

# Second Sunday of Christmas

January 3, 2021

10:30 am Worship Service

Live Stream Bulletin

• Give online at [rpcjax.org/give](http://rpcjax.org/give)

## THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bill Hoff and Tatum Thompson

PRELUDE *We Three Kings* Paul Manz (1919-2009)

THREE CHIMES

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In Christ we are blessed, in Christ we are chosen

**All: to live in the praise of his glorious grace!**

One: In Christ the great mystery of God is revealed;

**All: to live in the unity and joy of the Spirit!**

One: In Christ we are called to be just and free,

**All: to live as those redeemed and sent forth!**

**All: Blessed be God! Praise to the Father of Lord Jesus Christ!**

\* HYMN 150 (all verses)

*As with Gladness Men of Old*

<sup>1</sup>*As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold; as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright; so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to thee.*

<sup>2</sup>*As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to thy lowly bed, there to bend the knee before thee, whom heaven and earth adore; so may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.*

<sup>3</sup>*As they offered gifts most rare at thy manger, rude and bare, so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy, all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heavenly king.*

<sup>4</sup>*Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way and when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Breanna Sooter

**God of grace, we know ourselves as chosen, adopted as Your children. We dare to believe that we are part of a plan conceived before the foundation of the universe. But are we living as Your children? Are we honoring our inheritance? We know ourselves called, but we're so easily distracted by other voices. We know ourselves loved, but we balk at the cost of intimacy with you. In your mercy, release us from old patterns that need to change. As we are made new through the body and blood of Christ, we praise Your wondrous mercy and love.**

*Moment of Silence and personal reflection*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: Peace be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Let us share with one another signs of Christ's peace.

SOLO *Star Carol* Alfred Burt (1920-1954)

*Long years ago on a deep winter's night, high in the heav'ns a star shone bright.  
While in a manger a wee baby lay, sweetly asleep on a bed of hay.  
Jesus the Lord was that baby so small laid down to sleep in a humble stall.  
Then came the star and it stood overhead, shedding its light 'round His little bed.  
Dear baby Jesus, tiny Thou art. I'll make a place for Thee in my heart.  
And when the stars in the heavens I see, ever and only I'll think of Thee.*

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

Breanna Sooter

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION AND SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Old Testament Reading:

Jeremiah 31: 7-14

New Testament Reading:

John 1: 10-18

One: This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON *A Lost Season* Bill Hoff

ANTHEM *Once He Came in Blessing* Jacob Weber (1779-1839)

*Once He came in blessing, all our sins redressing; came in likeness lowly, Son of God most holy;  
Bore the cross to save us; hope and freedom gave us.  
Now He gently leads us; with Himself He feeds us precious food from heaven, pledge of peace here given.*

*Manna that will nourish souls that they may flourish.  
Soon will come that hour when with mighty power Christ will come in splendor,  
With the faithful sharing joy beyond comparing. Come, then, O Lord Jesus from our sins release us.  
Keep our heart believing; that we, grace receiving, ever may confess and bless You.*

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*a movement for reconciliation*

849 Park St. Jacksonville, FL 32204-3394

[www.rpcjax.org](http://www.rpcjax.org) (904) 355-4585

The Words of Institution  
Sharing of Bread and Cup  
Prayer:

**Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his body and blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord.**

\* HYMN 151 (verses 1 & 5)

*We Three Kings*

*<sup>1</sup>We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star*

*REFRAIN: O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to Thy perfect light.*

*<sup>5</sup>Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice; Alleluia! alleluia! sounds through the earth and skies.*

*REFRAIN: O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to Thy perfect light.*

CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

*How Brightly Shines the Morning Star*

*D. Cherwien (b 1957)*

*We would like to extend our gratitude and appreciation to our musicians today: Anaya Dowdell, Ryan Ashley, Sarah Cotchleovitch and Judy Wingate.*

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## WELCOME TO RIVERSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*New to Riverside? Welcome!*

We are delighted you are watching virtually with us today! We would love to connect with you. Please complete our "Friendship Pad" by clicking on <https://forms.gle/BVSXGERUpKBGUEN8> or go to [www.rpcjax.org/live](http://www.rpcjax.org/live). We are thrilled you worshiped with us today and hope you found our church welcoming, inspiring, and meaningful. If you have questions, please contact Karla Newton at (904) 571-5687 or [konewton1@gmail.com](mailto:konewton1@gmail.com) Thanks again for visiting RPC! We look forward to seeing you again soon.

