ORDER OF WORSHIP

Christmas Eve

December 24th, 2025

5:00 P.M.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

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

PRELUDE *Festival of Carols* arr. Bill Galliford

WELCOME Rev. Tony Johnson

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Rev. Nancy Harper

Leader: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

People: And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have beheld His Glory, full of grace and truth.

***HYMN NO. 234** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* ADESTE FIDELES

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

True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal, lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb; Son of the Father, begotten, not created; O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest; O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning, Jesus to thee be all glory given. Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE The Allen Family

Leader: For anyone who has walked in darkness, a new light has dawned!
People: O come, let us adore him!

Leader: For anyone who has ever felt forgotten, a new light has dawned!
People: O come, let us adore him

Leader: For anyone whose patience has been put to the test, a new light has dawned!
People: O come, let us adore him!

Leader: For anyone in search of the way, the truth, and the life, a new day has dawned!
People: O come, let us adore him!

Leader: The flame of the Christ candle opens our eyes to God's everlasting light, as we celebrate the birth of Christ, our newborn King.

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.

HYMN SING

<u>The First Noel</u>

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.

<u>Away in a Manger</u>

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.

<u>Angels We Have Heard on High</u>

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

OFFERTORY PRAYER Rev. Tony Johnson

OFFERTORY *The First Noel* arr. Dan Forrest
Sanctuary Choir

MESSAGE Christmas Eve Rev. Tony Johnson

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

CONFESSION AND PARDON Rev. Nancy Harper

Almighty and everlasting God, on this most holy night when you gave the greatest gift of love our world has ever known, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole hearts; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves; we have failed to live lives worthy of your calling. Forgive us, we pray, and may the love of your son, Jesus Christ, so transform our hearts by His birth, that we too may be reborn this night and honor Your gift all the days of our lives. In the name of this most precious holy child we pray. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING Rev. Nancy Harper

Leader: The Lord be with you,
People: and also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God,
People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise. Father, at this blessed Christmas Eve we give You thanks and praise. You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth.

Leader: You made us in Your image; and though we all have sinned and fallen short of Your glory, You loved the world so much You gave Your only Son Jesus Christ to be our Savior. As Mary and Joseph went from Galilee to Bethlehem and there found no room, Jesus went from Galilee to Jerusalem and was despised and rejected. As in the poverty of a stable Jesus was born, so from suffering and death You raised Him to bring us life.
Therefore, with the angels who sang glory to You in the highest and peace to Your people on earth, with Your people in all ages and the whole company of heaven, we join in the song of unending praise,

People: Gloria, in Excelsis Deo! Glory to God in the highest! Blessed are You and holy is Your Son, Jesus Christ.

Leader: As the Word became flesh born of woman, on that night long ago, so on the night He offered Himself up for us, He took bread, gave thanks 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; for 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." Therefore, in remembrance of all Your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we ask that You accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, which we offer in union with Christ's sacrifice for us, as a living and holy surrender of ourselves. Send the power of Your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts that in the breaking of this bread and the drinking of this juice we may know the presence of the living Christ; be one body in Him, cleansed by His blood; faithfully serve Him in the world; and look forward to His coming in final victory.

People: Through Him, with Him, in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, All honor and glory is Yours, Almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

ANTHEM *O Holy Night* Adolphe Adam
Daniel deShazo, soloist

SHARING OF THE LIGHT

HYMN NO. 239 *Silent Night* STILLE NACHT

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.

Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King; Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

BENEDICTION Rev. Nancy Harper

POSTLUDE *Grand Fantasia on 'Joy to the World'* arr. Marc Cheban

*Please stand as you are able.

* *

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

* *

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

Our Nursery is provided for our 11am and 5:00pm Christmas Eve services for ages 6 Weeks-2 Years Old.

FLOWER DEDICATIONS

In memory of our parents Floyd and Dorothey Iseman and Art and Peg Hoyle by Jan and Ken Hoyle
In honor of Peggy "Gran" Camp by Susan and Shane Camp

MUFFINS & COOKIES

Today's treats are in honor of John & Karen Ray, given anonymously.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

On December 28, we will have a 9:30AM Traditional service and an 11:00AM Modern service.

OFFICE HOURS

The church office will be closed on December 24 & 25 in observance of Christmas.
The church office will close at noon on December 31 and will be closed on January 1, in observance of New Year's.

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

Registration opens January 1, 2026 on our website:www.riverchaseumc.org

NEW TRADITIONAL SERMON SERIES STARTING JANUARY 25

Secrets to a New Life
Becoming a little better in 26'

Week 1 - New Beginning
Week 2 - New Habits
Week 3 - New Journey

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

Christmas Eve
5:00 PM

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

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