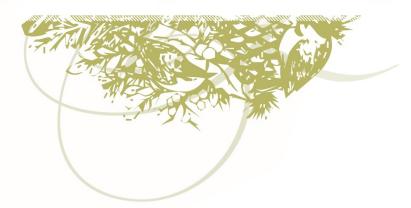


Share the Good News of CHRISTMAS



December 28, 2025
First Sunday of Christmas



3400 North Atlantic Avenue Cocoa Beach, Florida 32931 321-783-6085 www.riversidepresbyterianchurch.org On behalf of Riverside Presbyterian, it is our pleasure to welcome you to worship this morning. The opportunity to worship together as the Family is one of God's greatest gifts. It is our hope that this time and place will be a grounding place for us all, one that enables us to live as freely and fully as God intends.



STEWARDSHIP

To support the ministry of Riverside Presbyterian Church, contributions may be sent to the church office or you may pledge electronically at www.riversidepresbyterianchurch.orgor scan the QR code on the left to give through tithely.com.

Do you want to get a head start in preparing for Sunday worship? The Sunday worship bulletin is now being linked in the Friday e-mail, together with the livestreaming web link, which are also posted on the church's website: riversidepresbyterianchurch.org. The worship service is livestreamed and is available on the church's website: https://www.youtube.com/@riversidepresbyterianchurc8946. Please spread the word to those who are interested in worshiping with us online.

The term "voluntary" is used to denote a piece of music or improvisation for instrument, played before, during, or at the end of a church service.

The waiting of Advent soon turns to the celebration of **Christmas** and **Epiphany** (thus the Twelve Days of Christmas): Christ is born, the Word is made flesh. The communities of worshiping believers can be heard singing the angels' song: "Glory to God in the Highest." This is a season of celebration; it is also a season of mystery. For it is during Christmas and Epiphany that Christians marvel at the amazing love of Jesus, who became human for our sake. Although the commercial lights and hype end on Christmas Day, Christians are only then beginning their celebration of Christ's birth .

 `	
•	SESSION

Class of 2025Class of 2026Class of 2027Carl PlaugherTeri BeelerBob HowardTom WhiteAnda RayMeghan JohnsonDebbie Burleigh, ClerkAnn StonePaula Yost

DIACONATE

Class of 2025Class of 2026Class of 2027Susan WhiteJanice EastesJorge CastilloFern WolleCarolyn Hattaway
Tammy Ivan

The December/January issue of our newsletter *Down by the Riverside* has been sent out by email. If you wish to have a hard copy, it is available in the church office and the narthex. If you're interested in receiving our electronic monthly newsletter (except for January and July), please leave your e-mail address. If you wish to receive a hard copy by mail, please call the church office at 321-783-6085.

Lectionary Readings for Today (Year A): Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalms 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23

APPROACHING THE THRONE OF GRACE

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP: "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children" (Galatians 4;4-5).

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY Bob Yost

GREETINGS & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE SHARED

Pastor Jane Wesson

The Lord be with you. **And also with you....**

. . . The grace and peace of the Lord be with you. And also with you.

VOLUNTARY "Angels We Have Heard on High"/"Hark, The Herald Angels Sing" arr. Bragi Thor Valsson Ricky Roman, Violin / Natalie Roman, Viola / Diana Amtower, Piano

CALL TO WORSHIP

Be glad, sing for joy, all humankind; God calls you by name, and blesses you.

Let all the people praise you, O God. Let all people praise your holy name.

God sent Jesus to witness among us and exalted Jesus' name above all others.

In Christ, God's way is known on earth, God's saving power among all the nations.

We open ourselves to this movement of God's Spirit and bow our knees to confess our faith in Christ.

†CAROL #133

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

ADESTE FIDELES

PRAYER OF ADORATION

STIRRING OF THE SPIRIT

"He Shall Reign Forevermore"
"What a Beautiful Name"

Chris Tomlin (2015) Hillsong Worship (2017)

Psalm 66 Praise Band / Keaton Belliveau, *Leader*

MAKING OUR CONFESSION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God: You know our sins before we confess them. You know how we withdraw from you and take for granted the blessings we enjoy from your hand. You know how busy we become and seldom stop to ponder who you are, or to bow down in awe before your holiness. You know the fears that hold us captive, and the lack of faith that paralyzes us.

Forgive us, God of All Mercy. Hear our prayers and by your Spirit rekindle our faith in you, and release us to become what you intend for us to be, to the honor and glory of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

SILENT REFLECTION (Reflecting on the Prayer of Confession)

Assurance of Pardon

... Friends, believe the Good News. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God. Amen.

†CAROL #132 (vv. 1 & 3)

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

IN DULCI JUBILO

Passing of the Peace of Christ

... The Peace of Christ be with you. And also with you.

