**Welcome!**

We are glad you are worshiping with us today! Since our founding in the 1950s, we at Little River United Church of Christ (UCC) have been called by God to celebrate diversity, independent thought, and faithful action. This call led us to become racially integrated in the segregated Virginia of the 1950s. That same call led us in 2001 to become open to and affirming of LGBTQ+ folks, including full access to the rites of ordination and marriage. Today, we build on our heritage of proclaiming God’s radically inclusive love to our congregation, neighborhood, and world by nurturing individual and congregational spirituality, serving our community, and advocating for all God’s creatures and creation. We’d love to have you join us in these sacred tasks! You may make your presence known by emailing us at office@lrucc.org. Welcome!

**Worship and Meeting Changes in Response to Coronavirus**

We are excited to start welcoming members and friends back to the sanctuary for in-person worship. Remember for in-person service to observe social distancing and masks are required for everyone at all times. Coffee hour socializing will continue to occur online via Zoom. Worship will also continue to be offered online via Zoom.

**Note:** Children’s Sunday School is now being offered for children from kindergarten through twelfth grade during the 10 a.m. worship service. Please check with an usher for the location of classes.

**Service Credits**

The liturgy for today is adapted from Adapted from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2012* and the United Church of Christ Book of Worship. Today’s hymns are used with permission, reprinted under OneLicense.net A-715105.

**Communications at Little River UCC**

Little River UCC produces a weekly e-newsletter, *Current Tidings*, and periodically sends out *Alerts* (emails with significant, time-sensitive information). All submissions for the weekly Bulletin, *Current Tidings*, and online *Currents* should be submitted to the office by Wednesdays at noon. We also send out a monthly print newsletter, *Current Reflections*. To receive any of these communications, please send an email to currents@lrucc.org or call the church office to give us your contact information.

**Staff and Partners**

- Rev. Dr. Arthur L. Cribbs, Jr., Interim Senior Pastor (619) 948-1777 | pastorart@lrucc.org
- Craig Stapert, Director of Music and Communications | craig@lrucc.org
- Ashton Streavig, Children and Youth Choir Director | ashton@lrucc.org
- Kathy Heyman, Office Administrator | kathy@lrucc.org
- John Davis, Sexton/First Friday Coordinator | john@lrucc.org
- Yris Saenz, Liana Berbichasvili, Child Care Providers | office@lrucc.org
- Rev. Dr. Verne Arens, Pastor Emeritus
- Rev. Hubert S. Beckwith, Founding Pastor
SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND WORSHIP
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Prelude

In Dulci Jubilo
D. Buxtehude

Welcome & Announcements
Rev. Dr. Arthur L. Cribbs, Jr.

Lighting of the Advent Candle
Rich Dodenhoff and Tom Epps

O come and be the hope in all our lives
Though chaos and confusion still survive
We know the path of hate all too well
We need our God with us, Emmanuel!
Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to us
And all things shall be well

O come and bring your peace upon the earth
That even now still longs for its rebirth
We seek to live and move in your ways
Guide us to peace and justice all our days
Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to us
And all things shall be well

O come to us like joy of heaven’s dawn,
From Mary’s womb a faithful paragon
Brought forth into this world by love’s power
Your Spirit through her labors in that hour
Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to us
And all things shall be well

O come you source of Love unto us all
Enlighten us and help us hear your call
To bear your Love out into the wild
And celebrate God’s wondrous holy Child!
Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to us
And all things shall be well

Candle Lighting Ritual

When we feel invisible, ineffective,
Too small to make a difference
The Holy invites us to be God-Bearers
And we shall find Love
RITUAL CANDLE LIGHTING OF LOVE

Where in the world do we find Love these days?

PRAYER

Holy and loving God, fill our hearts with your love.
Open our eyes to see you throughout the world.
Open our mouths to make a joyful noise.
Open our ears to hear the sounds of joy in the world. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Sallyanne Harper

One: Sovereign God! Righteous God!
All: Bring your joy into our lives.
One: Open our eyes and ears to receive you.
All: Open our mouths to proclaim your Good News.
One: Christ, our Savior, we sing your praise.

