

**The Second Sunday of Advent
at River Road Church
December 10, 2023**



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Ellie Dixon and Mary Alice Halloran, Acolytes

Voluntaries

Prelude in C minor, BWV 546
God, Through Your Goodness, BWV 600

J. S. Bach

J. S. Bach

Dr. Robert Gallagher, organ

Introit

Dona nobis pacem

Traditional

*Processional Hymn 289

O God of Every Nation (see last page)

LLANGLOFFAN

*Call to Worship

Rev. Anna Perry Miller

People, look east!

Love, like a rose, is on the way.

Let us make ourselves ready to welcome God's coming.

As a rose quietly opens to reveal its soft beauty, so the peace of God arrives.

Wherever God draws near, new life grows and blossoms.

Even when our hearts are frozen and hard.

Even in the cold winter in the wilderness,

the miracle of a flower called Love blooms.

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.

Anthem

This is the Record of John

Text: John 1:19-23

Music: Orlando Gibbons

1. This is the record of John,
when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him,
Who art thou?
And he confessed and denied not, and said plainly,
I am not the Christ.
2. And they asked him, What art thou then? Art thou Elias?
And he said, I am not.
Art thou the prophet?
And he answered, No.
3. Then said they unto him,
What art thou? that we may give an answer unto them that sent us.
What sayest thou of thyself?
And he said, I am the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness,
Make straight the way of the Lord.

Charles Humphries, countertenor

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 40:1-11 (pp. 581-582)

Ken Lantz and Shelley Lantz

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

*Gospel Lesson

Mark 1:1-8 (p. 812)

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

*Antiphon for Advent

People, Look East (see last page)

BESANÇON

Children may meet Mrs. Sandy Rooney on the Chancel steps during the antiphon.

* Please stand, if you are able.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

River Road Children's Ministry

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.

Anthem

Prepare a Way for the Lord!

Michael Bedford

Prepare a way for the Lord! Get ready, he's coming soon.
We light the Advent candles, we light them one by one;
We light the Advent candles, for God's own Son!
We light the Advent candles and then we join to say,
"Make room in your hearts for Jesus who comes on Christmas Day!"
Prepare a way for the Lord! Get ready, he's coming soon.

Carol and Jubilate Choirs; Suzanne McClain and Mary Langston, directors
James Gray, piano

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Anna Perry Miller

*Hymn of Devotion

We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom

MERLE'S TUNE

1 We wait the peace-ful king-dom, when wolf and lamb shall lie
2 Where is the peace-ful king-dom? When will this new day start?
3 When wars of des-o-la-tion and hate come to an end,
4 That lit-tle child shall lead us to walk the cho-sen way,

in gen-tle-ness and friend-ship with-out a fear or sigh,
We long for peace and com-fort to reign with-in each heart.
when na-tion meets with na-tion and calls the oth-er "friend,"
to share the peace-ful king-dom, to greet God's new-born day.

when li-on shall be graz-ing, when snake shall nev-er strike;
Yet not in our lives on-ly, nor sim-ply in our home:
still peace in all its full-ness will on-ly have be-gun:
The child born in a sta-ble is sent to break our chains,

a lit-tle child shall lead us both strong and weak a-like.
we pray that all cre-a-tion will one day find sha-lom.
sha-lom for all cre-a-tion be-gins with jus-tice done.
to bring through word and ta-ble the day when jus-tice reigns.

*Offertory Sentences

Rev. Anna Perry Miller

Anthem at Offertory

Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain

Carolyn Jennings

Climb to the top of the highest mountain,
Joyous tidings proclaim to the world,
Lift up your voice, shout the good news:
Behold, your Lord comes to you.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd,
He will carry the lambs in his arms,
He will ever keep them safe from harm.
Behold, your Lord comes to you.
He who made the stars in the heaven,
He who fashioned the earth and the sea,
From time eternal he was God,
The Alpha and Omega, He.
Behold, your Lord!
He will come in power and glory,
He will rule with mercy truth,
Hope of all the nations
Light of all the world!
He will love the little children,
He will hold them in his arms.
Love him and trust him as a child,
Behold, your Lord comes to you.

