

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 23, 2018

8:30 am Worship Service
with Communion

11:00 am Worship Service

*"To feel a full and untrammelled joy
is to have become fully generous; to
allow ourselves to be joyful is to have
walked through the doorway of fear, the
dropping away of the anxious worried
self. 'It is' felt like a thankful death
itself, a disappearance, a giving away,
overheard in the laughter of friendship,
the vulnerability of happiness felt
suddenly as a strength,
a solace and a source..."*

*David Whyte
from Consolations: The Solace,
Nourishment, and Underlying Meaning of
Everyday Words*

PRELUDE MUSIC FOR PRAYER AND MEDITATION

Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella
Joseph, Dearest Joseph Mine

arr. Robert Lau (1942 - 2010)
arr. Robert Lau (1942 - 2010)

THREE CHIMES (THE TRINITY)

CHORAL INTROIT (11:00 am, Hymn 106)
Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN
Chancel Choir

GREETING

Leader: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Text from Micah 4

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 140

Once in Royal David's City

IRBY

LIGHTING OF FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

8:30 am: John and Deanna Green and Family

11:00 am: Ben and Robin Campen and Family

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Carol DiGiusto

God of all seasons and circumstances, Your steadfast love endures forever! Your love endures our coldness and apathy, our self-loathing and lack of compassion for others. Your love comes near, indeed is with us, even while we spend on that which does not satisfy and run after those whose promises quickly evaporate. In Your mercy, forgive our resistance to Your love and our fear of commitment to Your Way so that, in this season of expectation, we may have cause to sing with angels of peace and worship together with those who come from afar.

Amen
(Silent prayer of Confession)

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (Hymn 423)

SARADAY

Create in me a clean heart, O God; create in me a clean heart, O God; create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM (11:00 am)

Coventry Carol

John Rutter (b. 1945)
Chancel Choir

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

Steve Goyer

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Breanna Sooter

*HYMN 135

There's a Star in the East

FOLLOW

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 1: 18 - 25

NT Page 1

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON "I'm Dreaming of a"

Bill Hoff

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Carol DiGiusto

DEDICATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

8:30 AM Offertory Solo

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

arr. David Willcocks (1919 - 2015)

David Scheininger, baritone

11:00 AM Offertory Solo

Who Would Think That What Was Needed (Hymn 138)

John L. Bell (b. 1949)

Zachary Polendo, tenor

*Doxology (Hymn-Tune 229--LASST UNS ERFREUEN)

**Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, Whose pow'r uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*Prayer of Dedication

Breanna Sooter

HOLY COMMUNION

8:30 am *Cradle Song*

arr. Robert Lau (1942 - 2010)

*HYMN 136

Go Tell it On the Mountain

GO TELL IT

*CHARGE AND DISMISSAL

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Hymn 88)

VENI EMMANUEL

CONCLUDING VOLUNTARY

Echo Noel

Louis-Claude Daquin (1694 - 1772)

The 8th Grade Acolyte at 11:00 am is Jack Raynor

** Please stand if able*

*** We recycle - please place your used bulletin in one of the baskets
by the doors as you exit.*

WELCOME TO RIVERSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

First-time visitors, **Welcome!** Please be sure to sign in on the pew pads. Look in your pew rack for the new *Prayer Request & Comment Cards*.
The Mission of the Month is *Caring Tree... Thank you to all who participated!*



Grow Look for all Sunday School Options Listed on Church Door Posters

SUNDAY SCHOOL HIGHLIGHT:

Celtic Christian Practices: A Sampler **January 6 and 13**
Taught by **Ted Powell, Nancy Powell and Rev. Carol DiGiusto**. Learn how the practices of the ancient Celtic Christian wisdom may help us navigate the challenges of our lives and times. Ted and Nancy Powell share key learnings and practices they experienced during the 7 day "Listening to the Heartbeat of God" retreat with John Phillip Newell at the Iona Pilgrimage in Scotland.