* HYMN 129

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

(SEE BACK OF BULLETIN FOR MUSIC INSERT)

INVOCATION

Sallyanne Harper

Loving God, your people have come together to worship you.
We have gathered although scattered to give you praise.
Fill our hearts with joy and love. Give us peace and hope.
Teach us how to be faithful and honor you.
Thank you, O God, for your mercy and renewing presence.
Come now as we focus our attention on you and give you praise. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Dr. Arthur L. Cribbs, Jr.

In Person: You may stand if you are able and offer a wave or a peace sign—please maintain social distancing.
Online: Please type your words of peace in the chat box. We will not unmute at this time.

ANTHEM

Missa in Dulci Jubilo

Byron Adams

Kyrie
Kyrie eleison.
Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison.

Gloria
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Et in terra pax
hominibus bonæ voluntatis.
Laudamus te.
Benedicimus te.
Adoramus te.
Glorificamus te.

Kyrie
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Gloria
Glory be to God on high,
and on earth peace,
good will towards all.
We praise thee,
we bless thee,
we worship thee,
we glorify thee,
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,
have mercy upon us.
For thou only art holy;
thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ,
with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

Sanctus
Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt cœli et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.
Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.
Hosanna in excelsis.

Agnus Dei
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona nobis pacem.

Prayer for Illumination
Walk with us, O God, so our light will shine to brighten your world.
Speak to us, Holy One, so we can lift the spirits of those we meet.
Teach us how to bring peace, hope, love, and joy wherever we go.
Give us courage to stand boldly and proclaim your Good News.
Come now, Loving One, fill our hearts with your Word.
Come as we give you praise. Amen.

Scripture
Micah 5:2–5
Sallyanne Harper

Sermon
Moving with Mary’s Song
Rev. Dr. Arthur L. Cribbs, Jr.

Call to Offering
You can give your offering to Little River UCC by mailing a check to the church
or by visiting the Donate Online page on our website. Thank you.

Prayer of Dedication
Sallyanne Harper
* Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host.

Thanksgivings & Concerns

If you have a prayer concern or thanksgiving to celebrate, we encourage you to share with the congregation at this time. Those worshiping in person may come to the floor microphone one at a time. Those worshiping on Zoom may type their prayer in the chat box for a deacon to share in the service on your behalf. Please add your name to the prayer request so we will know from whom the request is coming. If you do not wish to share your prayer concern with the congregation, you may always email Pastor Art at pastorart@lrucc.org.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

* Hymn 140

Hail to the Lord's Anointed
SHEFFIELD
(see back of bulletin for music insert)

* Benediction

As we come to the end of our worship,
now it is time for our service to begin.
Go into the world unafraid, unashamed, and unapologetic.
Go and be audacious, bodacious, and courageous. Amen.

Postlude

In Dulci Jubilo
J. S. Bach

The sanctuary flowers were given today by Barbara and Dave Shepherd in celebration of their 45th wedding anniversary.

* Those who are able are invited to stand.
**Today**

**Coffee Hour and Fellowship**  
11 a.m.  
All are welcome to stay on the worship service Zoom to share thoughts, reflections, and fellowship.

**Christmas Fund Offering**  
Please plan to include the Christmas Offering in your holiday giving! At Little River UCC, we will receive this offering Sunday, December 19 through Sunday, December 26. Half of the offering will go to the United Church of Christ Christmas Fund to assist retired UCC clergy experiencing financial difficulty, in many cases related to health care costs. The other half will go to support the Congregation Action Network, a coalition of congregations in DC, Maryland, and Virginia providing support and solidarity to immigrants in our community. The church will gladly receive contributions by mail or through the online giving page on the church website. Please make your check payable to Little River UCC with the memo “Christmas Fund Offering.” The members of the Board of Outreach and Social Justice thank you for your generosity!

