RIVERBEND UNITED CHURCH
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CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

We Gather Together

Prelude		Andrew Sims
Welcome		Rev. Valerie Oden
Introit	*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent*	Choir
Call to Worship	Isaiah 9: 2, 6	
*Opening Hymn	*O Come All Ye Faithful* vss. 1, 3, 4, 5 **VU 60**	Marv Severson, Trumpet

Opening Prayer *(in unison)*

God of mystery,
You come to us this evening
softly, as a mother's sigh,
startling, as a newborn's cry.
Come into our hearts, we pray,
that we might be cradled in your love
and stirred by your radiance.
We pray in the name of the babe
born to change the world, Amen.

Special Music	*In the Bleak Midwinter (Huff)*	Choir
Children's Time	"Room for a Little One…" *by Martin Waddell and Jason Cockcroft*	Emily Severson
Special Music (5:00)	*See Amid the Winter's Snow*	Vocals: Annika Schoenhardt, Alise Sevigny Cello: Lukas Bucerius; Guitar: Joel Fleck
(7:00)	*Sing We Now of Christmas (McChesney)*	Handbells *Directed by Lois Samis Lund*

We Share in the Christmas Story

Hymn	*O Little Town of Bethlehem*	vss. 1 & 2	**VU 64**
Reading	Luke 2: 1-7		
Hymn	*Away in a Manger*	vs. 1	**VU 69**
Special Music (7:00)	*What Child Is This (Dobrinski)*		Handbells
Reading	Luke 2: 8-12		
Hymn	*The First Nowell*	vss. 1 & 2	**VU 91**
Reading	Luke 2: 13-14		
Hymn	*Angels We Have Heard on High*	vss. 1 & 2	**VU 38**
Reading	Luke 2: 15-16		
*Hymn	*Joy to the World*	vss. 1, 2, 4	**VU 59**

We Respond with our Gifts and our Lives

Offering Our Gifts *Arise (J. Martin; arr. Foil / S. Martin)* Choir

Prayer for Peace (*Unison*) *(Celebrate God's Presence, adapted)*

Tonight, O God,
the soles of your feet have touched the earth.
Tonight, the back street, the forgotten and
marginalized have been lit up with your love.
Tonight, the households of earth
welcome the Child of heaven.
For tonight, you are born as one of us.
So may our candlelight tonight
reflect your awesome mystery
and may our hearts be set afire
with new commitment to your way of love.
May your peace spread across the earth like
the light of eternal sunrise. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing the Light

The first prayer of peace is in our hands as we share the light with each other. ***Please hold your lit candle upright*** *and let your neighbor tip their unlit candle. Adults, please be mindful of children with candles.*

*Hymn *Silent Night* **VU 67**

*Benediction

*******denotes you are invited to stand as you are able and inclined*

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Thanks to tonight's readers:

5:00*: Sandra Bucerius, Al Vette, Sam, Lukas & Ben*
7:00*: David Faber, Lay Worship Leader; Joel Fleck, Youth Co-Cordinator*

Our Mission

We, the people of Riverbend United Church, recognize the dignity, value, and beauty of each and every individual as a beloved child of God.

We seek to grow spiritually, deepening our connections to God and to each other through worship, discussion, reflection, and service.

We embrace the gifts brought by all people of every age, culture, economic background, ethnicity, gender, gender expression, mental and physical ability, and sexual orientation that enrich the life of this faith community.

As followers of Christ, we celebrate the diversity brought by each person who joins us on our journey and shares in our congregational life and work, welcoming their full participation in church membership, leadership, and celebration of life events.

Upcoming: January 13, 9:00 a.m. "The Parables of Jesus" with Rev. Valerie
January 13, 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. "Funeral Pre-Planning Seminar"

Merry Christmas from the Staff and Lay Leaders of Riverbend United Church

Staff Ministry Team

Valerie Oden, Lead Minister
Tom Sawyer, Minister Emeritus
Joanne Olson, Health & Care Ministry
Paula Roberts, Music Director
Andrew Sims, Accompanist
Lois Samis Lund, Handbell Choir Director
Emily Severson, Children's Ministry
Joel Fleck, Youth Co-Coordinator
Alex Rasmussen, Youth Co-Coordinator
Jacqueline Hunt, Office Manager

Ministry of the Community

Matthew Schoenhardt, Chair
Christine Ens, Past Chair
Tom LaPointe, Treasurer
David Galbraith, Property & AV
Ray Hawrelak & Jesse Lim, AV
Carolyn Miller, Worship Slides
Peggy Robinson, Communion/Decor
Stephen & Fiona Bamforth, Communion
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