ORDER OF WORSHIP

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 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 *All is Calm* arr. Robert Smith
Riverchase Instrumental Ensemble

***HYMN NO. 238** *Angels We Have Heard On High* GLORIA

***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.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

(9:45) Rev. Reid Turner (9:45) the Chadwick Family
(11:00) Rev. Nancy Harper (11:00) the Stone Family

Leader: In a world torn asunder by violence, Jesus says, "No more."
People: "As it is written, a new command I give, 'Love one another as I have loved you'."
Leader: In a world where hurting people are too often neglected, Jesus says, "No more."
People: "As it is written, a new command I give, 'Love one another as I have loved you'."
Leader: In a world where another's needs are too often overlooked, Jesus says, "No more."
People: "As it is written, a new command I give, 'Love one another as I have loved you'."

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 *Away In A Manger* arr. Mack Wilberg

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.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

SERMON Sharing the Joy of Christ Rev. Tony Johnson
Joseph's Gift
Scripture: Matthew 1:18-24
Pew Bible: NT 1

***HYMN NO. 250** *Once in Royal David's City* IRBY

***INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP**

***BENEDICTION** Rev. Tony Johnson

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

And our eyes at least shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

***POSTLUDE** *Sing We Now of Christmas* arr. Anna Laura Page

*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
Walt Rogers, Organ
Kathy Wallace, Piano
Sanctuary Choir
Riverchase Instrumental Ensemble

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Acolytes & Crucifers
9:45 Clair Cairnes & Grayson Lee Cathy Henry
11:00 Clair Cairnes & Grayson Lee Steve Halsey

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ALTAR FLOWERS

In Honor of Joan's birthday, given by Stuart Garrette
In Memory of Jim Seale, given by Friends in Christ

DONUT SPONSORS

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

FINE ARTS ACADEMY ART SHOW

In addition to music lessons, our Fine Arts Academy holds Art Classes for middle school students through Adults. Their art from this semester is being shown today in the Welcome Center...please enjoy a doughnut while you stroll through the Art Show.

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 9:45AM 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

December 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:45 & 11:00A.M.

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

facebook.com/riverchaseumc
instagram.com/riverchaseumc
youtube.com/riverchaseunitedmethodistchurch