**Fair Trade Products for the Holidays**  
Fair trade products will be available for giving—and receiving!—this holiday season. Please support small-scale farmers around the world who grow and produce organic coffee, chocolate, and Palestinian olive oil products as you stuff stockings and give gifts. Contact Ann Lingo to make sure your Equal Exchange chocolate bars ($3) and regular ($7) or decaf ($8) coffee (whole bean or ground) will be available (ann.lingo@verizon.net or 703-425-9140). Palestinian olive oil is available in half-liter bottles (Nabali or Rumi oil @ $20) or one-liter tins ($30) and olive tapenade ($7). Contact Jan Curtis to ensure your needed olive oil products are on hand (janetscurtis@gmail.com or 703-503-8454). Fair trade products are available after worship services. Palestinian products are also available on Wednesdays (contact John Davis at the church office).

**Christmas Poinsettias**  
Just a few remain! If you would like to sponsor the Christmas poinsettias for the sanctuary—and make sure you have one (or more!) to take home, please contact the church office by **Monday, December 20**. A limited number of 6-inch pots have been ordered and may be adopted on a first-come, first-served basis. Poinsettias are $17 each, and dedications (if desired) will be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Email office@lrucc.org or call 703-978-3060.
THIS WEEK AND BEYOND - EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Christmas Eve Service                        5 p.m. (In person and Online)
Holiday celebrations will conclude with our Christmas Eve celebration. Plan to join us
in-person or online for a hybrid service beginning at 5 p.m.
Volunteers are needed to help welcome Little River’s new and old friends attending service on
Christmas Eve. Please see the volunteer position needed: Sign up here!

Pilgrim Youth Fellowship (PYF)

❖ Thursday, December 23, Farolito/Luminaria. The PYF will meet at the church to
assemble the bags and candles for this annual Christmas Eve tradition at 3:30 p.m. After
the project is completed, please stay to celebrate with a white elephant/thieve’s gift
exchange. Bring a wrapped gift ($10 limit). No food items due to dietary restrictions.
The fun is in the fellowship! Hope you can join us!

❖ Friday, December 24. PYF are invited to assist John Davis in placing the farolito along
the drive into the church prior to the 5 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

❖ The next PYF book club meeting will meet on Sunday, January 9, at 10 a.m.
The novel selected is The Westing Game, by Ellen Raskin.

Questions? Contact Sarah Wilbur at dhakamedic@hotmail.com.

Meditation Group Meeting                        Sundays at 9 am
The Little River Meditation Group meets every Sunday via Zoom Video Conferencing
during this time of social distancing. All are welcome to join in at 9 a.m. as the group explores
meditation as a contemplative practice that helps to quiet the mind. Meetings will end at
9:50 a.m., just in time for participants to make it to the online worship services. Questions?
Contact Sallyanne Harper at Saharper1@verizon.net.
Join online: https://bit.ly/LR-Meditation

Helping Hands Needed - Being in Service

Volunteers Needed to Teach Church School                  Sundays
Email Emily Makos at ejmingus@gmail.com if you would be willing to teach Church School.

Volunteer for New Worship Media Team                  Sundays
If you are interested in helping our staff run Sunday service via Zoom, please volunteer for the
Worship Media Team by emailing office@lrucc.org.
Food Pantry Drop-offs
Little River collects donations of non-perishable food items, toilet paper, paper towels, diapers, baby wipes, and feminine hygiene products for neighbors in need across Northern Virginia. **Items especially needed are:** fruit cups or canned fruit, peanut butter, canned vegetables, tomato sauce, dry pasta, dish soap, diapers, dry beans, rice, Maseca (corn) flour, powder milk. Donations can be dropped by the front door of the church on **Wednesdays before 5 pm.** If you would like to arrange a different drop-off time, please contact the church office at office@lrucc.org.

Volunteers Needed for Sunday Front Door Greeters
The sign up sheet for Front Door Greeters for Sunday worship services is located on the bulletin board in the atrium. Please sign up for a Sunday. Arrive at 9:20 a.m. with a smile on your face and greet the people coming for the service. There are no meetings, just a smile is needed! For questions or more information contact Bunny Jones, 703-218-9888 or mkbjones@cox.net.