Chancel Choir and Camerata
Lauren Maho, conductor

*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.**

Sermon

A Weary World Seeks Peace

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 386

O for a World (see last page)

AZMON

*Benediction

Rev. Dr. Daniel Glaze

Extinguishing of the Altar Candles

Voluntary

Fugue in C minor, BWV 546

J. S. Bach

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT RIVER ROAD CHURCH

RRCB.ORG/ADVENT

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Service of Worship & Holy Communion
December 3, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.
Livestream at [youtube.com/riverroadchurch](https://www.youtube.com/riverroadchurch)

THOUGHTFUL FAITH COMMUNITY
December 3, 2023, 4:00-7:00 p.m.
Supper at 4:45 p.m.
Rev. Dr. William Bradley Roberts presenting
“Glimpses into Handel’s *Messiah*” at 5:45 p.m.

ANNUAL ADVENT/CHRISTMAS CONCERT
River Road Chancel Choir with Orchestra
December 3, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
Handel’s *Messiah* Part I

FIRST SUNDAY FOOD SHARE
December 3, 2023

**CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS MOVIE,
GAMES, & MORE**
December 8, 2023, 5:00-9:00 p.m.

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Service of Worship
December 10, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.
Livestream at [youtube.com/riverroadchurch](https://www.youtube.com/riverroadchurch)

THOUGHTFUL FAITH COMMUNITY
December 10, 2023, 4:00-7:00 p.m.
Supper at 5:00 p.m.
Compassion in Community, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

RIVER ROAD CINEMA BUFFS
December, 13, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.
Classic Christmas Movie and Discussion

**YOUNG ADULT CHRISTMAS
THEOLOGY ON TAP**
December 14, 2023, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Home of the Whittys

WHEN YOU WISH UPON A STAR
A King’s Singers Christmas Concert
December 16, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.
Tickets required; \$55/person

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Service of Worship
December 17, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.
Livestream at [youtube.com/riverroadchurch](https://www.youtube.com/riverroadchurch)

THOUGHTFUL FAITH COMMUNITY
December 17, 2023, 4:00-7:00 p.m.
Supper at 5:00 p.m.
Fireside Caroling & Hot Chocolate (Children and
Adults), 6:00-7:00 p.m.
Youth Christmas Party, 5:15-7:00 p.m.

YOUNG ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY
December 21, 2023, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Home of the Rooneys

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Service of Worship
December 24, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.
Livestream at [youtube.com/riverroadchurch](https://www.youtube.com/riverroadchurch)

**CHRISTMAS EVE NATIVITY SERVICE OF
LESSONS AND CAROLS**
December 24, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.
Food collection for Welborne Community Pantry

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF CANDLELIGHT
AND HOLY COMMUNION**
December 24, 2023 at 9:00 p.m.
Livestream at [youtube.com/riverroadchurch](https://www.youtube.com/riverroadchurch)


RIVER ROAD CHURCH
BAPTIST
+ thoughtful faith +

For more information about the events listed below and more, please read the *e-Spire* (emailed on Tuesdays), or visit rrcb.org/connect.

This Week @ RRCB:

