ORDER OF WORSHIP

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024

9:45 & 11:00 A.M.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

The bells ring three times to represent the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

PRELUDE *Of the Father's Love Begotten* arr. Sandra Eithun
Riverchase Chancel Ringers; Jessica Kaufhold, Director

***HYMN NO. 240** *Hark! the Harald Angels Sing* MENDELSSOHN

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** Apostles' Creed Rev. John Ray

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI** GREATOREX

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.

Children's Church (11:00 only): Children ages 3 years old – 1st grade are invited at this time to go with our Children's Ministry leader to Room 160. Please make sure your children are wearing their name tags. We will not have Children's Church on the 1st Sunday of the month.

WELCOME Rev. Tony Johnson

MEET & GREET Rev. Tony Johnson

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall; oxen lowing, little knowing, Christ the babe is Lord of all. Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing: Christ the babe is Lord of all. Christ the babe is Lord of all.

ANTHEM *Angels We Have Heard on High* arr. Sondra Tucker
Riverchase Chancel Ringers; Jessica Kaufhold, Director

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE (9:45) Rev. Reid Turner
(9:45) the Lassiter Family (11:00) the Batten Family (11:00) Rev. Nancy Harper

Leader: During Advent, we remember the light that shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not overcome it.
People: Though the sorrow may last for the night, joy comes in the morning.

Leader: For all who face the sting of loss, God's word speaks:
People: Though the sorrow may last for the night, joy comes in the morning.

Leader: For all who wrestle with the unknown of tomorrow, God's word speaks:
People: Though the sorrow may last for the night, joy comes in the morning.

Leader: For all who battle the questions that arise in the silence, God's word speaks:
People: Though the sorrow may last for the night, joy comes in the morning.

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus. In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (9:45) Rev. Reid Turner
(11:00) Rev. Nancy Harper

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.

CHORAL RESPONSE

OFFERTORY PRAYER Rev. Tony Johnson

OFFERTORY *O Little Town of Bethlehem* arr. Dan Forrest

GOD'S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

***DOXOLOGY** VENI EMMANUEL

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.

SERMON Sharing the Joy of Christ Rev. Tony Johnson
Mary's Gift
Scripture: Luke1:26-38
Pew Bible: NT 69

***HYMN NO. 245** *The First Noel* THE FIRST NOEL

***INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP**

***BENEDICTION** Rev. Tony Johnson

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

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. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

***POSTLUDE** *From Heaven to Earth I Come* J.S. Bach

*Please stand as you are able.

Communion will be served in the Prayer Chapel after the 9:45 service.

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Musicians
Daniel deShazo, Minister of Music and Worship Arts
Riverchase Chancel Ringers; Jessica Kaufhold, Director
Walt Rogers, Organ
Kathy Wallace, Piano
Sanctuary Choir

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Acolytes & Crucifers
9:45 Jack Howton Bill Lawrence
11:00 Jack Howton Henry Collis

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ALTAR FLOWERS

In Memory of my husband, Kenan Kern, on his 81st birthday,
given by Beth Kern
In Memory of Mary Green, given by Dianne and Joel Roberts

DONUT SPONSORS

This week's Lickin' Good donuts are sponsored by the Riverchase Men

ROSE ON THE ALTAR

Congratulations to Jake & Sloan Larson on the birth of their son, Sammuel "Everett" Larson. Grandparents are Bruce & Dana Larson

SYMPATHY

To Peggy & Bob Thompson on the death of Peggy's brother John Wittenberg.

WELCOME

We're so glad that you've chosen Riverchase UMC today where our mission is to Share the Joy of Christ. If you'd like to know more about Riverchase UMC we invite you to visit our website at Riverchaseumc.org or email Ruth Howald at RuthH@riverchaseumc.org. If you'd prefer to talk to someone then feel free to call the church office at 205-987-4030.

Tony

NURSERY

Beginning with our youngest friends, at 6 weeks old, and ending with 2-year olds, we begin laying the foundations of faith with song, dance, bubbles, laughter, and love! Our nursery workers are happy to provide a safe, loving, and secure nursery for your child from 9:45 AM - 12:15 PM.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Each Sunday at 9:45 AM, children (3K to 5th grade) explore the Bible through interactive lessons, stories, crafts, games, and hands-on learning in Riverchase's Sunday School classes for children. These engaging lessons assist parents in providing a foundation of faith.

