

## ORDER OF SERVICE

“For if there is a sin against life, it consists in perhaps not so much in despairing of life as in hoping for another life and in eluding the implacable grandeur of this life.” -- Albert Camus

PRELUDE *Chant de l'alouette, op. 39, no. 22* -- P. I. Tschaikowsky

INTROIT *Enter into These Gates* -- Tom Benjamin

CHALICE LIGHTING Number 420 -- Jillian Baker, chalice lighter

\*HYMN Number 126 (standing) *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*  
(Children in grades 4-6 leave for their classroom following the hymn.)

\* RESPONSIVE READING Number 659 (standing) -- Walt Whitman

\* SONG OF EXALTATION (standing) Genevan Psalter, 1551

**All people that on earth do dwell,  
Sing ye to God with cheerful voice;  
Come serve with mirth, God's praise forth tell.  
Join ye together and rejoice. Amen.**

READING from *The Age of Absurdity* by Michael Foley

\*INTERLUDE *A Winter Morning, op. 39, no. 2* -- Tschaikowsky

READING “Am I Not Among the Early Risers” -- a poem by Mary Oliver

THOUGHTS FOR MEDITATION

MOMENTS OF SILENCE (A time for contemplation and prayer.)

ANTHEM *Amazing Grace* -- J. Newton; Arr. Walter Roby & Joseph Roff

OFFERTORY *January-Before the chimney, op. 37, no. 1* -- Tschaikowsky

ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*HYMN Number 20 (standing) *Be Thou My Vision*

SERMON “Absurdity and Happiness” -- The Reverend Burton D. Carley

CHORAL RESPONSE *Spirit Give Thy Benediction* -- John Carter

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *February-Carnival, op. 37, no. 2* -- Tschaikowsky

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\* Persons arriving late may be seated at these times.

**Large Print or Braille Hymnals, and Assisted Hearing Devices** may be requested from the ushers.

**Web Site:** Check out our website at [www.churchoftheriver.org](http://www.churchoftheriver.org). You will find relevant information about our church, including a calendar and the weekly newsletter. On the website you can click on the Facebook and Twitter icons to engage with us on those two social networks for the latest news and discussions about the Church of the River.

**A Crying Room is available** in the Beacon Room (library) of the Channing Wing. You can hear the service while rocking the little one.

**The Care Coordinator** for January is Marti Holladay (725-4103).

**SUNDAY MORNING GROUPS:** **The Quest Group** meets in Beacon Room at 9:30 a.m. to study and discuss the Hebrew Scriptures. **Questions of Faith** Sunday morning group meets at 10 a.m. in the Beatrix Potter Wing to discuss “Building Your Own Theology.” For information contact Carol Straughn at 488-1531.

**What are you called to do? Five opportunities:** (1) Soup Kitchen (Dan Bing at 763-2384); (2) COR meals-on-wheels (Jeane Umbreit at 374-9114); (3) Shady Grove Elementary School (Juliet Wischmeyer at 270-4260); (4) Hospitality Hub (Ellen Klyce at 323-0123); Manna House (Nancy Walton at 685-2499).

**SERMONS AVAILABLE: CD's for \$5 or on loan from the library. Print copies on the Welcome Table. PODCASTS** on the website by Tuesday.

Check out the **Faith in Memphis** web site. Rev. Carley is on the Memphis religious leaders writing panel.

**THE ALLIANCE** will meet on Tues., Jan. 10, in the MS. River Rm. at 10:30 a.m. for a program with Tammy Jo O'Neal on “The Trager Method,” a therapy that addresses daily fatigue and soreness. Lunch will be served.

**THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES** meeting is changed to Wed., Jan. 18, 6 p.m.

**THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** for budget and outreach approval is on Sunday, Jan. 22, after the service.

**UU UNBIRTHDAY/UNDI SUNDAY** is Jan. 15. We will celebrate our UU history, all our birthdays, and collect underwear for Shady Grove, the Hospitality Hub and Manna House.

**TWO NEW GROUPS FORMING:** The Poetry Connection; and Race, Redemption and the Future of Memphis. Check the newsletter for details.

*Join us on Facebook and Twitter!*

Please leave back pews vacant for those with mobility needs.

We invite any visitors who want to learn more about the Church of the River to stop by the Beacon Room (library) on the First Sunday of each month for an informal chat with the minister & president of the congregation