Art, Faith, and Community **Classes begin Wednesday January 16-February 27, 6:30-7:30 pm**
Riverside members and Friends are invited to a special Wednesday night class at Riverside Park United Methodist Church for a course led by folks from L'Arche Jacksonville --a faith-filled residential community for adults with developmental disabilities. Community residents and artists will share their stories and teach different art forms. All skills levels welcome. Learn more & sign up at <http://riversideparkumc.com/ministry/community-classes>

BLAST Girls' Bible Study for 3rd, 4th & 5th grade **Sunday January 13, 2019, 12:00 - 2:00 pm**
A 5 week Bible Study especially for girls in 3rd, 4th and 5th Grades. We will eat lunch together after church. After lunch, we will enter into a time of Bible Study using one of Annie Pajcic's great studies for girls. After each study, there will be different creative projects the girls will do based on the lesson for that week. We are very excited about this time together to learn more about what it means to live out our faith at this stage in life.

Be sure to visit our website (www.rpcjax.org) for updates to the calendar.



Connect

- **Youth Group, with Dinner** **Today, 5:00 - 7:30 pm**
Get ready for an awesome evening. We will set up and light the luminaries around the church and then go to Avondale. We will have dinner at the Taylor's house and then go see the live nativity at Riverside Ave Christian Church as well as the fun lights along the way! Invite your friends too!
- **Deck the Window Bays with Christmas Fantasies!** **Open through January 6**
Be sure to stop by our beautiful Christmas Fantasy Window displays in Bittinger Hall.
- **Glory to God!** At this time of the year, what a wonderful way to remember or honor our loved ones by purchasing a *Glory to God* hymnal for \$20 each. A bookplate will be placed on the inside cover with their name and yours. Complete the envelope in the pew racks and place in the offering plate. Or, contact the church office for more information (355-4585 x 10).
- **Extra Ushers Needed for Christmas Eve Services.** **5:00 and 8:30 pm**
Please contact Tina Goedtke at 904-729-5851 or trgoedtke@att.net
- **Iona Pilgrimage Tour Information Meeting** **Sunday January 6, 12:15 pm in the Church Library**
Join us at this informational meeting about our 2019 trip as we travel through Scotland visiting Presbyterian Heritage sites & concluding our trip on Iona. Learn more at this informational meeting led by Rev. Carol DiGiusto.
- **Mark Your Calendar for the Women's Getaway** **Saturday February 23-Sunday February 24**
Join us for a relaxing weekend on the river. The retreat will begin at 9:30 am on Saturday, February 23 and end after our 10:30 am worship on Sunday, February 24 at Marywood. The cost is \$85 dollars. Saturday registration is \$30. There is scholarship money available if needed.

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS

are given in loving memory of Belle Dunlap (Charter Member) and Sam Dunlap (Trustee),
Mary Hahn Dunlap and Margaret Borland; Frierson Gaillard, Jamie Gaillard and Martha
Gaillard, Kitty Borland Buckman, Davisson Dunlap and Jim Borland, Jr.,
by The Dunlap and Gaillard Families.
The flowers were arranged by The Flower Committee.



Christmas Eve Worship Services

- Monday, December 24, Christmas Eve**
- 5:00 pm Family Candlelight Service
 - 8:00 pm Prelude Music
 - 8:30 pm Candlelight Service with Communion

Sunday December 30

**There is no Sunday School and
only one worship service
at 10:00 am**

THIS WEEK

TODAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday School Classes • Deck the Window Bays with Christmas Fantasies! • Youth Group
Dec 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church Office Closes at Noon • Christmas Eve Services
Dec 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church Office Closed Merry Christmas!
Dec 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church Office Reopens at 8:30 am
COMING UP ...	
Dec 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:00 am Worship Service Only
Jan 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open meeting for Iona Trip
Jan 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BLAST Girl's Bible Study
Feb 23-24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's Getaway Retreat

Today's *Holy Grounds* is brought to you by **Frank and Kathy Shuke and Josh Dryden**. In appreciation of those who volunteered at the beautification project at **Gefen Park in November**. Weekly sponsors and workers are being sought. Contact Jan Nicholas.

Financial Update through November 2018

<u>Pledged Revenue Budgeted:</u>	\$971,000
<u>Pledged Revenue Received:</u>	\$950,363
<u>Excess or (Shortfall):</u>	(\$20,637)

There are only a couple of weeks left in 2018, and we remain in a shortfall position with our Pledged Revenue. Please continue to support the church through your contributions and help us achieve our 2018 goal. Thank you.

