRINITY BELLS

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Adapted from John 1:1-5, 12-14) / David Fraser, 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.**

(L) He was in the beginning with God.

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

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

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

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

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

(L) 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.

**(P) Tonight, we light the Christ Candle.**

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

(P) 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** (During the singing of the Christ Candle Song) / Liturgist

\***CHRIST CANDLE SONG: "Christ, Be Our Light!"** / All / Led by Yvonne Flagg

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your Church gathered to - day.

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT:** Children and Youth Christmas Video: "What? No Angels?" / Led by Lucinda Edmunds, Children's Director. (Children will stay in service with their family.)

\***HYMN: #234 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"** (Verses 1, 3, 5) by John F. Wade / All

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

O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.

### 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

O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.

**\*GOSPEL READING: Luke 2:1-20 (NRSV) / Liturgist**

#### *The Birth of Jesus*

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph 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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And 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*

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

<sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and 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 heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!'

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

<sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

(Liturgist) This is the Gospel of Christ!

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

**ANTHEM:** "Love Came Down at Christmas" by Mark Hayes and Pamela Martin /  
The Aldersgate Chorale

**SERMON:** "BETHLEHEM BLESSINGS (I)" / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

**\*HYMN OF DEDICATION:** #238 "Angels We Have Heard on High," arr. by Edwin S. Barnes, harm. By Austin C. Lovelace / **All**

### Verse 1

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

### Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria 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

Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

### 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) / 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!**

(Liturgist) The ushers to come to receive our offerings.

**OFFERTORY:** "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" by Marcel Dupré

**\*DOXOLOGY:** #95 "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" by Thomas Ken / All

**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) / Liturgist / All / **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” by Margaret Clarkson and Tom Fettke / All

D D<sup>2sus</sup>/E D/F# Em<sup>7</sup> A<sup>2sus</sup> 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<sup>2sus</sup> Bm F#m Gmaj<sup>9</sup> Em/G A<sup>7</sup> A<sup>9</sup> F#m/A A<sup>7</sup> D D D<sup>2sus</sup>/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 Em<sup>7</sup> A<sup>2sus</sup> F#m/A A#<sup>o7</sup> 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<sup>2sus</sup> Em A<sup>7</sup> D<sup>sus</sup> 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!

**COMMUNION VOLUNTARY: "Two Traditional Carols" by James Biery**

### **\*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" by Joseph Mohr / All**

#### **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.**

**\*BENEDICTION / Pastor J.T. Kim**

**(All) Amen!**

*We are grateful for the Worship/Media Team members who have faithfully served today:*

*Liturgist: David Fraser*

*Hymn Leader/Choral Director: Yvonne Flagg*

*Aldersgate Chorale*

*Organist: Robert Phillips*

*Children's Moment: Lucinda Edmunds, Children's Director*

*Communion Coordinator: Lee Ann Salmon*

*Media/Livestream Team: Dan, Gayla, and Carmen Lonsbery, Don Knowles*

*Altar Décor: the Décor Team*

*Head Usher: Matt Gorder*

*Online Greeter: Mary Herrmann*

### **In Our Hearts and Prayers**

Jim and Genette Sizer, Linda Rydzik, Jonathon Williams family,  
Mack and Elizabeth Davis, Peggy Stepe, David and Loretta Cudney,  
Family of William "Bill" Wolter, Brad Austin, Isaac Ruiz, Thurmond,  
Nicolas Mateo family, Pastor J.T. Kim and family, Robert Zeeb

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

In Honor of my sister and my 104-year-old aunt  
by Linda Rydzik

In Memory of my parents and grandparents  
by Linda Rydzik

In Memory of Ronald and Barbara Pope  
by Regan Pope

In Memory of Cliff Berger  
by Margaret Berger

In Honor of Cindy Marr and Barbara & Bob Zeeb  
by John and Katrina Zeeb

In Memory of Clint and Gerry Marr  
by John and Katrina Zeeb

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

In Memory of Dr. Edwin A. Roberts, brother of Joan E. Roberts  
by Dr. Joan E. Roberts

In Memory of June Overton and Amy Edmunds  
by Lucinda and Rollin Edmunds

In Memory of Kathleen Phillips  
by Robert Phillips

In Memory of loved ones  
by Jim and Genette Sizer

In Memory of Eula Robison  
by Pam Conlin

In Honor of our parents, Sylvia and Jim Alfred,  
with love, Anne Alfred

In thanksgiving for the wonderful, faithful people of FUMCOR  
Ron and Cheryl Riggs

In Memory of our parents Dick and Rose Riggs  
and Bonnie Shomaker; and Charles and Ella Barrow.

In Honor of our children, Michael, Jana and Lisa,  
for their dedication to us.  
by Dave and Loretta Cudney

In Honor of Kris and Steve Lovekin, Val and Mike Othon  
by Pat Williams

In Honor of Richard Williams and Laurie Williams  
by Pat Williams

In Memory of Judy Lamers, and Bruce and Manette Tomlinson  
by the Tomlinson family

In Honor of the marriage of Jeff and Alissa Ashworth  
by Bill and Lynn Ashworth

In Memory of David Ashworth  
by Bill and Lynn Ashworth

In Honor of The Response Band,  
by Cindy Marr

In Honor of my kids and their families: the Zeebs, the Bongos, and the Reuperts  
by Cindy Marr

In Memory of my parents, Clint and Jerry Marr  
by Cindy Marr

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