

NAME: _____

- First time guest
- Returning guest
- Member
- Interested in membership or Baptism

New Contact Information:

Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

Opportunities to serve

Random acts of kindness:

- Give an extra big tip to a wait staff at a restaurant
- 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 24, 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 (No Class Dec. 25 or Jan 1)
Kids Sunday School—10:45 am starts in Epworth Hall (No Class Dec. 25 or Jan 1)
Swahili Sunday School—10:45 am in the Swahili Class (No Class Dec. 25 or Jan 1)

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. (No Bible Study Dec. 26, Jan. 2 or Jan. 9)

Christmas Morning at 9:30 a.m. We expect a more intimate and informal gathering. We will meet at the tables in the back of the sanctuary. We will sing some favorite Christmas songs and share Communion in a "family style" way. We are hoping for a couple of volunteers to bring cinnamon rolls, donuts, or some other kind of treat for us to share together on this special Christmas morning.

Worship on New Years Day On the first day of 2023, we will celebrate the Epiphany of Christ. We will give out "Star Words," which are meant to be a meaningful point of focus for your new year. You will be invited to place your Star Word somewhere prominent - a place where you will see it often - and use it as a focus and theme.

Starting January 8 during the Sunday school hour, Pastor Robb will lead a discussion / 7-week study and writing process at the back of the sanctuary. Two Rivers Church member Viminda Shafer will assist in leading the discussions. After the study and writing process, we will enter a 28-day call to prayer for the entire congregation. The study portion of the process will utilize the Wesleyan Quadrilateral – a tool for theological and spiritual discernment as described in the United Methodist Book of Discipline.

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



Donation QR Code

December 24, 2022
Christmas Eve



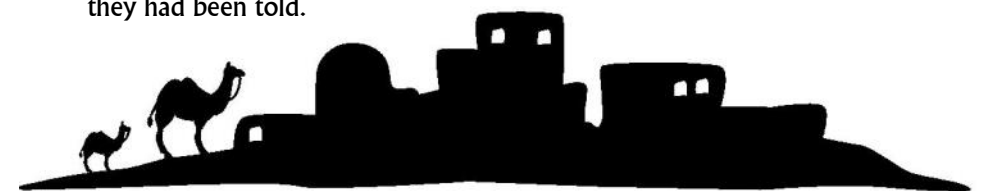
Luke 2:1-20

In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. Since Joseph belonged to David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant. While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom.

Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified.

The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord. This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, "Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors."

When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go right now to Bethlehem and see what's happened. Let's confirm what the Lord has revealed to us." They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw this, they reported what they had been told about this child. Everyone who heard it was amazed at what the shepherds told them. Mary committed these things to memory and considered them carefully. The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Everything happened just as they had been told.



GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE

PRELUDE "Breath of Heaven" - Amy Grant

GREETING

CHORAL OFFERING "Hush" - Albrecht

CHRISTMAS POEM AND LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

*OPENING HYMN #239 v. 1-3 "Silent Night"

*CONFESSION

One: Holy God, We admit—we don't fully understand the Christmas story.

All: We are not familiar with angel choruses.

One: We have not walked many miles to be counted in a census,

All: and we don't always hear your voice in our dreams.

One: We don't fully understand this story, so we admit, sometimes we hesitate to tell it. Instead of running out into the streets to shout that there is a love bigger than we could imagine,

All: we whisper this good news.

One: Instead of throwing open the doors and inviting people in,

All: we simply leave them unlocked, hoping folks will figure it out.

One: Instead of telling the next generation why this night matters so much,

All: we stay quiet, afraid of creating pressure.

One: Forgive us for our silence.

All: Forgive us for our hesitation.

One: Forgive us for the moments when we fail to share your good news.

All: Plant this story of love so deep in our bones that we cannot help but share it from generation to generation. Amen.

<Pause for a moment of silent confession and prayer>

One: Friends, repeat after me: No matter where we go. No matter what we say. No matter what we do. We belong to God. We are held. We are loved. We are forgiven. Amen. Now let us rise and sing. We will break the silence of the night. We will lift up our voice to declare with the angels that Christ is born.

*HYMN #240 "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

COMMUNION

COMMUNION MUSIC "Christmas Carol Duets" - arr. Joel Raney

Piano Duet— Nancy Schwegler and Mary Ellen Carroll

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All: O Holy God, we need this story—this Christmas story. We need this story of love that changed the world. We need this story of angel choruses that give reason to hope, and shepherds interrupted by Good News. Our hearts have been fed by your bread. Now we come to feast upon your Word. So we are here, drawn in together, huddled in close, yearning for this story. We need the truth that lies deep in these holy words. Still our hearts. Quiet our minds. Open us to your Spirit. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:1-20 (CEB)

CHORAL OFFERING "Gloria in Excelsis" - Vivaldi

SERMON "God dwells with us" - Robb McCoy

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe that for generations people have gathered together on this holy night, because there is something about this story that speaks to the deepest parts of us.

We believe in bundling up this hope, this good news, and passing it on—to our children, to our neighbors, to the world around us.

I believe my voice can make a difference, just like I believe this story can make a difference, so I will not stay quiet.

I will tell this story—of a love that makes room for all.

I will sing this story—of a love that knows our name.

I will live this story—because love has come again.

I believe that words have power.

I will not stay quiet. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN #239 v. 1 (a capella) "Silent Night"

*DISMISSAL

CLOSING HYMN # 246 v. 1, 2, 4 "Joy to the World"



* 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 24, 2022



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: _____