Riverbend United Church
Exploring Faith, Engaging Community

December 29, 2024

We Gather Together

Prelude — Sherry Steele

Welcome and Announcements

Introit — *Of the Father's Love Begotten, vs.1* — VU 61

Call to Worship

We emerge from the stable filled with wonder,
The gift of new life and light consumes our hearts.

We continue to reflect, as the journey continues.
Beyond the manger, we look to the future.

As families and friends gather to celebrate the dawn of a new year,
May we hold fast to the stories of God's love for us.

These stories connect us, generation to generation,
They inspire us to be God's hands in the world, and to stay true to the lights of Advent, generating hope, peace, joy and love in our lives.

Christmas Prayer (Unison)

God of birth and growth, we remember that in the gift of your son Jesus, you modeled what it is to be fully human.

May your love be revealed in our lives, shared with those around us, and resonated throughout the world.

Help us to carry the light of Advent forward on our journey, that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways.

*Opening Hymn	*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*	VU 44
Readings	Colossians 3:12-17 Psalm 148 Luke 2:41-52	VU 871
Musical offering		Sherry Steele & Doug Spaner
Refection	"Fairest object of my love"	Sherry Steele
*Hymn	*Before the Marvel of this Night* vss. 1 and 3	VU 40

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

Prayer Hymn	*Love Shines as a Solitary Star*	MV 220

Silent Prayer

Prayer of the People / The Lord's Prayer — VU 921

Offering our Gifts

Offering plates can be found in the narthex. Electronic gifts are welcome by e-transfer to: contactus@riverbendunited.org or on the church website. We give in gratitude for God's grace and in hope that peace may spread to all.

*Closing Hymn	*Unto us a Boy is Born*	VU 54

*Benediction

Postlude — Sherry Steele

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

"VU" refers to the red hardback hymnal *Voices United*
"MV" refers to the paperbound hymnal, *More Voices*

Welcome to Riverbend United Church!
We're glad you're here.

Thank you to Sherry Steele for leading today's worship service.
Sherry is our Accompanist and is a bright spark amongst us.
She is a Voice Instructor at UofA and is
General Manager of the Cantilon Choirs.

Hearing Assistance available.
Please enable "T-coil" in your hearing aid
or pick up a headset from the Audio-Visual desk.

Have a safe and blessed holiday week!

Note: The church office is closed from December 24th to January 3rd. Valerie is on call for pastoral care and will receive voice mail messages left on the office phone (press 2 for her) or on her cell phone.

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