GIVING TO GOD

TIME FOR CHILDREN & FUSION YOUTH

Pastor Wesson

CAROL #121 (VV. 1 & 4)

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

ST. LOUIS

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"All You Are"

arr. David T. Clydesdale (2022)

Chancel Choir / Diana Amtower, *Director*

†Doxology #606

OLD HUNDREDTH

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

READING AND HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING — Galatians 4:4-7 (New Testament, p. 189)
The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Elder Mick Ray

ФСако∟ #114

"Awav in a Manger"

CRADLE SONG

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING — Luke 2:22-35 (New Testament, p. 59)

Pastor Wesson

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"It's a boy!"

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

. . . Lord, in your mercy, *hear our 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

†CAROL #136

"Go, Tell it on the Mountain"

GO TELL IT

†CHARGE AND BLESSING

†SENDING SONG

"Open Up the Heavens"
Psalm 66 Praise Band / Keaton Belliveau, Leader

Vertical Worship (2017)



This Sunday's flowers are given to the glory of God.



"Blessed by God to be a Blessing"

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 1:3).

Thanks to your faithfulness, as of December 7, we have received a total of **56 Faith Promises** towards 2026, for a total of **\$276,300**.

If you have yet to return your **Faith Promise Card**, indicating how much you wish to give back to the Lord in 2026, please feel free to put it in the offering plate, or mail it to the office.

Celebrating Riverside's 70th Year of Ministry in 2026

Calling all planners, storytellers, and do-ers! We're forming a 70th Anniversary Planning Team to coordinate with our existing ministries, weave celebrations into church life, and spark a few new, future-focused opportunities. If you love organizing events, sharing ideas, or just lending a helpful hand, we'd love to have you. Contact **Anda Ray** at andaray77@gmail.com.



Pastor Bill & Karen Teng wish to express their heartfelt appreciation for all the well wishes that they have received during this joyous season. *May God grant all of you a healthy and grace-filled 2026!* They are on vacation until January 4. If you have any pastoral emergencies, please contact **Pastor Jane Wesson** at pastorjane@riversidepresbyterianchurch.org.



Sanctuary Flowers for 2026 — If you would like to provide flowers for the Sanctuary in 2026, a new sign up sheet is in the Narthex. Please add your phone number or email. After the flowers are enjoyed on Sunday morning, you have the option of taking them home or the deacons can deliver them to those who can no longer join us in person on Sundays. The cost remains \$35.00.

First Tuesday Dinner — Join us for our First Tuesday Dinner on January 4 at 6:00 p.m. We will enjoy a dinner catered by Brano's Italian Grill. The menu will be Chicken Parmigiana, Penne Alfredo, Garden Salad, bread and dessert. Cost is \$12 per person. Following dinner our program will be presented by Walter Malmborg, a member of our congregation. He will share two mission trips he has participated in: to St. Louis, MO serving tornado victims with Samaritan's Purse. He will then compare that trip to working with Southern Baptists doing disaster recovery in Florida after Hurricane Ian. Please sign up by Sunday January 4 by noon in the Fellowship Hall, or contact Betty Peterson at 406-750-9202, or the church office.

Dr. Boushell "Flashback Fever" Concert — Join us on **Sunday, January 11** at 3:30 p.m. for our next concert in the Dr. Vernon Boushell Concert Series, featuring music from the 60's and 70's, performed by the Melbourne Municipal Band's Rock & Roll Revue. A free ticket is required and can be and are now available on our website at www.riversideresbyterianchurch.org (Events/Event Tickets) or call 321-222-7875 for a Will-Call ticket.

Dr. Boushell 2025–2026 Concert Series — Volunteers Needed — Volunteer opportunities are available, and needed, for our upcoming 2025–26 Concert Series. We have several opportunities to serve such as: door greeters, parking attendees, check-in host for will-call tickets or printed tickets, hand out concert programs, and ushers. You can sign up at the Volunteer Board in the Narthex or email **Judy George** at jageorge42@gmail.com or place a note in the offering plate. Thank you for helping Riverside continue to share the gift of music!

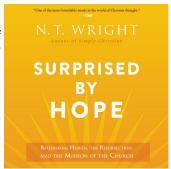




A six-week Pastor's Class begins on **Monday**, **January 12**, **at 1:00 p.m.** to study together N.T. Wright's popular book, *Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the*

Church. The class will last one hour. Wright's premise is that Christians normally think of the future in terms of "heaven," but the promised reality is far

greater: a new heaven and a new earth, a whole new creation. He believes once we grasp this biblical vision of God's future, it will transform our understanding of life in the present. Each session begins with a video segment given by Wright himself, followed by a group discussion. The six sessions include: "Hope for the World," "The Hope of the Resurrection," "The Hope of Heaven," "The Hope of Jesus' Second Coming," "The Hope of Salvation," and "The Hope of the Church." Look forward to seeing you in the class!





