



**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
LOVE
DECEMBER 20, 2020**



Good Morning! Welcome to Riviera's worship service. We're delighted that you are connecting with us today; even when we're physically apart, the Holy Spirit unites us as one community!

Let us know you worshiped with us today by filling out the Friendship Form located on our website's home page, www.rivierachurch.org. If you are joining us via Facebook or YouTube, please check in or leave us a comment so we know you are worshiping with us today. Don't forget to keep checking our various social media outlets, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, for up-to-date information, find us [@RivieraChurch](https://www.instagram.com/RivieraChurch)

“The primary symbolism of the Advent Candles has to do with light growing in darkness-
leading up to the coming of Jesus, the light of the world.

From the Book of Common Worship

The Liturgies for the lighting of the Advent Wreath were written by the staff of the Presbytery of
Tropical Florida. Presbyterian Churches throughout South Florida will be using the same
liturgies each Sunday symbolizing our being Vibrant Together.

In unity and connections with one another we anticipate the advent of Christ among us.

GATHERING

OPENING HYMN

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

113 Angels We Have Heard on High

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some ti - dings be which in - spire your heaven - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - of Glo -

- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - of

CHIMING OF THE HOUR & WELCOMING THE LIGHT

WELCOME

Rev. Martha M. Shiverick

LIGHTING OF THE 4TH ADVENT CANDLE- THE CANDLE OF LOVE

Laura Fothergill and David German and Family

Today the Candle of Love is lit. Consider love.

See what God has given us...

God's love becomes incarnate in the one born. This wondrous love lives in us today.

(Light four candles) Jesus says: I am coming soon.

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

As the lord has promised, in the days to come...

The Lord will give you a sign.

Look the young woman is with child.

She will bear a son,

And name him Emmanuel: "God is with us." (Isa.7:14)

Let us pray:

Holy God, your love surrounds us. Your love draws us in,

Enfolds us with grace, And keeps us in the struggle of today.

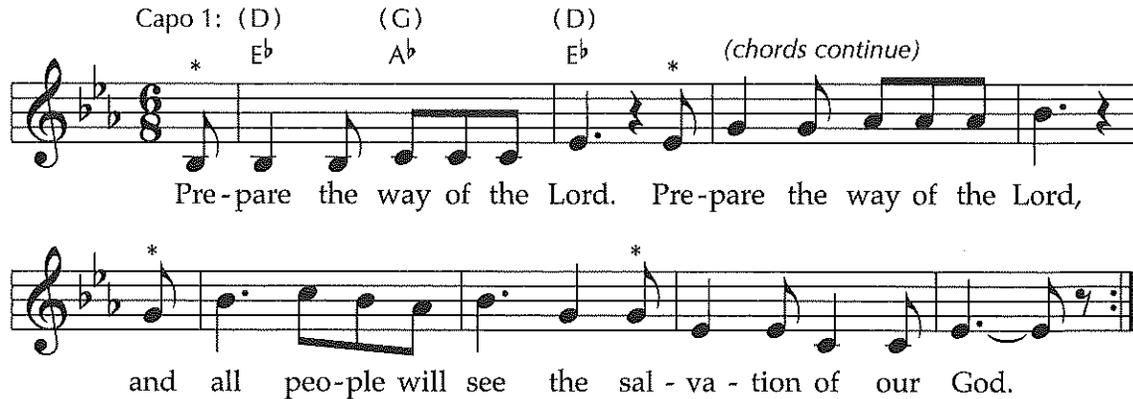
Allow your holy love to shine in us. Let your love and light shine in us,

Set us aflame with love. We wait in hope, peace, joy, and love with all your people, Through the ages and into tomorrow. **Amen.**

HYMN

Prepare the Way of the Lord 95

Capo 1: (D) (G) (D)
* E^b A^b E^b * (chords continue)



Pre-prepare the way of the Lord. Pre-prepare the way of the Lord,
and all peo-ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God.

**May be sung as a canon.*

All three synoptic gospels identify John the Baptist as the forerunner of the Messiah (Matthew 3:3/Mark 1:2-3/Luke 3:4) in accord with Isaiah's prophecy (Isaiah 40:3b). Because the latter part of the text (Isaiah 52:10b) has yet to be accomplished, this is still our mission today.

TEXT: Taizé Community, 1984
MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1984
Text and Music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

PREPARE THE WAY
7.7.6.7

CALL TO CONFESSION

Susan and Christian Mazzola

Let us confess our sins to the One whose mercy endures from generation to generation.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Faithful God, we know that you are always there to guide us, yet we often make plans without listening to you and discover that our human agendas can drown out our ability to hear your will for us. We repent of these sins, that our lives may magnify your holy name forever. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Siblings in Christ, your sins are forgiven. Blessed be the God of our salvation whose mercy is everlasting.

AWAY IN A MANGER (ONE VERSE PLAYED)

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

115 Away in a Manger

Capo 3: (D) F (G) B \flat (D) F

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the poor ba - by wakes,
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay

(A7) C7 (D) F

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
 but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.
 close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

(G) B \flat (D) F

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
 I love thee, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky,
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,

(A7) C7 (D) F (Em) Gm (A7) C7 (D) F

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
 and fit us for heav - en to live with thee there.

