

RIVER ROAD CHURCH, BAPTIST

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 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

Frank Halloran and David Cipolletti, Acolytes

Voluntaries

Come Now, Savior of the Nations

Settings by J.S. Bach (BWV 659)

and Dietrich Buxtehude

Comfort, Comfort You My People

Gerald Near

Dr. Robert Gallagher, organ

*Processional Hymn 3

Comfort, Comfort You My People

PSALM 42

1. Comfort, comfort you my people;
tell of peace, thus says our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness
bowed beneath oppression's load.
Speak you to Jerusalem
of the peace that waits for them;
Tell them that their sins I cover,
and their warfare now is over.
2. For the herald's voice is calling
in the desert far and near,
Bidding us to make repentance
since the kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise in meeting
and the hills bow down in greeting.
3. Make you straight what long was crooked;
make the rougher places plain;
Let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits God's holy reign,
For the glory of the Lord
now o'er earth is shed abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token
that God's word is never broken.

*Call to Worship

Rev. Dr. David Breckenridge

As those filled with hope and peace, let us worship our faithful God.

We have heard God's call to come home from our wandering and sinful ways.

Above all that consumes us, we glimpse the Way prepared for us through the wilderness.

In response, we gather and sing and pray and wait expectantly. Come like a welcome wind, O God of hope, and fill us anew.

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.**

** Please stand, if you are able.*

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

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

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Janet Ahl and Laura Lee Chandler

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 this candle as a sign of Christ, the Prince of Peace.

May we make room for the peace of Christ in our hearts, in our homes, and in our relationships. O come, O come, Emmanuel.

*Antiphon for Advent

*Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*TIF IN VELDELE
Text: Wayne Wold


Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.

5
He shall feed the flock like a shep- herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.

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*Gospel Lesson

Luke 3:1-6

Ray Nelson

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

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

Solo

Accompagnato and Air from Messiah

George Frederick Handel

Accompagnato

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplish'd, that her Iniquity is pardoned. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness; prepare ye the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

—Isaiah 40:1-3

Air

Ev'ry valley shall be exalted, and ev'ry mountain and hill made low; the crooked straight, and the rough places plain.

—Isaiah 40:4

Christopher Ahart, tenor

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Dr. David Breckinridge

*Hymn of Devotion 5

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

PICARDY

1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand.
Ponder nothing earthly minded,
for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descending
comes, our homage to demand.
2. King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture
in the body and the blood,
he will give to all the faithful
his own self for heavenly food
3. Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth
from the realms of endless day
that the powers of hell may vanish,
as the darkness clears away.
4. At his feet the six-winged seraph,
cherubim with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry,
“Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia, Lord Most High!”

*Offertory Sentences

Rev. Dr. David Breckenridge

Anthem at Offertory

And the Glory of the Lord (from *Messiah*)

George Frederick Handel

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

*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. Sandy Rooney
at the front of the Sanctuary, on the pulpit side, to continue worship in the Chapel.*

Sermon

Preparing the Way of the Lord ... Through Peace

Rev. Dr. Daniel Glaze

Celebration of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table
Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon
The Blessing and Giving of the Bread and Cup

Time of Reflection and Response

*Recessional Hymn 10

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

WINCHESTER NEW

1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings!
2. Then cleansed be every life from sin;
make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.
3. We hail you as our Savior, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
O let your face upon us shine
and fill the world with love divine.
4. All praise to You, eternal Son,
Whose advent has our freedom won,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Holy Spirit, evermore.

*Benediction

Rev. Dr. Daniel Glaze

Extinguishing of the Altar Candles

Voluntary

Lord Jesus, the Only Son of God, BWV 601

J.S. Bach

The altar flowers today are given to the glory of God and in memory of Dr. and Mrs. Vernon B. Richardson by their children.

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 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.

A Church Business Meeting, to include discussion and a vote upon the Nominating Committee report and a recommendation from the Board of Administration, will be **held today at noon in the sanctuary and via the Zoom videoconference platform**. The Zoom waiting room will open shortly after worship concludes. Please remember that we need a quorum of 100 to be able to conduct the meeting.

You are invited to visit the display featuring a Porcelain Nativity Set in the History Cabinet in the Lower Commons during the Advent and Christmas seasons. The set was a gift to River Road Church by Frances Still, aunt of Joyce Gibson.

For more information about the events listed on the calendar and more, please visit rrcb.org/connect. **Details regarding our Advent and Christmas offerings**, including daily devotions, can be found at rrcb.org/advent.

Sun, Dec 5	Worship , 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary and rrcb.org/live Business Meeting , 12:00 p.m., Sanctuary (Zoom option available) First Sunday Food Share , 1:00 p.m., North Parking Lot Concert Series: An Organ Duo Christmas Concert , 2:30 p.m., Sanctuary Re-Entry Task Force , 4:00 p.m., Zoom Meeting (Online) Children's Choirs , 4:00 p.m., Main Rehearsal Room and Youth Rehearsal Room Children's Activity: Missions and More , 4:30 p.m., CA #122 River Road Camerata , 4:30 p.m., Main Rehearsal Room Christmas Season Bible Study , 5:00 p.m., Assembly Room Youth Choir , 5:00 p.m., Main Rehearsal Room Youth Snack Supper , 5:45 p.m., Fellowship Hall Chancel Bell Rehearsal , 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary Youth Group , 6:15 p.m., Youth Area Board of Missions , 7:00 p.m., Zoom Meeting (Online)
Mon, Dec 6	Women's Bible Study: Joyful Hearts , 9:30 a.m., LC 102 (Zoom option available) Yoga , 5:00 p.m., Assembly Room Board of Deacons , 7:00 p.m., Lower Commons
Wed, Dec 8	Men's Group: The Huddle , 8:00 a.m., Reception Room Mid-Week Children and Families Check-in , 6:30 p.m., Zoom Meeting (Online)
Thurs, Dec 9	Chancel Choir Rehearsal , 7:00 p.m., Main Rehearsal Room
Sat, Dec 11	Chancel Choir Dress Rehearsal , 3:00 p.m., Sanctuary Youth Christmas Party , 5:00, Fellowship Hall

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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*