- Sun, Dec 10 **Worship**, 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary and rrcb.org/live
Sunday Reception, 12:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Memorial Flower Calendar Sign Up, 12:00 p.m., Upper Commons
Board of Christian Education and Spiritual Formation, 4:00 p.m., Parlor (Zoom option available)
Stephen Ministry, 4:00 p.m., UC 228 (Zoom option available)
River Road Camerata, 4:00 p.m., Youth Rehearsal Room
Youth Choir, 4:35 p.m., Youth Rehearsal Room
Carol Choir (Age 4 through Grade 1), 4:45 p.m., UC 232
Jubilate Choir (Grades 2-5), 4:45 p.m., Main Rehearsal Room
Chancel Ringers, 5:00 p.m., Bell Room
TFC Supper, 5:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
TFC: Children's Rec and Missions, 5:45 p.m., CA 122
TFC: Youth Group, 5:45 p.m., Youth Area
TFC Program: Compassion in Community and Starlight Service, 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
- Mon, Dec 11 **Joyful Hearts and WMU Connectors Brunch**, 10:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall
Finance Committee, 7:00 p.m., Zoom Meeting (Online)
- Tue, Dec 12 **Yoga**, 5:00 p.m., Assembly Room
- Wed, Dec 13 **Men's Group: The Huddle**, 8:30 a.m., Founders Room
River Road Preschool Chapel, 9:15 a.m., Sanctuary
RRCB Cinema Buffs, 6:30 p.m., Youth Area
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m., Main Rehearsal Room
- Thu, Dec 14 **Book Lovers**, 10:00 a.m., LC 102
Young Adult Christmas Theology on Tap, 7:00 p.m., Home of John and Cathy Whitty
Communications Committee, 7:00 p.m., Zoom Meeting (Online)
- Sat, Dec 16 **Concert Series: The King's Singers**, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary
- Sun, Dec 17 **Sunday School**, 9:45 a.m., Various Rooms
Worship, 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary and rrcb.org/live
Sunday Reception, 12:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Memorial Flower Calendar Sign Up, 12:00 p.m., Upper Commons
River Road Camerata, 4:00 p.m., Youth Rehearsal Room
Youth Choir, 4:35 p.m., Youth Rehearsal Room
Carol Choir (Age 4 through Grade 1), 4:45 p.m., UC 232
Jubilate Choir (Grades 2-5), 4:45 p.m., Main Rehearsal Room
Chancel Ringers, 5:00 p.m., Bell Room
TFC Supper, 5:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Youth Christmas Party, 5:15 p.m., Youth Area
TFC Adult and Children Program: Caroling and Hot Chocolate, 6:00 p.m., Courtyard
Board of Administration, 7:00 p.m., Assembly Room (Zoom option available)

Today is the second Sunday of Advent, the inaugural season of the Christian year. Advent is a time of spiritual preparation for the coming of Christ; thus, it is a season of both joyous and solemn expectation. The liturgical color is purple, symbolic of a spirit of preparation.

The Christmas wreaths outside are given to the glory of God and in honor of Petty Officer Third Class Harry Phelps and all of his fellow sailors serving on the USS Gerald Ford in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea by Hilton and Margaret Almond.

The Christmas poinsettias are given to the glory of God and in memory of loved ones by Lou and Carol Moelchert.

Following worship there will be a reception in the Fellowship Hall hosted by the Board of Missions. The BOM promotes Christian service by the members of the Church. Stop by the Child Sponsorship table to pick up a copy of the Board of Missions' Year in Review.

Child Sponsorship Table at the Reception—As part of our mission partnership with Food for the Hungry and BGAV, we will work alongside the Santa Rita Community in Nicaragua as they seek to develop and grow to overcome impoverished conditions. Part of our financial support will allow the opportunity to sponsor children in the community, communicating with them to build relationships and offer encouragement. You can visit our child sponsorship table during the reception after worship in the Fellowship Hall and speak with Judy Collins or Norma Hays to learn more.

2024 Memorial Flower Calendar—Anyone interested in reserving a Sunday on the 2024 Memorial Flower Calendar is invited to see Betsy Lowery in the Upper Commons during the reception on Sundays, December 3, 10, and 17. The cost of the flowers is \$90. When you sign up, Betsy will give you a letter of explanation and the form needed for your wording. If you have any other questions, please call Betsy. The Sign Up Genius with remaining dates will open in January.

River Road Preschool's Four-Year-Old and Junior Kindergarten classes are exploring Christmas customs with a trip around the world! With the wreath and its history as a foundation for their display, please stop by the exhibit cabinet in the Lower Commons to see their artistic designs and the traditions they represent.

Compassion in Community and Starlight Service—The anticipation of Christmas can be joyous. We find ourselves surrounded by lights, cheerful songs, and decorations, while there is an expectation that we will participate in celebrating. However, it does not always come easy. We may have concerns that may make this season harder to embrace. While some are grieving a significant loss, others have health, financial, relationship, or work concerns. Longing for peace across the world, in the lives of our loved ones, and within our own hearts—it can stir sadness, hurt, and unrest.