Blessings, Karla Newton, Elder at RPC

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### Adult Sunday School

**This week there will be one adult class meeting via Zoom. More options will be available soon.**

**Genesis: Abraham, Jacob and Joseph taught by Ed Pratt-Dannals and Rev. Dr. John Ragsdale**

**Zoom Information can be found at [www.rpcjax.org/programs/adult-sunday-school](http://www.rpcjax.org/programs/adult-sunday-school)**

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### A Note From Safe Gatherings

As we have done since June, we will continue to carefully consider and evaluate our local COVID conditions and the impact on our church. The risk of exposure has increased significantly since October and is expected to continue going up after the holidays. We all hope that the recent move to virtual classes and worship will be short-lived! It's very difficult to remain vigilant when we're all experiencing extreme pandemic fatigue. Thank you all for your input and commitment to safety and to our church family. We value your comments and want you to feel free to communicate with any of us on the Safe Gatherings Committee. Kathy Para, Chair, [parakathy@gmail.com](mailto:parakathy@gmail.com); Maribeth Ashley; Barbara Bath; Michael Brumback; Bill Hoff; Cory Meyers; Jane Miller; Susie Morrow; Dave Tuttle.

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### Sermons by Phone

You may now listen to our sermons by phone. Share this phone number: (904) 267-1537 with loved ones who do not have access to our online services. You can call from a landline or a cell phone to listen to the scripture and sermon. This will be updated on Sunday afternoon or at the latest, Monday morning each week!

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### Prayer Requests and Personal Prayer

The Deacon Prayer Ministry Team will receive and pray daily for your request. Email your requests to [carol.digiusto@rpcjax.org](mailto:carol.digiusto@rpcjax.org) Or if you would like a pastor to pray with you, please contact Pastor Carol DiGiusto at 904-355-4585 x 36 or call the church office at 904-355-4585 x 0.

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<p><b>THE CHANCEL FLOWERS</b> are given in loving memory of Frank and Kathryn Sheehan and Rexford and Clemye Setzer, by Rex and Pat Setzer. The flowers were arranged by Pat Setzer.</p>	<p><b>STEWARDSHIP UPDATE</b> (as of December 22, 2020)</p> <p>177 pledges                      \$886,443</p> <p><b>You can still pledge for 2021 at</b> <b><a href="http://www.rpcjax.org/pledge">www.rpcjax.org/pledge</a></b></p>
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### CONGRATULATIONS

Matt & Angela Roberts on the birth of their son, Benjamin Lawrence Roberts, on December 14, 2020 in Atlanta, GA.  
Proud Grandparents are Ron & Pam Roberts.

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### SERVICE THROUGH PRAYER

Kay Armstrong, Chris Bergey, Jennie Bibb, Roberta Birch, The Busch Family (RPDS), Mary Cousar, Judy Davidson, Brenda Dohn, Faith Erath, Robert Flynn, Madelyne Gillis (Ken Mixon's mother-in-law), Tina Goedtke, John Hartman, Ginger Heard (Hilary Shipp's mother), Doug Hutchins (Denise Brennan's father), Erris Kiser (Debra McEachin's mother), Allan Knight, Robert Littell, Joe Lopez, Christine Rosenbloom Lyons, Joe Meux, David Meyers, Tony Morrow, John Ormand (Lisa Taylor's brother), Mersida Porcic, Bill Schilling, Mae Singletary (Carol Proctor's mother), Mike Small, Carolyn Smith, Mildred Taylor, Bill & Suzanne Tomlinson, Don & Lois Ward

**Rehab, Assisted, Nursing Homes and Long-Term Care (in a facility or at home)**

Shirley Ballowe, Margie de Bauernfeind, Peggy Fannin, Jack Hazard, Jim Hodge, Norma Hooker, Betsy Langston, Myra Pattishall, Judi Perdue, Dannette Robinson, Ruth Wrenshall

**In the Armed Forces**

Noah Althuis, Andy Berner, Brandon Campbell, Gray Creed, Carl Crumpler, Reid Hampton, Cole Heeg, Brittanie Llorens, Matt McCullough, Carson McKendree  
*(If you would like more information on any of those listed, please call the church office at (904) 355-4585 x 0)*