

CHURCH FOCUS December 2024



Pastor's Message:

WHERE CAN YOU FIND JOY?

There is a deep-seated sadness that has gripped mankind since his fall in the Garden of Eden. The once warm, loving, and sweet fellowship with his Creator, in an instant, vanished. It was then replaced with shame and sadness. Therefore, Adam and Eve hid themselves. They pieced together leaves to cover their shame-filled bodies for the light which once clothed them was now dimmed. Man fell. His countenance fell also. Joy replaced with sorrow. All because of sin. To Eve, God said, "I will greatly multiply thy sorrow" and to Adam, God said, "in sorrow shalt thou" live all the days of thy life (see Genesis 3:14-21).

Days passed. Weeks passed. Months passed. Spring. Summer. Autumn. Winter. Years passed. Decades. Centuries! Millennia passed. Four thousand years passed! Then came joy! The barren Elisabeth was going to "have joy and gladness" (Luke 1:14). Her baby, who would later be known as John the Baptist, "leaped in my womb for joy" she said (Luke 1:44). The virgin Mary, her cousin, was also going to have a baby. What?! She said, "My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior" (Luke 1:46).

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This Month at RBC

1	Communion 10am
8	Leaders Meeting 5pm RBC Night of Christmas & Dessert Fellowship 6pm
13	Christmas Caroling 6pm
21	Outreach 10am
24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6pm
25	Merry Christmas! (Church office closed)
29	Vision Sunday B2B Services Potluck Lunch Election of Church Officers
31	New Years Eve Service 6pm



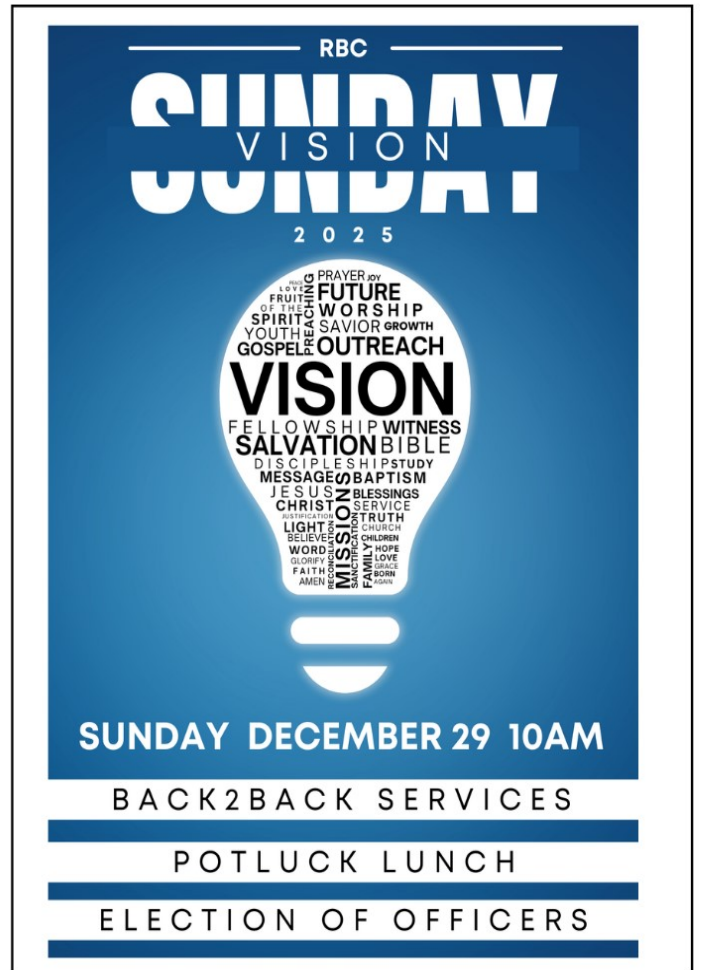
Christmas Caroling

Join your RBC family for a jolly night of singing and fellowship! We will meet at RBC and leave in church van at 6pm SHARP!



RBC Night of Christmas

Celebrate our Savior this Christmas in song and fellowship on Sunday, December 8th at 6pm.





Gospel Outreach

Join your church family Saturday, December 21st at 10am as we share the "Good News" with our community!



