

ORDER OF SERVICE

“One spends one’s life waiting.” -- Elie Wiesel

PRELUDE ***What Child Is This*** -- Vince Guaraldi

INTROIT ***O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*** -- 13th c. hymn

CHALICE LIGHTING Number 447 -- Reeves Bauer, chalice lighter

*HYMN Number 225 (standing) ***O Come, O Come, Emmanuel***
(Children in grades 4-6 leave for their classroom following the hymn.)

* RESPONSIVE READING Number 439 (standing) -- Sophia Lyon Fahs

* 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 Luke 15:11-32 (The parable of the waiting father)

*INTERLUDE ***Away in a Manger/Lullaby*** -- J. Brahms, W. J. Kirkpatrick
arr. M. Reimer

READING “Waiting” from ***With or Without Candlelight*** -- bc

THOUGHTS FOR MEDITATION

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

ANTHEM ***Happy Hanukkah!*** -- Mary Donnelly

OFFERTORY ***Joy to the World/Joyful/Joyful We Adore Thee***
-- G. F. Handel, L. van Beethoven, arr. Mr. Reimer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*HYMN Number 244 (standing) ***It Came upon the Midnight Clear***

SERMON “Waiting” -- The Reverend Burton D. Carley

CHORAL RESPONSE ***Love & Joy*** -- traditional

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE ***Ukrainian Bell Carol/What Child is This*** -- trad., arr. R. House

* 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. 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 Dec. is Lisa Jennings (682-7838).

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 final WHOSE ARE WE? class is at the Jennings on Tues., 7:30 p.m.

AFTER THE SERVICE WE GATHER AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE in the MS. River Room to hear songs by our Shady Grove Elementary adopted school children, and to sing “The Twelve Days of Christmas” with all the props. **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED DEC. 26-30.** There will be a Christmas service on Christmas Sunday.

Christmas Eve is the Candlelight Service. 4:30 p.m. bring a dozen Christmas cookies for the reception in the Ms. River Rm. The service is at 5:30 p.m. Please bring a layette gift for infants up to 12 months. The children will present the gifts to the baby during the service. The items will be donated to mothers in need at The Med’s newborn unit.

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

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