Parents must check children in and out of classrooms. Look for our Children's Ministry Assistants on Sunday morning to help you find your child's classroom.

Children's Sunday School Schedule
9:35-9:45 AM - Drop off in Sunday School Classroom
9:50 AM - All classes gather in the Children's Worship Center for Large Group
10:10 AM - All classes return to their classrooms for Small Group
10:45 AM - Pick up in Sunday School Classroom

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

For all upcoming events please visit our website
www.riverchaseumc.org/news/

Sunday, December 24, Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Services:
Traditional 3:00 PM, 5:00 PM, 7:00 PM, and 11:00 PM, in the Sanctuary
Modern Service, at 5:00 PM, in The Gym

Services Times for December 29:
Traditional Service 9:45 AM only, in the Sanctuary
Modern Service 11:00AM as normal, in The Gym

For a current list of all prayer concerns visit
www.riverchaseumc.org/prayers/

WAYS TO GIVE

ENGAGE
Engage is a safe and secure on-line giving portal that integrates with our church management system. Payments can be set up as a one-time gift or to recur (weekly, semi-monthly, monthly, quarterly), can be made either from a credit card or a bank account, and can be made "as a guest" without creating an account. You can reach Engage at https://engage.suran.com/rumcal/.

CASH OR CHECK
You can always give to Riverchase by cash or check. We have a time of giving during each service, you can bring your gift to the church office, or you can mail your gift to:

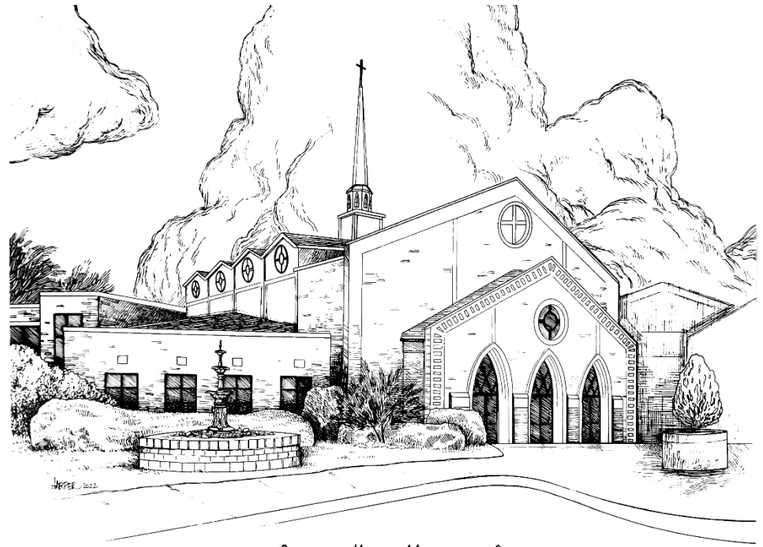
Riverchase UMC
Attn: Mary Anne Levet
1953 Old Montgomery Hwy
Birmingham, AL 35244

YOUR BANK'S ONLINE OPTIONS
Many banks now offer online bill payment services. These can be set up for one-time giving or for regularly scheduled gifts; each system is different but you can use the street address above and/or these email addresses: maryannel@riverchaseumc.org or finance@riverchaseumc.org. If you'd like to use this option and need more information from us, please contact Mary Anne Levet.

TEXT-TO-GIVE
Our text giving number is (833) 273-1232. Text the word BUDGET and an amount, the word BLDG (for the building fund) and an amount, or the word MISSIONS and an amount to the same number. You can make multiple gifts with a single text by sending, for example, BUDGET 100 BLDG 50 MISSIONS 50 to (833) 273-1232.

ON-LINE GIVING:
We have several options: ENGAGE, PayPal, and Venmo. Scan one of the QR codes below, or use one of these links/websites:
engage.suran.com/rumcal
paypal.me/RiverchaseUMC
Use the PayPal app to send money to @RiverchaseUMC
Use the Venmo app to send money to our Charity account @RiverchaseUMC

RIVERCHASE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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Our mission is to make disciples by Sharing the Joy of Christ!

Riverchase United Methodist Church
1953 Old Montgomery Hwy, Hoover, AL 35244
Telephone: 205-987-4030
www.riverchaseumc.org

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