Riverbend United Church
Exploring Faith, Engaging Community

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Christmas Eve 2022

We Gather Together

Prelude — Sherry Steele

Introit and Candle Lighting — *Love's Pure Light (Yon and Raney)*
RUC Choir, Paula Roberts, Director

Call to Worship — *Isaiah 9: 2, 6*

*Opening Hymn — *O Come All Ye Faithful* vss. 1, 3, 4, 5 **VU 60**
Marv Severson, Trumpet

Welcome — Rev. Valerie Oden

Opening Prayer *(in unison)*

God of infinite 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
to newly walk as your children of
wholeness and healing.
We pray in the name of the babe
born to change the world, Amen.

Special Music — *Still, Still, Still (arr.: V.C. Johnson)* RUC Choir

Children's Time — "The Christmas Stable" *(Written by Carolyn Miller)*
Krystal Manuel, Children's Director

We Share in the Christmas Story

Reflection

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**
Reading	Luke 2: 8-12		
Hymn	*The First Nowell*	vss. 1 & 2	**VU 91**
Reading	Luke 2: 13-14		
Hymn	*Hark the Herald Angels Sing*	vs. 1	**VU 48**
	Angels We Have Heard on High	vss. 1 & 3	**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 — *Sing We Now of Christmas* (arr: Mark Hayes) RUC 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.

Special Music *O Holy Night* John Tessier, Soloist

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*: Jennifer Tupper, Phil Sevigny, Alise Sevigny*
6:30*: Madison Prairie, Sheila Luther, Luke Nelson, Randy Nelson*

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.

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

Hearing assistance is available.
Please ask at the sound booth.
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