Tuesday

Lift your prayers this week to the Throne of Grace for: Barbara Grewe, Andrey Plata, Elizabeth Deak, Bill Cheney, Susan White, Linda Harris, Clift Schmitt, Glenn Stout, Travis Stout, Roxanne Stout, Jorge & Coleen Castillo, David & Peggy Bishop, Doug Furls, Andrey Plata; peace for Ukraine and the Middle East.

DAILY LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Monday Morning: Psalms 122, 145; Evening: Psalms 40, 67

2 Samuel 23:13-17b; 2 John 1-13; John 2:1-11 Morning: Psalms 33, 146; Evening: Psalms 85, 94

1 Kings 17:17-24: 3 John 1-15: John 4:46-54

Wednesday Morning: Psalms 50, 147:1-11; Evening: Psalms 53, 17

1 Kings 3:5-14; James 4:13-17, 5:7-11; John 5:1-15

Thursday Morning: Psalms 18:1–20, 147:12-20; Evening: Psalms 126, 62

Isaiah 62:1-5, 10-12; Revelation 19:11-16; Matthew 1:18-25

Friday Morning: Psalms 102, 148; Evening: Psalms 130, 16

1 Kings 19:1-8; Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:1-14

Saturday Morning: Psalms 90, 149; Evening: Psalms 80, 72

1 Kings 19:9-18; Ephesians 4:17-32; John 6:15-27 Morning: Psalms 24, 150; Evening: Psalms 25, 110

Sunday Morning: Psalms 24, 150; Evening: Psalms 25, 110 1 Kings 3:5-14; Colossians 3:112-17; John 6:41-47

WHAT HAPPENED ON THIS DAY IN CHRISTIAN HISTORY

† On December 28, 1065, Westminster Abbey opened and was dedicated in London. built by Edward the Confessor, the last of the old Anglo-Saxon kings, as a memorial to St. Peter. Unfortunately, Edward was unable to attend the dedication, being ill a few miles away. He died shortly afterward, and his remains are interred behind Westminster's High Altar. * John Wycliffe, the "Morning Star of the Reformation," suffered a debilitating stroke while presiding over the Lord's Supper on Sunday. December 28, 1384. He was carried to his bed, where he passed away on December 31. 41 years later, still hated by his enemies, his bones were exhumed, burned, and thrown into the river. † December 28, 1798, marks the birthday of Charles Hodge, one of America's greatest theologians, who studied the old and familiar Scriptures with fresh excitement. Three thousand pastors prepared for ministry in his theology classes at Princeton, and multitudes have benefited from his three-volume Systematic Theology. † American music publisher **Samuel A. Ward** was born on this day in 1847 in Newark, New Jersey. Having received his early training in music in New York City, Ward returned to Newark and established a successful retail music store. He also took an active role in the music life of the city, playing organ at the Grace Episcopal Church of Newark for many years. Ward composed the tune MATERNA, the melody to which we sing "America, the Beautiful" ("O Beautiful for Spacious Skies"). + On December 28, 1993, South Africa's white parliament, sitting for the last time, buried apartheid, voting 237 to 45 to adopt an interim constitution leading to majority rule after the staging of the country's first all-race election.

THIS WEEK AT RIVERSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 28 - January 4, 2026

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. | Monday - Thursday (*Church Office is closed this week.*)

Sunday	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Sunday School Classes Worship — <i>First Sunday of Christmas</i> Fellowship Time (Fellowship Hall)
Thursday	Happy New Year! (Office Closed until January 5)	
Sunday	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Sunday School Classes Worship — Second Sunday of Christmas Fellowship Time (Fellowship Hall)

PSALM 66 PRAISE BAND

Guitar / Vocal — Keaton Belliveau, *Leader*Bass guitar — Rafael Perez
Drums — Ryan Perez
Keyboard — Andrey Plata
Backup Vocals — Madalynn Pearson & Jordan Boggs

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Ministers: Entire Congregation / Assisted by:

Rev. William C. Teng, Interim Pastor, pastorbill@riversidepresbyterianchurch.org
Rev. Jane Wesson, Parish Associate, pastorjane@riversidepresbyterianchurch.org
Betsie Germann, Administrative Assistant, office@riversidepresbyterianchurch.org
Diana Amtower, Traditional Music Director, dldaubert@gmail.com
Keaton Belliveau, Psalm 66 Praise Band Leader, keanobmusic@gmail.com

Karen Ward, Audio Visual Leader

Doug Kasimier, Treasurer

Chuck Torgler, Sexton

Tel: 321-783-6085 / www.riversidepresbyterianchurch.org