Discipleship Center

Come check out the DC! There's something for everyone!



Discipleship Class

Under the direction of Jose Duran, the Discipleship Class meets every Sunday morning at 9am in the DC



Men's Prayer

Come share in this special time of prayer Tuesdays and Fridays at 4:30pm in Pastor's Study.

Regular Schedule

Sundays:

- Women's Bible Study 9am
- Discipleship Class 9am
- Morning Worship Service 10am
- Children's Discipleship (2nd & 4th Sunday)
- Choir Practice TBA
- Evening Worship Service 6pm

Tuesdays & Fridays:

- Men's Prayer 4:30pm

Wednesdays:

- Kids Night Out 7pm
- Bible Study/Prayer Meeting 7pm

Thursday Bible Studies are on break. They will resume in January 2025.

Three Ways to Give



At Church



Online



By Mail



CHILDREN'S DISCIPLESHIP

**2nd & 4th Sundays
Ages 3-11**

RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

9015 Magnolia Avenue
Riverside, California 92503
(951) 687-6106
www.RBCSoCal.com
Pastor: Christian Torres

HOMEBUILDERS

The Incarnation

At the center of Christmas is Jesus, both fully God and fully man. "In Bethlehem, humility and glory in their extremes were joined," wrote pastor R.G. Lee (1886-1978). When Jesus came to earth, Lee explained, he descended:

- from the heights of glory to the depths of shame,
- from the wonders of heaven to the wickedness of earth,
- from exaltation to humiliation,
- from the throne to the tree,
- from dignity to debasement,
- from worship to wrath,
- from the halls of heaven to the nails of earth,
- from the coronation to the curse
- from the glory place to the gory place!

"Born in a stable! Cradled in a cattle trough! Wrapped in swaddling clothes of poverty!" Lee wrote. "No room for him who made all rooms! [No] place for him who made and knows all places! Oh, deep humiliation of the Creator — born of the creature, woman! But in his descent was the dawn of mercy. Because we cannot ascend to him, he descends to us."

Look Upon Love

Let us then meditate upon the Nativity just as we see it happening in our own babies. I would not have you contemplate the deity of Christ, the majesty of Christ, but rather his flesh. Look upon the baby Jesus. Divinity may terrify people. Inexpressible majesty will crush them. That is why God took on our human flesh and blood, that God should not terrify us but rather that with love and favor God would console and comfort us.



—Martin Luther

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

(Continued from front page)

Where Can You Find Joy?

Driving in Riverside California the other day, I saw banners that said, Joy! I couldn't help but think—that is so true! Now whether or not the city officials mean joy because "a light to lighten the Gentiles" is here—I do not know. Whether or not the city officials mean joy because "the glory of thy people Israel" is here—I do not know. Whether or not the city officials mean joy because "unto us, a son is given; a child is born; a Savior, which is Christ the Lord" is come—again, I do not know. But here's what I know: joy is come! The deep-seated sadness is vanished! Sorrow is undone!

Christ has come. He has swallowed up all our sorrows, thus, the old prophet called Him "a man of sorrows" (Isaiah 53:3). He has absorbed all of our griefs. Joy has come! Joy to world the Lord is come! Christ is all you need, Friend. Come to Him. He will replace your sadness with joy. He will replace your guilt with gladness. He offers to you everlasting joy.

Where can you find joy? "Not in unbelief—Voltaire was an infidel of the most pronounced type. He wrote: I wish I had never been born. Not in pleasure—Lord Byron lived a life of pleasure if anyone did. He wrote: The worm, the canker, and grief are mine alone. Not in money—Jay Gould, the American millionaire, had plenty of that. When dying, he said: I suppose I am the most miserable man on earth. Not in position and fame—Lord Beaconsfield enjoyed more than his share of both. He wrote: Youth is a mistake; manhood a struggle; old age a regret. Not in military glory—Alexander the Great conquered the known world in his day. Having done so, he wept in his tent, because he said, There are no more worlds to conquer. Where then is joy found?—the answer is simple, in Christ alone" (Paul Lee Tan, Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations).

With Sincere Love In Christ,

Christian Torres
Pastor-Teacher