

RIVER ROAD CHURCH, BAPTIST

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021

*As we gather together for worship, please pause for a moment to become aware of God's presence.
Quiet your mind, listen to the music, and prepare to worship God.*

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Parker Bradley and Marty Halloran, Acolytes

Voluntaries

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
Savior of the Nations, Come*

Sondra K. Tucker
Kathleen Wissinger

Chancel Bell Choir
Charles Todd, Director

*Processional Hymn 12

People, Look East

BESANÇON

1. People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able;
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.
2. Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.
3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the bird, is on the way.
4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.

*Call to Worship

Rev. Daniel Ingram

Mary waits. Joseph waits. Unknowing, the world awaits.

God's plan has been spoken by the angel, and Mary's spirit rejoices.

God's child, the long-awaited One, is to be born.

He is coming to break down walls, setting captives free.

He is coming to raise up the lowly, bringing down the lofty.

Oh, that Christ would be born through us, for the waiting world.

Welcome, Invocation, and Our 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, and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Old Testament Lesson

Psalm 80:1-3

Dean Miller

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us! Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

The Word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God.**

** Please stand, if you are able.*

Lighting of the Advent Candle

John Gordon and Ray Nelson

The Advent wreath is a circle of evergreen, a sign of everlasting life and a symbol of God’s never-ending love. Its four candles, encircling the Christ Candle, represent Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. We light the fourth candle as a reminder of Christ’s great love.

May we be living reminders of God’s love to the world by our words and our actions. O come, O come, Emmanuel.

*Antiphon for Advent

Light One Candle

TIF IN VELDELE



Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si-ah: let the light ban-ish dark-ness.
 He is com-ing; tell the glad ti-dings. Let your light be shin-ing.

Used with permission. One License No. A-717620

*Gospel Lesson

Luke 1:46b-55

Dean Miller

“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

The Gospel of our Lord; **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

Anthem

Gabriel’s Message

Basque Carol
 Arr. David Willcocks

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Gloria! The angel Gabriel from heaven came, His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame; ‘All hail,’ said he, ‘thou lowly maiden Mary, Most highly favored lady,’ Gloria!</p> <p>3. Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head, ‘To me be as it pleaseth God,’ she said, ‘My soul shall laud and magnify His Holy Name.’ Most highly favored lady, Gloria!</p> | <p>2. Gloria! The angel Gabriel from heaven came, His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame; ‘All hail,’ said he, ‘thou lowly maiden Mary, Most highly favored lady,’ Gloria!</p> <p>4. Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn, And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say: ‘Most highly favored lady,’ Gloria!</p> |
|---|---|

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Daniel Ingram

*Hymn of Devotion

Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming

ES IST EIN’ ROS’

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>1. Lo, how a rose e’er blooming, from tender stem hath sprung. Of Jesse’s lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung. It came a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.</p> | <p>2. Isaiah ‘twas foretold it, the rose I had in mind. With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind. To show God’s love aright, she bore for us a Saviour, when half spent was the night.</p> | <p>3. O flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air, dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere. True man, yet very God, from sin and death now save us, and share our every load.</p> |
|--|--|--|

*Offertory Sentences

Rev. Daniel Ingram

My soul doth magnify the Lord,
 and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
 For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.
 For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.
 And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.
 He hath shewed strength with his arm.
 He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
 He hath put down the mighty from their seat
 and hath exalted the humble and meek.
 He hath filled the hungry with good things.
 And the rich he hath sent empty away.
 He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel
 as he promised to our forefathers Abraham, and his seed forever.
 Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
 As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
 world without end. Amen.

*Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise God, all creatures here below;
 Praise God above, ye heavenly host:
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Children in grades 1-3 may meet Mrs. Deb Gray
 at the front of the Sanctuary, on the pulpit side, to continue worship in the Chapel.*

Sermon

A Magnificent Song

Rev. Dr. Daniel Glaze

Time of Reflection and Response

*Take a moment to consider how the Spirit is leading you to respond to worship and the Word proclaimed this day.
 If you desire to follow Christ as a disciple, or if you desire to become a member of River Road Church,
 you are invited to come forward to the chancel steps at this time, and our pastor will meet you.*

*Recessional Hymn 38

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

CAROL

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all-gracious King": the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.</p> | <p>2. Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled, and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world: above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing, and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.</p> |
| <p>3. And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low, who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow, look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing: O, rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.</p> | <p>4. For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold, when with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold, when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.</p> |

*Benediction

Rev. Dr. Daniel Glaze

Extinguishing of the Altar Candles

Voluntary

From Heaven High to Earth I Come, BWV 700

Johann Pachelbel

The Christmas poinsettias are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Lou's mother, Miller, who lived to welcome her 100th birthday, by Mr. and Mrs. Louis Moelchert.

