

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

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

### New Contact Information:

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

### Opportunities to serve

#### Saturday Meal Site opportunities to serve:

- Hosts: Someone who can greet guests and sit with them during the meal.
- Clean-up crew. Come around 12:00-1:30pm.
- Provide grocery bags and/or gloves for Meal Site & Operation Safety Net

#### 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.
- Video—Get behind the camera to make a video recording of the sermon.
- Editor—Take the footage of the worship series and edit into a video to be posted on youtube.
- Sound—Help with the sound board, making sure mic levels are correct during worship.
- Slides—Help switch the slides during the service.

December 19, 2021

### 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 left at your seat for the ushers to gather 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.

#### Sunday School Classes—

Adult Sunday School Class @ 10:30am— Asbury Parlor and Zoom  
Swahili Bible Study Class @10:30am—Swahili Class Room  
Children & Youth Sunday School @ 10:30am—Epworth Hall

**Discipleship Schedule** Monday Noon Bible Study meets in-person in Epworth Hall. Wednesday Noon Prayer & Devotion Time continues to meet on Facebook Live and Zoom. Zoom Meeting ID # for both is 961 006 728. All Zoom meetings 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.

**Christmas Eve Service** will be held on Friday, December 24 at 4:00 p.m. The service will include wonderful music, the Christmas story retold, and will end with the lighting of candles (glowsticks) and singing of "Silent Night." Christmas Eve is a unique worship experience. Please join with us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

**Wednesday Vespers/Blue Christmas Service** This Wednesday a special "Blue Christmas" service will be held here at 7:00 p.m. This short service will be a quiet time of prayer, music, Communion, and devotion. It will also have a short ritual of healing. The service will last about half an hour and is intended to provide space for healing at Christmas.

**Puppet Show** On December 26, a long-standing tradition at Two Rivers Church will be renewed. The children and youth will put on the first puppet show in over a decade. The original "Puppet News Christmas" will be performed live during the worship service on Sunday, December 26. The show will feature a live broadcast of the events of Christmas. Anchors Dr. Luke A. Possel and Matthew T. Collector will bring you "all the news that's fit to puppet."

Network: Two Rivers Sanctuary  
Password: TwoRivers2013  
www.TwoRiversUMC.org



Donation QR Code

December 19, 2021  
Fourth Sunday of Advent



John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.

The Word was with God in the beginning.

Everything came into being through the Word, and without the Word nothing came into being.

What came into being through the Word was life, and the life was the light for all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light.

A man named John was sent from God. He came as a witness to testify concerning the light, so that through him everyone would believe in the light. He himself wasn't the light, but his mission was to testify concerning the light.

The true light that shines on all people was coming into the world.

The light was in the world, and the world came into being through the light, but the world didn't recognize the light.

The light came to his own people, and his own people didn't welcome him.

But those who did welcome him, those who believed in his name, he authorized to become God's children, born not from blood nor from human desire or passion, but born from God.

The Word became flesh and made his home among us.

We have seen his glory, glory like that of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

John testified about him, crying out, "This is the one of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is greater than me because he existed before me.'"

From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace; as the Law was given through Moses, so grace and truth came into being through Jesus Christ.

No one has ever seen God.

God the only Son, who is at the Father's side, has made God known.

## GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE

Prelude "Breath of Heaven" - A. Grant & C. Eaton

Greeting

Presentation of Advent Candle and Chrismon  
Charles Cooley & Liam Muir

Advent Reading John 20:29-31

One: A voice cries out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord,"

All: **Make straight in the desert a highway for our God."**

Lighting the Candle of Love and Hanging the Chrismon

Hymn #207 UMH "Prepare the Way of the Lord"

One: Sing and rejoice, O daughter Zion!

All: **For lo, I will come and dwell in your midst, says the Lord.**

One: Many nations shall join themselves to the Lord in that day,

All: **And they shall be my people; and I will dwell in your midst.**

\*Opening Hymn #206 UMH

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" vs. 1&3

\*Prayer of Confession

All: **O God of Love Eternal, you became flesh and descended into the world to redeem all people. We confess that we have not lived as redeemed people, but as frightened people. We have not loved our neighbor as ourself, and struggle even with loving ourselves. Forgive us for forgetting that your love precedes all things. Help us see ourselves and each other as you see us—as wonderful gifts to the world, made in love and in the image of God.**

*(Pause for silent reflection and confession)*

One: The Word became flesh and made its home among us. In the name of Eternal Christ of love and grace, you are forgiven.

All: **In the name of Jesus Christ, born once and coming again, we are forgiven. Amen.**

\*Passing of the Peace

Spirit Hymn #195 UMH "Send Your Word" vs. 1

Pastoral Prayer and 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.

Musical Offering "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

tune DIVINUM MYSTERIUM--arr. Lloyd Larson

*Nancy Schwegler, piano*

## PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

All: **Holy God, open our hearts to the story of your love. Open our minds to new ways of knowing you. Open our doors for all whom you would welcome. Amen.**

Scripture Reading John 1:1-18 (CEB)

Sermon All the Good: Do in Love - Rev. Robb McCoy

## RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

Response Hymn #203 UMH "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" vs. 1 & 4

Offering Reflection and Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: As we prepare for the coming of Christ, we are thankful for Christ already among us.

All: **Holy and Gracious God, your love precedes all things. We can love because you first loved us. As we prepare for Christmas, help us to have a spirit of gratitude, that we may respond in generosity. We pause to reflect on what your love empowers us to be and do.**

*(Pause for Silent Reflection on Love)*

One: We will sing praises to your name, Most High. Amen.

\*Closing Hymn #213 UMH "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" v. 1&4

\*Blessing and Dismissal

Postlude "The King Shall Come" - Trevor Thomson

\* You are invited to stand as you are able.  
FWS - The Faith We Sing (black hymnal)  
UMH - United Methodist Hymnal (red hymnal)  
Words of anthem/hymn reprinted under CCLI License

December 19, 2021



## PRAYER MINISTRY

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

Who would you like to see this prayer?

- Pastor Only.** Only the pastor will see this prayer. He will most likely see it and be in prayer for it on Monday morning.
- Prayer Chain.** These prayers will be sent to those who have signed up for prayer chain email. They will also be prayed for by first name only during our Wednesday online prayer service.

Please be in prayer for:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please pray for this:

- For this week only.
- Until \_\_\_\_\_
- This is an ongoing need.

I am interested in being a part of the Prayer Chain:

Email: \_\_\_\_\_