

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Third Sunday of Advent December 16, 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

Sinfonia (from "Messiah") G. F. Handel (1685 - 1759)
Florida Chamber Music Project

THREE CHIMES (THE TRINITY)

CHORAL INTROIT (11:00 am)
And the Glory of the Lord G. F. Handel (1685 - 1759)
Chancel Choir

GREETING

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Rejoice in the Lord always, Philippians 4: 4
People: Again, let us say, Rejoice.
Pastor: Let your gentleness be known to everyone
People: The Lord is near.
Pastor: Let us worship the Lord.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates TRURO

LIGHTING OF THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

8:30 am: Steve and Denise Judd **11:00 am:** Ben and Sherry McDonald and Family

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Emily Heeg

**Eternal God, you have made us so like yourself that our greatest joy is
to serve others. Forgive us for getting this backwards. And when we are
miserable, remind us again where true joy is to be found so that we may
turn away from ourselves and toward your creation and all who are in it.
In Christ's name.**
(Silent prayer of Confession)

CHORAL RESPONSE

O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion G. F. Handel (1685 - 1759)
Chancel Choir

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

Bill Hoff

ANTHEM

(8:30 am Hymn 145) *What Child Is This* GREENSLEEVES
(11:00 am) *For Unto Us a Child is Born* G. F. Handel (1685 - 1759)
Chancel Choir

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Emily Heeg

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2: 8 - 12 NT Page 55

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM (11:00 am)

Glory to God G. F. Handel (1685 - 1759)

HOMILY "Joy is an Infinite Game of Life"

Steve Goyer

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Bill Hoff

DEDICATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

8:30 AM Offertory
Pifa (Pastoral Symphony) G. F. Handel (1685 - 1759)
Florida Chamber Music Project

11:00 AM Offertory Solo

He Shall Feed His Flock Like a Shepherd G. F. Handel (1685 - 1759)
Come Unto Him

Brittanie Llorens, alto; Carolyn Tuttle, soprano

*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

Jan Nicholas

HOLY COMMUNION

8:30 am *Swiss Noel* Louis-Claude Daquin (1694 - 1772)

*HYMN 134

Joy to the World ANTIOCH

*CHARGE AND DISMISSAL

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Hymn 88) VENI EMMANUEL

CONCLUDING VOLUNTARY

Sing With Joy, Glad Voices Lift Herman Schroeder (1904- 1984)

* Please stand if able

*We would like to express our appreciation and gratitude to our guest musicians,
the Florida Chamber Music Project and Soloists Brittanie Llorens and Carolyn Tuttle*

** 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:

Advent: Preparing the Way **December 16 & 23 at 9:30 am**
Led by Rev. Steve Goyer. Since Christmas is SUPPOSED to be about Joy, as in "Joy to the World", we will spend Advent trying to discover it - what, where, how, and when. This will be experientials as well as didactic.

Children and Youth Choir offered Twice on Sundays **9:00-9:30 am and 4:00-5:00 pm**
Children and youth choir is now offered at two different times on Sundays. They can join in the current choir that meets on Sunday mornings or the new Sunday afternoon choir at 4:00 pm. Both choirs are led by Katherine Crumrine.

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



Connect

- **Special Performance: Handel's "Messiah"** **Today, December 16, 11:00 am Worship Service**
Choral selections and solos from Handel's "Messiah" to celebrate the coming of the Christ child. Once again the Florida Chamber Music Project, led by RPC member, Susan Pardue, will accompany the Chancel and Celebration choirs, and soloists, Britannie Llorens and Carolyn Tuttle.
- **Haiti Ministry** **Today, December 16, Library**
The Haiti Ministry subcommittee is meeting immediately following the 11:00 am worship service. The meeting will be held in the church library. Anyone with interest in our church's partnership with Fonkoze, Haiti's largest micro-finance organization, is invited to join us.
- **Youth Group** **Today, 5:00 - 7:00 pm**
Youth Group tonight is for all youth! We will be making our final batch of Brownies in a Jar (plus baking some taste testers) and then talking about JOY! Dinner included.
- **Memory CareGivers Support Group** **Monday, December 17, Thompson Parlor, 1:30 pm**
Practical information on caregiving problems and possible solutions, talk through challenges and ways of coping, share feelings, needs and concerns. Learn about resources available in our community.
- **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.
- **Blue Christmas Service - Riverside Park UMC (819 Park Street)**. **December 19 at 6:00 pm**
A service of remembering, healing and wholeness. Reverends Carol DiGiusto and Bill Hoff are participating.
- **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
- **Informational meeting for Iona Trip**. **Sunday, January 6, 12:15 - 1:15 pm**
Open to all who are interested in taking a pilgrimage to Iona Scotland. Will be held in the Library.

SYMPATHY

Bill Adams on the loss of his daughter-in-law, Cathy Adams, December 9, 2018, and pray for the healing process from injuries for his son, William (Jack) Adams, and his two grandchildren who face the challenges ahead.

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS

are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Joyce Bond and in honor of Andy and Sandy Clarke and the Riverside Chancel Choir, by Jim Bond.
The flowers were arranged by Carol Gay and Jane Lockwood.

Leave a lasting gift "in memory of" or "in honor of" a loved one or special person - purchase a "Glory To God" hymnal. Each hymnal is \$20. Contact the church office (904) 355-4585 x 10 for more details.



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 only one worship service at 10:00 am

THIS WEEK

TODAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's Choir (9:00 am & 4:00 pm) • Sunday School Classes • Special Performance: Handel's "Messiah" • Haiti Subcommittee Meeting • Deck the Window Bays with Christmas Fantasies!
DEC 17	• Memory CareGivers Support Group
Dec 19	• Blue Christmas at Riverside Park UMC
COMING UP ...	
Dec 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas Eve Services • Church Office Closes at Noon
Dec 25	• Church Office Closed - Merry Christmas!
Dec 26	• Church Office Reopens at 8:30 am
Dec 30	• 10:00 am Worship Service Only
JAN 6	• Open meeting for Iona Trip

Today's *Holy Grounds* is brought to you by **Bill and Frances Howey, Children and Grandchildren, in Memory of Betty Ulmer on the day of her birth, December 16.** Weekly sponsors and workers are being sought. Contact Jan Nicholas.

Financial Update through November 2018

Pledged Revenue Budgeted: \$971,000
Pledged Revenue Received: \$950,363
Excess or (Shortfall): (\$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.

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

Bill Adams and Family, 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, George Ward (Laura Crooks' brother)

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:



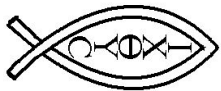
CROSS: There are many different types of crosses: Latin, Greek, Jerusalem, Triumphant, Tau, Anchor, Passion, and St. Andrew's, for example, with many different meanings. How many different crosses can you find on our tree?

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.


CHI RHO: The first two letters of the Greek word for Christ.




ALPHA AND OMEGA: The beginning and the end. 


 **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. The 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.