HANGING OF THE GREENS

Sunday, December 1, 2024
9:45 & 11:00 AM

Riverchase United Methodist Church
1953 Old Montgomery Hwy, Hoover, AL 35244
205.987.4030

RIVERCHASEUMC.ORG

RIVERCHASE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Hanging of the Greens

December 1, 2024

Please enter in silence, awaiting the coming of the light of Christ.

Entrance of the Light

Chiming of the Hour

Call to Worship — Rev. Tony Johnson

> The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them has the light shined. For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

*Hymn No. 211 — *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* — ADESTE FIDELES

(vs. 1&2)

Anthem — *Still, Still, Still* — Ruth Elaine Schram

Children's Choir

Anthem — *Follow The Star* — Lynn Shaw Bailey

Children's Choir

Response

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.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

9:45 Brenda & Mark Johnson 11:00 Beth Kern

Reading Christ Is the Light of the World! 9:45 Rev. Reid Turner

11:00 Rev. Nancy Harper

The Advent Wreath has been used through the centuries to signify the coming of God's Light into our world of darkness. One of the four candles in the circle - representing Christ's endless love - is lit each Sunday of Advent. Three of the candles are purple, for penitence and royalty, while the pink candle, always lit on the third Sunday, stands for Joy at the coming birth! The large, white "Christ Candle" in the center, is saved for Christmas Eve, fulfilling the Advent promise of God's love - the birth of purity, restoration, and light!

*Hymn No. 229 *Infant Holy* W ZLOBEIE LEZX

PRESENTATION OF THE NATIVITY

9:45 Lynn and Paul Roebuck 11:00 Brandie and Lee Guthrie

Reading Mary Brings Forth Her Firstborn Son Rev. Tony Johnson

"And Joseph went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David), to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that they should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn." During this Advent season, let us be reminded to make room for all who search for shelter, peace, and hope.

Anthem *Of the Father's Love* arr. Sandra Eithun

Riverchase Chancel Ringers

PRESENTATION OF THE POINSETTIAS

Reading Flowers in Winter
Rev. John Ray

Poinsettias are the flowers of Christmas. They are growing things; their beauty is alive in splendid color. They call us to celebrate the world around us and share its beauty in the place where we worship. The poinsettia is a vivid plant, full of meaning. A cluster of small yellow flowers springs forth from among its crimson leaves, which themselves contrast sharply with the remaining green leaves. The star-shaped formation of the red leaves suggests the guiding star of Bethlehem. The crown of yellow flowers reminds us of Him who was born the infant King. The red leaves foreshadow the cruel cross that will one day await the Christ-child: the remaining carpet of green, a reflection of abundant and everlasting life.

Anthem Pastorale on *Lo, How A Rose*
Bach/McFadden

Riverchase Chancel Ringers

Offertory Prayer Rev. Tony Johnson

Offertory *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* arr. Jantz
Black

Sanctuary Choir

THE PRESENTATION OF THE CHRISMONS

9:45 Richard and Judi Douglas 11:00 Stuart and Joan Garrette

Reading For God So Loved the World Rev. Nancy Harper

The Chrismon tree is a variation of the traditional Christmas tree, which is decorated with the "Monograms of Christ." These, easily recognizable symbols, such as the shell for baptism, the crown of Christ's Kingship, the cross of His sacrifice and

defeat of death, and the butterfly of resurrection hope, are all hand-crafted in white and gold to represent the purity and perfection of our Savior, as well as the Joy and Light He brings into the world. Each one reminds us of how much God loves us--enough ... "that He gave His only begotten Son. "

*Hymn No. 230 *O Little Town Of Bethlehem* ST. LOUIS

Anthem *Sing We Now of Christmas* Jay Althouse

Sanctuary Choir

LIGHTING OF THE CHRISMON TREE

Anthem *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* arr. Alice Parker

*Hymn No. 211 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* VENI EMMANUEL

(vs. 1,3&4)

Responsive Reading Rev. John Ray

Leader: Dear people of God, Jesus said, "I am the light of the world, whoever follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

People: We have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him. He is the light of the world and in Him is no darkness.

*Benediction (unison) Rev. Tony Johnson

The word of the prophets has been fulfilled; the promise of God has come to earth! Let us go into this night and follow the star that leads to His stable and, finding Him, crown Him King of our hearts. Amen.

*Anthem *Hallelujah Chorus* G.F. Handel

From *Messiah*

Postlude *Toccata on "Veni Emmanuel"* arr. Page Long

*Congregation standing, if able

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Daniel deShazo, Director of Music and Worship
Walt Rogers, organ
Kathy Wallace, piano
Sanctuary Choir
Riverchase Instrumental Ensemble
Children's Choir, Jessica Kaufhold, Director
Riverchase Chancel Ringers; Jessica Kaufhold, Director

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ALTAR & NARTHEX FLOWERS

In Memory of Mike Raymo, given by Friends in Christ
In Memory of Ed Segner, given by Friends in Christ

SYMPATHY

To the family and friends of Chuck Beck
To the family and friends of Marion Parker
To Wes & Susanne Russell & family on the death of Wes's mother Patsy Russell.

DONUT SPONSORS

This week's Lickin' Good donuts are sponsored by David & Kay Taggert

WORSHIP TIMES

December 8:

Music Sunday, 2nd Sunday of Advent
9:45 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. Traditional, 11:00 A.M. Modern

December 15:

3rd Sunday of Advent
9:45 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. Traditional, 11:00 A.M. Modern

December 22:

4th *Sunday of Advent*

9:45 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. Traditional, 11:00 A.M. Modern

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

December 29:
9:45 A.M. Traditional, 11:00 A.M. Modern

Join us December 8th at 9:45 and 11:00 A.M. for our
Music Ministry Christmas Celebration
Feel the joy of the season featuring music from the Sanctuary Choir,
Children's Choir and a professional orchestra.

Advent and Christmas 2024

Campfire Christmas
Sunday, December 1, 5:00 to 6:00PM,
at the Mission Center Pavillion

Music Ministry Christmas Celebration
Sunday, December 8, in 9:45 & 11:00AM
Traditional Worship Services

ADVENTure at Angel Workshop
Sunday, December 8, 2PM
in the Children's Worship Center

Family Christmas Dinner

Wednesday, December 11, at 6:00 PM, in the Gym
Reservations required.

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

I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life.

John 8:12