ORDER OF WORSHIP

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2023

9:45 A.M.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

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

WELCOME Daniel deShazo

PRELUDE *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* arr. Joel Raney

***HYMN NO. 218** *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* CAROL

PASSING OF THE PEACE Daniel deShazo

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you,
All: And also with you.

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 Rev. Tony Johnson
the Batten 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.

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Tony Johnson

Leader: The Lord be with you,
All: And also with you.
Leader: Let us pray.

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 *A Cradle Carol* arr. Dan Forrest
Daniel deShazo, soloist

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 Are You Ready? Rev. John Ray
Scripture: Matt 24: 36-51
Pew Bible NT 33

***HYMN NO. 230** *O Little Town of Bethlehem* ST. LOUIS

***INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP**

***BENEDICTION** Rev. John Ray

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

***POSTLUDE** *Trumpet Tune on 'Antioch'* arr. Michael Helman

*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
Michael Allen, Piano

* *

Acolytes & Crucifer
Lane Kaufhold Joseph Kaufhold

* *

FLOWERS

In celebration of Joan Garrette's birthday, given by Stuart Garrette
To the glory of God, given by Lynda and Ron Kern
In memory of Judy Edmiston, given by Friends in Christ

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

On December 31, we will have a 9:45 AM traditional service and an 11:00 modern service.

OFFICE HOURS

The church office will be closed on December 25 & 26, in observance of Christmas.
Please call before coming to the office December 27 - 29.
There will be limited staff on campus.
The church office will be closed January 1, in observance of New Year's.

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: SERVICE TIMES

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Services:
3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 11:00P.M. Traditional, 5:00P.M. Modern

December 31:
9:45 A.M Traditional, 11:00 A.M. Modern

Something New at the 3pm Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion

While all our services will be family friendly...Our 3pm Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion service will be SUPER KID friendly! While it will remain a fun but reverent service, key components will be led by our children. Not a cutesy pageant but a serious service with children reading the Christmas Story. In addition, they will be responsible for other serious key pieces of worship. Our Children's Choir will also be performing during the service.

New Light Options for Kids on Christmas Eve!

As you enter this service, and all other Christmas Eve services, children will have a choice of light. Candle or Glow Stick for Silent Night as we end the service by Candlelight and now Glow Sticks too! This will allow many to participate safely without the fear of lighting someone on fire! :-0 It will be the parent prerogative as to which they should have. No Glow Sticks will be provided for adults!
So, beginning this year all services will be Christmas Eve Candlelight/Glow Stick and Communion Services.

RUMC LENTEN DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET

Yes---it *is* time to begin writing for RUMC's 2024 Lenten Devotional Booklet! This may be our most eagerly anticipated publication, and we are pleased to announce this year's theme---

Rejoice in The Lord Always! -Philippians 4:4-7

People want to begin reading on Ash Wednesday, February 14th, so you have only January to write and submit your piece, and we need 46!
Simply follow these guidelines: • Include your name, title, & selected scripture, add your personal story, and a brief prayer • Keep all of this to one, typed page or less. • E-mail it to: nancyh@riverchaseumc.org. We are excited to read your devotional experiences and stories that point to the Power of our God!

CHURCH WIDE DINNER- JANUARY 10

Join us Wednesday, January 10th at 6:00 PM in the Gym to kick off the new year. Eat a meal in fellowship with our Riverchase family as we introduce the North Alabama Conference theme for 2024.

Theme: Living the Story of Jesus: All for the Glory of God
Speaker: Bill Ivey

For more information and to register, go to www.riverchaseumc.org/event/church-wide-dinner/

OPEN PICKLEBALL SESSIONS – THURSDAYS 4-7PM

RUMC is now offering open Pickleball Sessions in our gym. These run weekly on Thursdays from 4:00 - 7:00 PM and on a come and go as you please basis. No reservations are required and there will be no cost to play. Pickleball is truly a game for all stages and all ages. So, please consider coming to a session and check it out. Equipment will be provided should you need it. Contact Mark Bourgoin at umaine@bellsouth.net with any questions. See you on the courts! NOTE: NO PICKLEBALL ON DECEMBER 28!

WAYS TO GIVE
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:
riverchaseumc.org/engage OR engage.suran.com/rumcal
YOU CAN GIVE THROUGH ENGAGE WITHOUT CREATING AN ACCOUNT.
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

Riverchase United Methodist Church

December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:45 A.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

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