

Welcome to **River Community Church**

Sunday Morning Worship

Order of Worship

December 24th at 10:30am

Christmas Eve

Rev. JM Owens III - Pastor | Rev. Steve Rhodes - Pastor Emeritus
Kevin Raske - Music Director

Prelude

Good Christian Men, Rejoice *Medieval Latin Carol; Tr. Neale (18533); Arr. Drake*

Welcome & Announcements

God Calls Us to Himself

*Call to Worship *Isaiah 53:1-2, 1 Timothy 3:16*

Leader: Who has believed what they heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.

All: **Proclaim it among the nations: "Great indeed we confess is the mystery of godliness: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory."**

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain *Spiritual; Arr. Raske*

*Praising God Who Is with Us

We Bring Ourselves to God

*Come Adore the Humble King *Papa, Boswell*

*We Confess Our Faith Together *Philippians 2:5-11*

We believe in and share the mind of Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,

*Please Stand

in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing *Wesley (1739)*

Humbling Ourselves Before God in Prayer *concluding with the Lord's Prayer*

We Give Thanks to God

Giving of Tithes & Offerings

Children ages 3-5 may be taken to the nursery during the offering.

Angels We Have Heard On High *Traditional French Carol; Arr. Raske*

*Doxology *Ken (1709)*

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

God Speaks to Us

The Word of God Read *John 1:1-18*

The Word of God Proclaimed *Rev. Steve Rhodes*

"Jesus Becomes Man"

Who is Jesus? Explorations in John 1

Responding to God's Word in Prayer

God Feeds Us

Invitation & Exhortation

Prayer of Consecration

The Bread & the Cup

Prayer of Dedication

God Blesses Us

*Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery *Papa, Boswell*

*Benediction

*Respond with Song All Creatures of Our God & King (Refrain) *St. Francis (1225)*

O praise Him! O praise Him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Weekly Announcements

December 24th–31st, 2023

Christmas Bonfire

Immediately Following the Christmas Eve Service

This year's bonfire will begin shortly after the Christmas Eve service. Food will be included. Please invite your family and friends to join us for both! Stay as long as you like.

The men of the church will be setting up the tents, tables, and chairs immediately following this morning's service. If you are available to help out, please see Brian Meck.

Special Offering this Evening

Benevolence Fund

At our Christmas Eve service this evening, we will take up a special offering to benefit our Benevolence Fund. The Benevolence Fund is overseen by the Deacons and is used to assist members of the congregation in financial need. This year, the Deacons distributed \$2034 in financial assistance to members of River Community Church.

Congregational Meeting: January 7th

Voting to Leave the EPC and Receiving the Budget

River has scheduled a congregational meeting for Sunday, January 7th, immediately following the morning worship service. There are three items that will be taken up for consideration at this meeting. First, we will take up the vote to leave the EPC. Then we will have two matters to handle relating to the budget: receiving the annual report and approving some PCA-related changes to Pastor Trey's Terms of Call.

No Youth Fellowship

Sunday Night Youth Fellowship will resume January 7th.

Make sure to grab a prayer request/connection card to let us know you're here and how we can be praying for you!

For giving options, please visit rivercommunity.org/give



Sunday Morning Worship

River Community Church

December 24th, 2023

10:30AM

Prairieville, LA

Welcome to **River Community Church**

Christmas Eve Service

Order of Worship

December 24th at 5:00pm

Children of all ages are encouraged to remain for the duration of this evening's service.

Prelude

Sing We the Song of Emmanuel

Papa, Boswell

Welcome

Reading of the Christmas Story

Luke 2:1–20

Songs of the Incarnation

* O Come All Ye Faithful

Wade (1751); Arr. Raske

* Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

C. Wesley (1744); Arr. Raske

* Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Polish Carol; Tr. Reed (ca. 1925)

Christmas Eve Offering

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Latin Hymn (ca. 12th century); Tr. Neale

Our offering this evening will benefit our church benevolence fund, which is used to assist members of the congregation in financial need.

Christmas Eve Homily

The Word of God Read

1 John 3:7–10

The Word of God Proclaimed

Rev. JM Owens III

"The Reason the Son of God Appeared"

Blessing & Benediction

Recessional

* Silent Night

Mohr (1818)

* Please Stand