MONDAY DECEMBER 31
Church Office closes at Noon
Business Office open until 4:00 pm

Pastor
Rev. Dr. Steve Goyer
Associate Pastor
Rev. Bill Hoff
Parish Associate for Pastoral Care Ministries
Rev. Dr. Carol DiGiusto
Music Ministry
Dr. Lois Gurney
Education & Spiritual Nurture Ministries and Communication Team
Emily Heeg
Youth Ministry and Communication Team
Breanna Sooter
Community Life & Community Outreach Ministries
Jan Nicholas
Business, Property & Administration
Jack Higson
RPDS Headmaster
Ben Ketchum

SERVICE THROUGH PRAYER

Jack Adams (son of Bill Adams), Roberta Birch, Tina Burrow, Claudia Coley's father, Davis Collier, Martha Davis, Judy Davidson, Jane Estes, Lockwood Greene (Jane Lockwood's grandson), Winn Hampton (son of Wade Hampton), Doug Hutchins (Denise Brennan's father), Allan Knight, Angela Knight, Joe Meux, Gunnar Miller (Betsy Miller's husband), John Ormand (Lisa Taylor's brother), Mersida Porcic, Bill Schilling, Carol Schoenberger, Mae & Norm Singletary (Carol Proctor's parents), Mildred Taylor

Rehab, Assisted, Nursing Homes and Long-Term Care

Shirley Ballowe, Mary Brown, Margie de Bauernfeind, Gerald Faircloth, Peggy Fannin, Jack & Betty Hazard, Jim Hodge, Norma Hooker, Olive Mahoney, Minerva Mason (Marcy Moody's mother), Velva Moll, Myra Pattishall, Judi Perdue, Dannette Robinson, Bill & Suzanne Tomlinson, Bunny Wilkinson, Ruth Wrenshall

In the Armed Forces


Noah Althuis, Andy Berner, Dave Brosche, Brandon Campbell, Gray Creed, Carl Crumpler, Reginald Hicks, Matt McCullough, Carson McKendree, Chris Rattigan
(If you would like more information on any of those listed, please call the church office at 355-4585.)

THE CHRISMONS

Chrismon is a combination of parts of 2 words: CHRIST and MONogram. A Chrismon is a monogram of Christ. The main requirement is that they refer to our God...being a monogram, a sign, a symbol, a type or combination of such figures. The earliest Chrismons were calligraphic letter. XP = Chi (x) Rho (P) of XPIETOE = Christ, Alpha & Omega and so on.


Chrismons are made in combinations of white and gold. White is the liturgical color for Christmas and refers to the Lord's purity and perfection. Gold refers to His majesty and glory. We point to Christ as the Light of the world by using tiny white lights on the tree.

The following is a list of some of the images that can be found on our Chrismon Tree:

 **CROSS:** There are many different types of crosses. Latin, Greek, Jerusalem, triumphant, Tau, anchor cross, passion cross, St. Andrew's cross, etc. with many different meanings. How many different crosses can you find on our tree?


SPHERE: The earth God created.



 **MANGER:** Where Jesus was born.

TRIANGLE: Trinity, Triune God.



 **FISH:** Jesus Christ, the Savior.

LAMB: God, the Son.




 **DOVE:** God, the Spirit.



VINE: The symbols of life and the fruits of the spirit.

CIRCLE: Eternity, eternal life, or God the Eternal One.



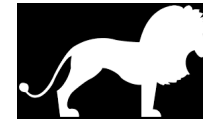
 **STARS:** The close relationship between the birth and death of our Lord, Epiphany, creator, regeneration through Baptism and the gifts of the Spirit. Meaning is derived from the number of points on the star.

BUTTERFLY: Our Lord's Resurrection.



WHEAT & GRAPES: Bread and wine, the Body and Blood of our Lord.

LION: The tribe of Judah.



THORNS: A representation of our Lord's crown and suffering.

ANGEL OR FEATHER: Angel announcing the birth and resurrection of Christ; or feather from the wings of angels.



CHALICE: The Last Supper.

SHELL: Baptism



There is a wealth of information available on the internet about Chrismons and Christian symbols, if you would like to know more.