



PLACE
STAMP
HERE

All Invited

Series Starts
December 2, 2018

WELCOME

God really wants His greatest Creation, humankind, to be in a loving relationship with Him. He wants all of us to respond to the invitation to join Him now in this life, and in the future life that He has planned for His people.

That's really the whole message of Christmas. There was no other way for imperfect people to be in relationship with a perfect God except for that God to empty Himself of His glory, come to earth, and be the slain and resurrected sacrifice for all of our sin.

That's heavy stuff. But it's also hopeful, joyful, and life-giving.

During Advent this year, we're approaching the story of Christmas a little differently. We're exploring how patient God is in offering this invitation to humanity. We're going to do that by

looking at the end of the story; the book of Revelation.

It's a challenging book. It will even sound weird and foreign at times. But like all of God's Word, it has incredible truth for us to learn from.

We're all invited this Christmas to learn more about this God who longs for relationship with us. Maybe you can extend that invitation to a friend, a coworker, or a neighbor to join you in worship.

Remember, they're invited too!

FOR MORE INFO, MAPS AND DIRECTIONS, VISIT

THE RIVER CRC.COM



Our Mission: We exist to make disciples who put God's love on display to our world.

Our Vision is to see a people inspired by God's love and faithfully sharing that love with the world.

Our Values: Every member of The River is daily and communally engaged in a deeper relationship with Jesus through...



We welcome people into our lives appreciating our differences and similarities.



We will grow by following the Holy Spirit's work in and around us.



We will give generously of our time, talents and finances to see God's kingdom grow.



We will go where God calls us to go.



We will serve intentionally using and growing the gifts God has given us.



Below is information on two of our upcoming offerings:

Nick In't Hout is a part of the **THRESHOLDS COMMUNITY**, a collective of coaches and trainers helping people "step across the ragged edge of conventionality into their deep longing to live, lead, and create community as they follow God in the way of Jesus." In

the Redlands Area, Thresholds is partnering with the Christian Reformed Church to weave a stronger mission network to connect churches, empower leaders, catalyze movements of God's Spirit. In the last 6 months, we've seen deeper friendships and greater trust emerge among local church leaders as we seek a City Alive with the presence of God. One Redlands Area Pastor recently said that he's had met more community leaders in the last year than in the last 20 combined because of this emphasis. After a community forum around homelessness and the upcoming local elections, one participant said that they'd never seen churches in Redlands work together to do something like this before. 10+ churches have participated in the Redlands Youth Connection, a monthly event uniting high school and middle schoolers from different churches. As we continue seeking God together, we anticipate the Spirit expanding our collective imagination and opening our hearts wider and wider to the love of God in Christ. For information about Thresholds or the City Alive Project, please contact Nick In't Hout (nickinhout@gmail.com), 909.645.8114 or visit thresholdscommunity.org.

OAK VALLEY COLLEGE is a Christian liberal arts college in the Inland Empire where students earn a Bachelor of Arts in Business with no student loans – a four year degree earned in fewer than three years (32 months). Oak Valley was founded on three guiding principles:

1. **LIVE** – Oak Valley College understands that students cannot wait until graduation to live their lives; They are living their life now. Oak Valley offers a consistent class schedule that allows students to work in part-time jobs and apply what they are learning in the classroom to their work environment.
2. **LEARN** – From day one, Oak Valley students are immersed in a rigorous, faith-centered program dedicated to giving students a path to launch a successful career. Founded on the same liberal arts tradition as prominent schools like Calvin, Dordt, and Claremont McKenna College, Oak Valley teaches students how to think critically about the world, develop creative problem solving skills, and communicate complex ideas in powerful ways.
3. **GROW** – Oak Valley Students graduate without the crushing burden of student loan debt. Most Oak Valley students pay tuition with the money they earn from a part-time job. Oak Valley College launches Christian leaders in business, ministry, and the non-profit industry who are free to follow God's calling in their life.



The people of The River believe in investing in outreach activities. One of the ways that we do this is by supporting both financially and prayerfully a number of different organizations, ministries and Christian groups.

There will be two offerings each Sunday. The first one is for The River Life Fund. The schedule for the second offering is as follows:

December 2: Benevolence

December 9: Missions

December 16: Christian Education Fund

December 23: Thresholds Community

December 30: Oak Valley College

THE RIVER REUSES

The earth is a gift from God the Creator. Please help us be good stewards. On your way out, please drop your weekly shell in the bins by the exits to be used again the following week.



welcome to the river

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – December 9

“ALL INVITED” CHRISTMAS SERIES is a great opportunity to invite a friend or family member to church over the Christmas season. Pick up a post-card in the foyer and share it with someone over the next few weeks.

CAROLS AND COCOA will take place TONIGHT at 6:00 pm at Ed Hales Park in downtown Redlands. Come celebrate the Christmas season.

THIS YEAR OUR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE WILL TAKE PLACE A DAY EARLY on December 23rd at 5:00 pm. During that service we will be culminating our “All Invited” series with our yearly Christmas program.

COLD WEATHER SHELTER is in need of volunteers on Tuesday nights. If interested please contact Harold Milligan at 909-269-6657.

HEART AND SOUL BIBLE STUDY will hold their final meeting of 2018 on December 12th at 9:30 am for a Christmas Brunch.

MEN’S BREAKFAST will not be meeting this Saturday, but will resume the 3rd Saturday of January.

THE JANUARY SERIES from Calvin College will be streamed at The River beginning on January 3rd, posters with the speaker for each day will be available soon.

NEXT SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

Nursery: Carol Kreuter, Kindra Simpson, Chrissy Glibert, Kristin Elgersma

Cookie Time: Rebecca Hennings, Ruthann Long, Sally Castro, Sandi Wagner, Sandy Wilkes

To contact the Care Ministry Team or a pastor, call the church office at 909-798-2221.

**All Invited: All who respond to the invitation.
Revelation 7:9-17**

A good marriage takes work.

9-11: There is a gathering at the end of all things.

“There before me was a great multitude that no one could count from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and before the lamb.” Vs. 9

The uniqueness of Christianity.

11-12: God's redemption equates all before the throne of God.

“They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God. “ Vs. 11

13-17: And the work of heaven begins.

“They are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple.” Vs. 15

Inviting someone to Forestiere Underground Gardens.