



CHRISTMAS EVE DECEMBER 24, 2020



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

Let us know you worshiped with us this evening 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. Don't forget to keep checking our various social media outlets, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, for up-to-date information, find us @RivieraChurch

We welcome the Rev. Daniel Morales and the members of New Covenant Presbyterian Church who are joining us this evening for worship.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

OPENING CAROL

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

O Come, All Ye Faithful 133

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come
2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -

ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,
of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -
all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all
sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

Refrain
born the King of an - gels!
got - ten, not cre - at - ed! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
glo - ry in the high - est!
now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named.

TEXT: John Francis Wade, c. 1743; trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, alt.
MUSIC: John Francis Wade, c. 1743; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

ADESTE FIDELES
Irregular

GREETINGS

Rev. Martha Shiverick

The heavens tell of your glory this evening, O God. All creation sings for joy. For tonight we celebrate a birth that took place centuries ago, that tonight still brings to each of us great light and the promise of abundant life. We come this evening to experience the awe; to be amazed; and to hear the story again and make it our own. We come seeking the love and acceptance that Jesus our Christ promises, to make the story of Christ's birth transformational in us and to create in us new life as well.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Martha Shiverick

One: A child has been born to us,

All: A son given to us;

One: Authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named:

All: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace

One: Glory to God in the highest,

All: And peace to God's people on earth. Alleluia!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Anna Rosas

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Rev. Martha Shiverick

God, we wish to make room for you this night of all nights:

room in our minds and hearts;

and room for you in our life together.

Let your word be born in us anew

so that, by the power of the Holy Spirit,

your splendor shines in us and through us.

In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

THE WORD

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:1-7

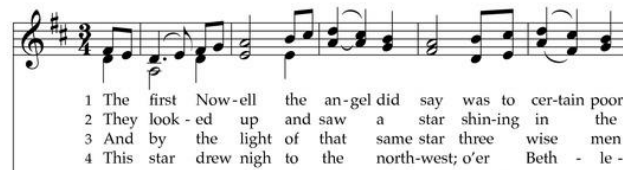
Rev. Daniel Morales

CAROL

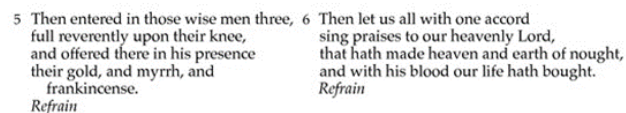
JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

147

The First Nowell



JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH



SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:8-14

Anna Rosas

THE RESPONSE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Martha Shiverick

God, who knows no boundaries in love, teach us to be examples of your love to others. Where there is sadness and loneliness tonight, let us help others know your close presence in their lives. We pray for those who cannot hear the songs of glory as their own grief or health or losses overwhelm them. Help us to carry their burdens, to lighten their loads, and to help them feel your loving presence now and always.

Where there is despair, let us share the good news of your son. In this economic climate, where creating the material miracle of Christmas is stressful, help us to focus on the true gifts of Christmas.

In this season where family togetherness is stressed, we pray for those who cannot be with their loved ones because of the pandemic. We pray for those who are alone and for those whose family situations are filled with stress. Help us, God, to reach out to others so they might feel your peace and unconditional love.

We praise you, O God, that in the birth of Jesus Christ, you have come to speak your Word of love and life. Touch us with unearthly joy, like the singing of the angels; fill us with wonder, like the eyes of children; teach us to humble ourselves before you, like the worshipping Magi. may our journey to the manger this year be only the beginning of a lifetime of service to Jesus, our Christ, 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.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:15-20

Rev. Martha Shiverick

CAROL

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

134 Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.

MUSIC: Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742; arr. Lowell Mason, 1836

ANTIOCH

CM with repeat

(alternate tune: RICHMOND, 266)

CALL TO OFFERING

Rev. Martha Shiverick

Because God so loved the world. God sent the Son into the world. In response to this good news of great joy, we offer you songs of praise, tithes and offerings, and acts of service.

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*

CAROL

What Child Is This verse 3

*So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Daniel Morales

Great God, as you came to us in the stillness of the night, enter our lives this night. May our gifts overcome darkness with the light of Christ's presence in our world. We bring to you ourselves, our offerings, and the gifts you fill us with this night. May the knowledge of your presence illuminate the paths we walk, the words we speak, and the lives we live. Use all that we have and all that we are to ease the heavy burdens of others and bring about your peace.
Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Anna Rosas, Rev. Daniel Morales, Rev. Martha Shiverick

Anna: This evening the Christ Candle is lit.

With the lighting of this candle the wreath is complete.

The candle sits in the center of the wreath,

and it is representative of the good news that Christ is the center of our lives.

The color of the candle is white which represents the purity of Christ.

Missy: There is good news of great joy for all!

The Messiah, our Savior is born.

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

As the night sky was filled with light the message came...

To you is born this day,

A savior who is the Messiah.

Glory to God in the highest heaven,

And on earth peace among those whom God favors! (Luke 2:10, 14)

Danny: Let us pray:

Great God, as you came at night when all was still,
so enter our lives this night.

You alone are our center and bright glory.

Illumine our paths with the light of Christ's presence,

That we may clearly see the way, the truth,

And the life of Jesus our Christ,

Who lives and reigns with you

In the unity of the Holy Spirit,

One God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CAROL

Silent Night, Holy Night

1 Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

2 Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia:
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!"

3 Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Danny: Gabriel foretold it.

Anna: The angels heralded it.

Missy: The shepherds came to see it for themselves.

Danny: And it is true. God is with us through Jesus Christ, the babe of Bethlehem and our resurrected Lord.

Anna: The world will never be the same; we ourselves will never be the same.

Missy: Go then and tell the world - Jesus Christ is born!

POSTLUDE



Please join us on Zoom for Fellowship Gathering following the service.

Meeting ID 829-1129-7119

Passcode 056833



Thank you for connecting and worshipping this evening with us. 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



Connect with us next Sunday as we welcome members of More Light Presbyterians to our worship service. The Rev. Alex Patchin-McNeil, Executive Director and The Rev. Ashley DeTar Birt Board Co-Moderator will who be delivering the Sunday sermon.



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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O Come, All Ye Faithful
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Check in on Facebook and connect with us.

Ministers

All the People

Pastor

Rev. Martha M. Shiverick

Parish Associate for Visitation

Rev. Rosemary Noga Welton

Parish Associate for Visitation

Rev. Dr. David Welton

Director of Music

Dr. Walter Busse

Youth Education and Outreach Assistant

Anna E. Rosas

Certified Church Administrator

Barbara Prieto

Nursery Care Giver

Josephine Gurri

Custodian

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