Our TFC program tonight, December 10, will provide an opportunity to acknowledge loss or concern that you carry into the season. It is a place to gather and support one another, holding together our shared needs before the Lord. After a time of conversation in the Fellowship Hall, we will enter a time of worship, during which we will light candles representing the prayers we bring. Those present may receive the Lord's Supper, giving thanks for God's provision. In song, prayer, meditation, and reflection, we will find comfort through the compassion extended toward us by God and by our faith community. Come for yourself or come for those in our community, whom you love, that need the strength of your presence.

Thoughtful Faith Community—Sunday, December 17

Menu: Turkey Tetrazzini OR Mushroom Fettuccini (V); Salad Bar (V, GF); Honeyed String Beans (V, GF); Baked Peaches (V, GF); Hot Rolls (V) OR GF Bread; Holiday Cupcakes (V) OR GF Cupcakes
Snack Supper (no salad bar): Dino Nuggets; Chips; Clementine; Holiday Cupcake



Dinner reservations are required by 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 14. Make your reservation by scanning the QR code, filling out the form at rrcb.org/supper, or calling the church office. Cost is based on meal selection and age.

TFC Adult and Children Program: Fireside Caroling & Hot Chocolate in the Courtyard

When You Wish Upon A Star: A King's Singers Christmas—On Saturday, December 16 at 7:30 p.m., Virginia Arts Festival is pleased to present The King's Singers at River Road Church, Baptist. **Tickets for this concert are on sale now and only available online via Virginia Arts Festival at rrcb.org/kings.** Tickets are \$55 per person, however, *e-Spire* subscribers can purchase tickets at a discounted price via promo code in our weekly email newsletter.

Wrap up warm for an extra-special Christmas with The King's Singers, as they perform festive music from their recent travels across the world, remember their spiritual home at King's College, Cambridge, and celebrate some of the most important musical anniversaries of the last year - including 400 years of the great English composer, William Byrd, and 100 years of Disney magic.



RIVER ROAD CHURCH

BAPTIST

+ thoughtful faith +

Thank you for worshipping with us!
At River Road Church, we are...

A community of believers coming from many faith traditions to worship and grow together in Christian fellowship, focusing on those aspects of faith on which we can agree rather than disagree as we journey together.

Baptist in heritage, espousing core Baptist truths as foundational to our faith journey: the centrality of Christ, the priesthood of all believers, Scripture as our foundation, a commitment to theological education, the autonomy of the local church, and the separation of church and state.

Encouraging of intellectual freedom—in pursuit of a thoughtful faith, seeking always to learn about God's nature and ways in the world, supporting a free pulpit and welcoming intellectually challenging sermons and educational programs.

Worshipping in reverence and beauty a transcendent God, following the liturgical style and augmented by the performance of traditional sacred music.

Serving God in our church, our community and the world by investing our energy and resources in ways that reflect the character and likeness of Christ and follow his teachings.

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 Bailey, 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*

1. O God of every nation,
of every race and land,
redeem the whole creation
with your almighty hand.
Where hate and fear divide us
and bitter threats are hurled,
in love and mercy guide us
and heal our strife-torn world.
 2. From search for wealth and power
and scorn of truth and right,
from trust in bombs that shower
destruction through the night,
from pride of race and station
and blindness to your way,
deliver every nation,
eternal God, we pray.
 3. Lord, strengthen those who labor
that all may find release
from fear of rattling saber,
from dread of war's increase;
when hope and courage falter,
your still small voice be heard;
with faith that none can alter,
your servants undergird.
 4. Keep bright in us the vision
of days when war shall cease,
when hatred and division
give way to love and peace,
till dawns the morning glorious
when peace on earth reign
and Christ shall rule victorious
o'er all the world's domain.
-

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.

1. O for a world where everyone
respects each other's ways,
where love is lived and all is done
with justice and with praise.
2. O for a world where goods are shared
and misery relieved,
where truth is spoken, children spared,
equality achieved.
3. We welcome one world family
and struggle with each choice
that opens us to unity
and gives our vision voice.
4. The poor are rich; the weak are strong;
the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong,
who perishes will rise.
5. O for a world preparing for
God's glorious reign of peace,
where time and tears will be no more,
and all but love will cease.