

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

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|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> First time guest | <input type="checkbox"/> Interested in membership or Baptism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Returning guest  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member           |  |

### New Contact Information:

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

### Opportunities to serve

#### Random acts of kindness:

- ☐ Invite someone that is struggling this season to our Blue Christmas Service on Dec. 21 at 6:30pm.
- ☐ Pray for the people, leadership, and ministry of Two Rivers Church.
- ☐ Pray for peace in the world.

#### Two Rivers Outreach Ministry opportunities:

- ☐ Donate new or used household items to Operation Safety Net.
- ☐ Provide blankets, hats and cheap cotton gloves to Operation Safety Net.
- ☐ Donate non-perishable food and hygiene products for our Little Free Pantry.

#### Worship team opportunities to serve:

- ☐ Greeter—Greet people at the West parking lot.
- ☐ Usher—Greet people as they come into the service. Help with offering and Communion.
- ☐ Tech Support -Video recording, editing, sound board and /or slides. Get behind the scenes and help create a meaningful worship experience for those in the sanctuary and those watching from home.

December 18, 2022

## Announcements

We are blessed by your presence, and pray that worship is meaningful for you. You are invited to note your attendance and mailing address on the blue attendance tear-off sheet found in each bulletin. This sheet may be placed in the collection bowl at the front of the sanctuary after service. We encourage family participation in worship. We can provide activity bags for children upon request. Please see an usher for more information. Ushers can also provide you with large print bulletins if needed. We extend a special welcome to you and trust you will experience God's presence today.

**Adult Sunday School—10:45 am in the Asbury Parlor**

**Kids Sunday School—10:45 am starts in Epworth Hall**

**Swahili Sunday School—10:45 am in the Swahili Class**

**Discipleship Schedule** Monday Bible Study meets in-person every week in Epworth Hall at noon. Wednesday Prayer & Devotion Time also continues to meet on Facebook Live and Zoom at noon every week. Zoom Meeting ID # for Wednesday is 961 006 728. The Zoom meeting can also be joined by phone simply by dial 312-626-6799. Once connected, dial the Meeting ID # 961 006 728, and you will join in the conversation.

**Blue Christmas** The Blue Christmas service will be on Wednesday, December 21 at 6:30 p.m. This service, which takes place on the longest night of the year, is a sacred space to recognize the more difficult emotions associated with the holiday season. Blue Christmas is a chance to acknowledge grief, anxiety, and stress that comes at Christmas. The service includes space for silence, contemplative music, reflection, and a ritual for healing.

**Christmas Eve Service** will be held on Saturday, December 24 at 4:00 p.m. The service will include wonderful music, the Christmas story retold, and sharing in Holy Communion. Christmas Eve is a unique worship experience. Please join with us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

**Christmas Morning at 9:30 a.m.** We will meet in the back of the sanctuary, seated around the round tables in a more intimate, interactive and "Family Style" Communion.

Network: Two Rivers Sanctuary

Password: TwoRivers2013

www.TwoRiversUMC.org

@RITwoRivers



Donation QR Code

December 18, 2022  
Fourth Sunday of Advent



### Luke 1:39-58 (CEB)

Mary got up and hurried to a city in the Judean highlands. She entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. With a loud voice she blurted out, "God has blessed you above all women, and he has blessed the child you carry. Why do I have this honor, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. Happy is she who believed that the Lord would fulfill the promises he made to her."

Mary said,

"With all my heart I glorify the Lord!

In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior.

He has looked with favor on the low status of his servant.

Look! From now on, everyone will consider me highly favored because the mighty one has done great things for me.

Holy is his name.

He shows mercy to everyone,  
from one generation to the next,  
who honors him as God.

He has shown strength with his arm.

He has scattered those with arrogant thoughts and proud inclinations.

He has pulled the powerful down from their thrones  
and lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty-handed.

He has come to the aid of his servant Israel,  
remembering his mercy,  
just as he promised to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to Abraham's descendants forever."

Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months, and then returned to her home.

When the time came for Elizabeth to have her child, she gave birth to a boy. Her neighbors and relatives celebrated with her because they had heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy.

## GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE

PRELUDE "Lo, How a Rose E'vr Blooming" Theodore Baker

GREETING

LIGHTING THE LOVE CANDLE Lucy, Ellie, and Sarah McCoy, and Maggie Herrera

\*OPENING HYMN UMH #198 "My Soul Gives Glory to My God"

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*CONFESSION

All: God of today and tomorrow, when Mary was pregnant and afraid, she ran to her cousin Elizabeth's home. Elizabeth threw open the door with joy and showered blessings upon her. How often do we have that same opportunity? How often do we leave the door locked, the curtains drawn, and the lights off? How often do we shower critique, judgment, or frustration instead of blessing and joy? Gracious God, forgive us for our wrongs. We want to see you when we see our neighbor. Amen.

One: Friends, this I know – God delights in us. God throws open the door like Elizabeth and says, "Come on home. You are my favorite!" And in that moment, we are blessed. In that moment, we are forgiven. In that moment, we are seen, healed, and welcomed home. So rest in this good news: you are saved by grace. You are highly favored! So let us respond as Mary did:

All: My soul magnifies the Lord! My spirit rejoices in God my savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed!

One: And now favored ones, you are redeemed. Share the joy and peace of Christ with one another. Tell someone near you "You are highly favored!"

\*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

CHORAL OFFERING "Mary, How Could You Have Known" - Althouse/Albrecht  
Two Rivers Sanctuary Choir

## PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

THE CHRISMON Cross with Heart

ADVENT POEM "Where I Saw God Last" by S. Speed

ADVENT REFRAIN #196 v. 1 "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All: God of all, we guard our hearts with questions, doubt, fear, and defenses. So knock on our door, bypass the guard at our vulnerable hearts, and come right in. Make yourself at home. Pull us close and tell us your story of unbelievable good news. We are listening. We are grateful. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Mary and Elizabeth Luke 1:39-58 (CEB)

SERMON "We See God in Each Other" Rev. Robb McCoy

## RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

All: We believe that Creator and all of Creation are linked. Humans belong to one another in an undeniable way. We are bone of bone and flesh of flesh, life breathed into dust. We believe that God invites us to live into that truth—to love without abandon, to see the good in one another, to trust that all belong to God.

We know that this life of connection is easier said than done, which is why we gather in this space, week after week, generation after generation, to be reminded: We see God in each other. This we believe. Amen.

RESPONSE HYMN (See Screens) "God Became Flesh With Us to Dwell"

### INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY "There's A Star in the East" arr. John Carter  
Nancy Schwegler, piano

All are invited to come forward with their offering and their prayer for the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Names written in the gray box will be read during the prayer. Prayers written in the white box will not be read today, but will be shared with our prayer chain and be a part of our Wednesday online prayer service.

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

\*DOXOLOGY UMH #94

\*BENEDICTION

\*CLOSING HYMN #206 v. 1, 3 "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

\*DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE "O Come Divine Messiah" - Pellegrin

\* You are invited to stand as you are able.  
FWS - The Faith We Sing (black hymnal)  
UMH- United Methodist Hymnal (red hymnal)  
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December 18, 2022



## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Fourth Sunday of Advent

You are invited to write down the name of someone you share a connection with. Family or chosen family, we will give thanks to this relationship of love and uplifting support.

## PRAYERS TO SHARE

This prayer will be shared with our e-mail Prayer Chain and in our Wednesday Facebook Live prayer group. Personal details will not be shared on Wednesday.