The Christmas wreaths are given to the glory of God and in honor of healthcare workers everywhere by Dr. and Mrs. Hilton R. Almond.

We welcome new member Brad Ethington, husband to Pam Ethington, who joined our church family on December 12, 2021. Brad and Pam are some of our virtual worshippers, and we look forward to ministering alongside him!

We extend congratulations to Beth Rooney and Colin Bailey, who were united in holy matrimony on December 18, 2021 in the sanctuary of River Road Church.

We extend Christian sympathy to Mike and Vivian Clingenpeel upon the death of her mother, Noralee Stephenson, on December 16, 2021; to Tim and Beth Clingenpeel upon the death of his grandmother; to Hatcher, Colby, and Olsen Clingenpeel upon the death of their great grandmother; and to Bob and Julia Tyler upon the death of her aunt.

We are grateful for your continued generosity to God through our church ministry. You may give securely online at rrcb.org/give-online or by mailing a check. Thank you for your faithfulness.

**Christmas Eve Services at River Road Church
Friday, December 24, 2021 in the Sanctuary**

Family Service at 4:00 p.m.
Masks required for ages 5 and up.
Sign up at rrcb.org/christmas.

Candlelight & Holy Communion at 8:00 p.m.
Music for organ and flute begins at 7:40 p.m.
This service will be livestreamed at rrcb.org/live.

For more information about the events listed on the calendar and more, please read the *e-Spire* (emailed on Tuesdays), or visit rrcb.org/connect. Details regarding our Advent and Christmas offerings can be found at rrcb.org/advent.

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Sun, Dec 19 | Worship , 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary and rrcb.org/live Youth Choir , 12:15 p.m., Sanctuary River Road Camerata , 12:45 p.m., Sanctuary Nominating Committee , 2:00 p.m., Zoom Meeting (Online) Christmas Season Study , 5:00 p.m., Assembly Room Chancel Bell Rehearsal , 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary Board of Administration , 7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall (Zoom option available) |
| Mon, Dec 20 | Stephen Ministry , 4:30 p.m., LC 102 (Zoom option available) Yoga , 5:00 p.m., Assembly Room |
| Tues, Dec 21 | WMU Connectors , 10:00 a.m., Reception Room |
| Wed, Dec 22 | Men's Group: The Huddle , 8:00 a.m., Reception Room Children and Youth Rehearsal , 4:30 p.m., Sanctuary Chancel Choir Rehearsal , 7:00 p.m., Main Rehearsal Room |
| Fri, Dec 24 | Christmas Eve Family Service , 4:00 p.m., Sanctuary Christmas Eve Service of Candlelight and Holy Communion , 8:00 p.m., Sanctuary |

RIVER ROAD CHURCH, BAPTIST

8000 River Road
Richmond, Virginia 23229
804.288.1131 rrcb.org

PASTORAL LEADERSHIP

Daniel E. Glaze, D.Min., *Pastor*
F. David Breckenridge, D.Min., *Minister of Pastoral Care*
Marnie L. Fisher-Ingram, M.Div., *Associate Pastor for Youth and Their Families*
Robert P. Gallagher, D.M.A., *Minister of Music*
Daniel H. Ingram, M.Div., *Minister of Administration*
Anna Perry Miller, M.A.C.E., *Associate Pastor for Adult Discipleship*
Sandy K. Rooney, M.Ed., *Minister to Children and Their Families*
Beth Rooney, M.T., *Seminary Intern for Young Adult Ministry*

James H. Slatton, Th.D., *Pastor Emeritus* Michael J. Clingenpeel, Ph.D., *Pastor Emeritus*
E. Carl Freeman, Jr., Mus.B., *Minister of Music Emeritus*
Chester L. Phelps, Jr., M.A., *Minister of Youth Emeritus*