Though erroneously attributed to Martin Luther, this anonymous carol has North American roots, probably originating among Pennsylvania Lutherans. Although more than forty melodies have been connected with these words, this tune was among the earliest written for them.

TEXT: Stanzas 1-2, *Little Children's Book for Schools and Families*, c. 1885;
 stanza 3, *Gabriel's Vineyard Songs*, 1892
 MUSIC: James R. Murray, 1887

MUELLER
 11.11.11.11
 (alternate tune: CRADLE SONG, 114)

THE WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Sandy Barrow

Who are we, God, that you should come to us? Yet you have visited your people and redeemed us in your Son. As we prepare to celebrate his birth, make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of your word and move us by your Spirit to bless your wonderful works. **Amen.**

CHORAL ANTHEM

My Soul Give Glory to My God

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:26-38

Sandy Barrow

SERMON

Rev. Martha M. Shiverick

‘The Miracle of Childbirth!’

THE RESPONSE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Elaine Lanaris

Let us join our voices with Mary, who celebrates God’s greatness and sings of God’s blessing for all the poor and oppressed.

We pray for the mission of your church, that we may proclaim the good news of this age as we rejoice at the gift of our Savior.

We pray for all who suffer, that we may feed the hungry and lift up the lowly; may you help us to offer comfort to people separated from those they love because of the pandemic in which we live.

We pray for your creation, that we may safeguard its well-being from generation to generation as good stewards of all that you have given us.

We remember those who have died and that there are among us people who will be grieving this Christmas for who is not at the holiday table.

We pray all this in Christ’s name who also taught us to pray in this manner:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

For the Lord's Prayer we appreciate the diverse traditions and backgrounds that make up the Riviera family of faith and encourage you to use whatever words for this prayer are meaningful for you.

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Martha M. Shiverick

CALL TO OFFERING

Rev. Martha M. Shiverick

Joining Mary's joyful song, our souls proclaim the greatness of the Lord, and our spirits rejoice in you our God and Savior. So, it is with humble and grateful hearts that we bring to you our tithes and offerings. We ask you to bless the gifts we offer to lift up the lowly and fill the hungry in your coming reign of justice and peace. **Amen.**

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Christmas Joy Offering

INVITATION TO GIVE TITHES AND OFFERINGS

The Act of Gratitude

- 1. You may donate today via credit/debit card by visiting our website at www.rivierachurch.org and clicking on the GIVE button**
 - 2. You may download the free Give+ app (iOS & Android)**
 - 3. You may consider setting up online payment via your bank bill pay program.**
 - 4. You may also mail in your check to the church at Riviera Presbyterian Church at 5275 Sunset Drive, Miami FL 33143**
- If you are a member of another church, please donate to them during this time*

DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God, ye hosts in heaven above;
Praise God, the Trinity of Love. Amen*

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Martha Shiverick

CLOSING HYMN

123 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

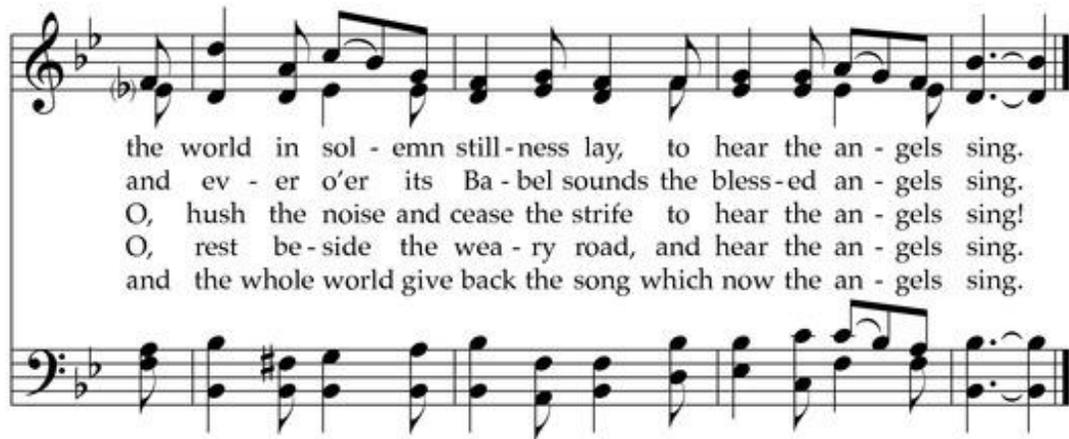
1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with peace-ful wings un - furled,
 3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suf-fered long;
 4 And you, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,
 5 For lo, the days are has-tening on, by proph-ets seen of old,

from an - gels bend - ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
 and still their heaven-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world:
 be - neath the heaven-ly hymn have rolled two thou-sand years of wrong;
 who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow,
 when with the ev - er - cir-cling years shall come the time fore - told,

“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven’s all-gra-cious King”:
 a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov-ering wing,
 and we at war on earth hear not the tid - ings that they bring;
 look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing:
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen-dors fling,

The “it” of the first line of this text by a Unitarian minister does not refer to the birth of Jesus, but to “that glorious song of old,” the angelic tidings of peace on earth. The restored third stanza laments how often the noise of human strife has obscured that message.

