ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:30 & 11:00A.M.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

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

PRELUDE *The First Noel* arr. Anna Laura Page

† **HYMN NO. 220** *Angels from the Realms of Glory* REGENT SQUARE

† **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.

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.

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.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE (9:30) The Schneider Family
(11:00) Pam, Richard, Todd, Shea & Kate Brazil

Today, we come face to face with the scandal of Advent: God calling Mary and Joseph to faithfulness despite the fear of disgrace. With Mary and Joseph, we choose to wait, watch, and listen for the way of Love instead of responding in fear to the world's judgment. We light this candle of love as a sign of our faithfulness as we seek, find, and follow Emmanuel, God with us.

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 Rev. Nancy Harper

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Nancy Harper

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.

HYMN NO. 217 *Away in a Manger* AWAY IN A MANGER
(Please Remain Seated)

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

OFFERTORY PRAYER Rev. Tony Johnson

OFFERTORY *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* arr. Jantz A. Black

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

SERMON Come Together for a Nostalgic Riverchase Christmas
"Hope is on the Way"
Shepherds - Hope through Searching Rev. Tony Johnson
Scripture: Luke 2: 8–20
Pew Bible: NT 81

† **HYMN NO. 219** *What Child is This* GREENSLEEVES

During this hymn, we invite you to be in a time of prayer. If so led, you are welcome to come to the altar rail to pray.

† **INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP**

† **NEW MEMBERS (11:00)** Ashley & Newman Jefferson

† **BENEDICTION** Rev. Tony Johnson

† **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

† **POSTLUDE** *Break Forth with Joy* J.S. Bach

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† Congregation stands, **Bold** congregation read aloud, ***Bold Italic*** congregation sings.

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Musicians
Daniel deShazo, Minister of Music and Worship Arts
Walt Rogers, Organ
Kathy Wallace, Piano
Sanctuary Choir

* *

Acolytes & Crucifer
Lane & Rebecca Kaufhold Joseph Kaufhold

* *

ALTAR FLOWERS

In memory of Leigh's dad, Johnny Driskill given by Leigh and Ken Gomany

In memory of Beth Carden by Byron Carden

In honor of Joan Garrette's birthday given by Stuart Garrette

DONUT SPONSORS

This week's Lickin' Good Donuts are sponsored by
the Aims Sunday School Class

SYMPATHY

To Sue Bennett on the death of her daughter, Laura Quinn.

To the family and friends of Jim Wyatt.

To Ragan Caputo Baker, and Alise and Gabe Caputo on the death of Alise and Gabe's father—Pascal Caputo.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

Christmas 2025

Wednesday, December 24, Christmas Eve
Candlelight Communion Services:

Traditional 11:00AM, 3:00 PM, 5:00 PM, and 11:00 PM, in the Sanctuary

Modern Service, at 5:00 PM, in The Gym

December 28

We will only have 2 services on December 28.
9:30AM Traditional
11:00AM Modern
NO 11:00AM Traditional Service

NEW BIBLE STUDIES STARTING ON JANUARY 14TH

Leader	Book	Time
Nancy Harper	I Wish Jesus Hadn't Said That	Wed 9:30AM
John Ray	The Letter to the Hebrews	Wed 9:30AM
Joel Roberts	Walk on Water (January 7th)	Wed 9:30AM
Jeff Wallace	Various Studies	Wed 5:55PM
Nancy Harper	I Wish Jesus Hadn't Said That	Wed 6:00PM
Jeff Rogers	Context	Wed 6:00PM
Reid Turner/Greg Tremblay	Contagious Faith	Wed 6:00PM
Caroline Hilliard	Movement/Yoga	Wed 6:00PM
Noel Johnson	Unplugged	Wed 6:00PM
Natalie French/Tara Glass	Getting it Right: Parenting Series	Wed 6:00PM

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.

Tom

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 9:30 AM - 12:15 PM.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Each Sunday at 9:30AM, 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

9:20-9:30 AM - Drop off in Sunday School Classroom
9:35 AM - All classes gather in the Children's Worship Center for Large Group
10:00 AM - All classes return to their classrooms for Small Group
10:30 AM - Pick up in Sunday School Classroom

WAYS TO GIVE

Automatic Bank Draft:
Set up a monthly recurring ACH gift with the church office or use services provided by your bank for automated giving.

Online Giving:
Use our website riverchaseumc.org/give to set up a one-time or recurring payment from your bank account, credit card or debit card.

Cash or Check:
You may place your cash or check in the offering plates as they are passed or mail to the church office.

Engage PayPal Venmo

RIVERCHASE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:30 & 11:00A.M.

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

Riverchase United Methodist Church
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www.riverchaseumc.org

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