Volunteers Needed to Help with Worship Services
The Board of Deacons invites members and friends to assist in leading worship by volunteering to be a greeter, liturgist, usher, or Thanksgiving and Concerns reporter and/or note taker during Sunday worship services. [Sign up here!](https://bit.ly/LR-WorshipVol)

Flower Donation
If you would like to give flowers on the Sunday of your choice, email office@lrucc.org. Please include the date you would like to give flowers, and a dedication you would like listed in the bulletin. If you would like a certain type of flower, you can contact Ruth Duncan at 703-944-4874. Flowers typically cost $75–$100; the amount of your check is at your discretion. Make your check payable to Little River UCC and designate “Flower Fund” on the memo line.

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**Church News**

**Newsletter Deadline**
Content for the January printed newsletter is Sunday, January 2. Please send articles, photographs, calendar items, etc., to office@lrucc.org.

**Call for Annual Reports**
As we prepare for the Annual Church Meeting in late January, we request that committees and other groups submit their reports for the Annual Report. Please submit them electronically to office@lrucc.org. Submissions before December 31 are much appreciated; the absolute final deadline is Sunday, January 9.
Finance Committee: End-of-the-Year Financial Reminders
Thinking of making a year-end contribution to Little River UCC? To be credited as a contribution for 2021, please be advised that: cash or checks must be delivered to and accepted by the church office before the office is locked at close of business on December 31, or mailed to the church with a postmark of December 31 or earlier. Credit/debit card transactions made through the on-line giving portal on the website must be made by midnight on December 31. If you want to know where you stand on your 2021 pledge, please email accountant@lrucc.org.

Have any outstanding 2021 expenses or reimbursements related to LRUCC? All remaining expenses and reimbursements chargeable to the 2021 operating budget need to be processed by Monday, December 27. To avoid a last-minute paperwork crunch, please submit all vouchers for the payment of such expenses and reimbursements no later than Monday, December 20.

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Events of the Week of December 19, 2021

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<tr>
<th>Sunday, December 19</th>
<th>9:00</th>
<th>Meditation Group Meeting - via Zoom</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Sunday Worship Service</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11:00</td>
<td>Coffee Hour – via Zoom</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11:30</td>
<td>Intentional Interim Task Force</td>
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<td>1:00</td>
<td>BOSJ Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, December 20</td>
<td>5:00</td>
<td>Boy Scouts</td>
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<td>Tuesday, December 21</td>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>Office Staff Meeting</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:00</td>
<td>Trustee Board Meeting</td>
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<td>Wednesday, December 22</td>
<td>No LRUCC Activities Scheduled</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, December 23</td>
<td>3:30</td>
<td>PYF Luminaria Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, December 24</td>
<td>5:00</td>
<td>Christmas Eve Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, December 25</td>
<td>No LRUCC Activities Scheduled</td>
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Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

1. Lift up your heads, O mighty gates; behold the glorious
   Ruler waits! The Sovereign One is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.

2. Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple.
   set apart from earthly use for heaven's employing ploy, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

3. Redeemer, come! We open wide our hearts to you; here.
   Christ, abide! Let us your inner presence feel, your grace and love in us reveal.

4. So come, our Sovereign; enter in! Let new and nobler
   life begin; your Holy Spirit guide us on, until the glorious crown be won.

WORDS: Georg Weissel, 1642; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1855, alt.
MUSIC: Psalmodia Evangelica, 1789

TRURO
LM

Text revisions courtesy of United Church Board for Homeland Ministries/The Pilgrim Press
1. Hail to the Lord’s anointed, great David’s greater Son!
2. He comes with justice speedily to those who suffer wrong,
3. He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth.
4. To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend,

Hail in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!
to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong,
Love, joy, and hope, like flow'rs, spring in his path to birth.
his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.

He comes to break oppression, to set the captives free,
to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
Before him, on the mounds, shall peace, the herald go,
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove.

to take away transgressions, and rule in equity.
whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in his sight.
and righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.
His name shall stand forever; that name to us is Love.