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH



the world in sol - emn still - ness lay, to hear the an - gels sing.
and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the an - gels sing!
O, rest be - side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing.
and the whole world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Please join us on Zoom for Holy Grounds Fellowship Gathering at 12:45pm today. Meeting ID 829-1129-7119 Passcode 056833



Thank you for worshipping at Riviera today. Please take a moment fill out the Friendship Form on our website and share any prayer requests or joys which will be sent to our pastoral care team.

If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please send us an email at rivierachurch@gmail.com.



Next Sunday Morning You Are Invited for Zoom Online

Adult Bible Study Class

10:00 am - 10:30 am

This is a great opportunity to study Sunday's sermon passage with Pastor Missy.

Meeting 860-148-3445

Password: 2708



The Riviera Food Pantry

Current Needs

canned tuna
canned fruit
canned soup
canned veggies
granola bars

You may also send monetary donations via our [online service](#), via your bank's bill pay, or mail a check to the church. --Thank you.

CHRISTMAS EVE

**Carols, Candles
& Nativity story**

RIVIERACHURCH.ORG - DEC. 24 @ 6PM

Christmas Eve service will happen even if we cannot celebrate in the sanctuary. You are invited to join us at 6:00 pm by going to our website www.rivierachurch.org.

After the service please join us for a Christmas Eve Open House ZOOM Gathering. Meeting ID: 829 1129 7119 Passcode: 056833 or visit <https://bit.ly/rpc-xmas>



OUR GIFTS AT WORK: PREPARING THE WAY FOR FUTURE LEADERS

One of the most powerful things that Christians claim is that God saw the great needs of the world and offered a perfect gift in response, a gift that brought God and humanity closer together.

God's perfect gift, Jesus Christ. "Emmanuel, God is with us!" our Advent dream proclaims, as God joins in human life, and draws us together as a result. "God is with us" shows God values togetherness and relationship with us, leading us to value togetherness and relationship with one another. When we are all together — and even when we are apart.

During these past months, we weren't able to be together in person, but we have always been together in spirit, and in faith. We have missed seeing faces we love — up close and personal, but the physical distance has also revealed, for us, the importance of those things which bring us together, even when we are physically far apart.

We offer our gifts during this Advent Season to the Christmas Joy Offering because God shows us the power and importance of being together, of "being with." We might not be able to meet face to face with those who need the support that our gifts provide, but we are very much still together.

We support the potential of students of color who will become our leaders and we seek to come alongside them, to encourage them, to be together with them. And we support church workers and their families who have critical financial needs and we come alongside them, to assist them — we are with them. And we see the witness of the whole Church, either gathered in buildings or connected home to home, member to member, sharing what we have, together. We thank God for being "with us" through the gift of Jesus and for joining us together as the Church and, through our gifts, with those who have need.

We can never match God's perfect gift in Jesus, but through the Christmas Joy Offering, we *can* testify to who we have known God to be. Our perfect gift comes from above. Our gifts reflect our generous God. Our gifts support leaders in our Church and world — past, present and future.

**Our goal for 2020 is \$950. You can contribute to the offering on our website –
www.rivierachurch.org or clicking on this link <https://bit.ly/331a5E8>**

Video and audio was recorded by various members of the church's staff and church family for the purpose of providing online worship to the members of Riviera Presbyterian and others who view the link.

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Angels We Have Heard on High

[#84241](#)

Type: Words and Music; First Line:

Angels we have heard on high

Text: 77 77 with refrain; French, ca. 18th

cent.; tr. from Crown of Jesus Music,

London, 1862. Music: Trad. French carol.

Contributors: GLORIA

Prepare the way of the Lord

Text: Taize Community 1984; Music:

Jacques Berthier, 1984; ©1984 Les Presses

de Taize GIA Publications, Inc.

Away In A Manger

Public Domain

My Soul Gives Glory to My God

[#91855](#) List

Type: Words; First Line: My soul gives glory to my God

Contributors: Medical Mission Sisters

Text: Text by Miriam Therese Winter,

MMS, © 1987, Medical Mission Sisters

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Public Domain

Riviera Presbyterian Church - PCUSA
(A Member Congregation of the Presbytery of Tropical Florida)

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Check in on Facebook and connect with us.

Ministers

Pastor

Parish Associate for Visitation

Parish Associate for Visitation

Director of Music

Youth Education and Outreach Assistant

Certified Church Administrator

Nursery Care Giver

Custodian

All the People

Rev. Martha M. Shiverick

Rev. Rosemary Noga Welton

Rev. Dr. David Welton

Dr. Walter Busse

Anna E. Rosas

Barbara Prieto

Josephine Gurri

Mary Lopez

Session	Session	Session
<u>Class of 2021</u>	<u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>
Kyle Dettloff	Karen Collier	Susan Admire
Vivian German	Barbara Overton	Amparo Hernandez
Rey Prieto	Susan Mazzola	Bryan Page
Cris Sweeny	Mimi Sutherland	Michele Ready