

**The Third Sunday of Advent
at River Road Church
December 17, 2023**



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Elisabeth Dixon and Kenton Sumner, Acolytes

Voluntaries

*Prepare the Way
Ave Maria, Opus 80*

Paul Manz
Max Reger

Dr. Robert Gallagher, organ

Introit

Taizé

Prepare the way of the Lord, and all people will see the salvation of God.

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*Processional Hymn 13

Prepare the Way (see last page)

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

*Call to Worship

Rev. Marnie Fisher-Ingram

People, look east!

Love, like a bird, is on the way.

Jesus compared himself to a mother hen, a bird who gathers her young under her wing for protection.

Prepare! We must prepare.

God is coming to offer shelter, a warm place to rest.

We are weary. We need God to light our paths and take us into God's care.

May we be ready to receive nurture and comfort in the presence of God.

As we experience God's loving care, we will rejoice.

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.

Parent-Child-Church Dedication

(see insert)

Rev. Dr. Daniel Glaze, Sandy Rooney,
and Rev. Chester Phelps

New Testament Lesson

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 (p. 961)

Bryn Bagby Taylor

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

*Gospel Lesson

Luke 1:26-38 (p. 831)

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.

Children's Time

Sandy Rooney

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 joy.

As a people of joy, may our lives radiate the joy that Christ gives to us. O come, O come, Emmanuel.

** Please stand, if you are able.*

Anthem

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth;
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
'Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;

Chorus

Fall on your knees, Oh hear the angel voices!
O night divine! O night when Christ was born.
O night, O holy night, O night divine.

Truly he taught us to love one another;
His law is Love and his gospel is Peace;
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother,
And in his name all oppression shall cease,
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we;
Let all within us praise his holy name!

Chorus

Christ is the Lord, then ever! ever praise we!
His pow'r and glory, evermore proclaim!
His pow'r and glory, evermore proclaim!

River Road Camerata; Conducted by Laren Maho

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Marnie Fisher-Ingram

*Hymn of Devotion 16

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came (see last page)

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

*Offertory Sentences

Rev. Marnie Fisher-Ingram

Anthem at Offertory

Gabriel to Mary Came

David Willcocks

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Gabriel to Mary came,
And entered at her dwelling,
With his salutation glad,
Her maiden fears dispelling
'All hail, thou queen of virgins bright!
God, Lord of earth and heaven's height,
Thy very Son
Shall soon be born
in pureness,
The Saviour of mankind.
Thou art the gate of heaven bright,
The sinners' healer kind.'</p> <p>3. Then to him the maid replied,
With noble mien supernatural
'Lo! the humble handmaid
Of God the Lord eternal
With thee, bright messenger of heav'n,
By whom this wondrous news is giv'n,
I well agree
And long to see
Fulfilled
Thy gracious prophecy.
As God my Lord doth will it,
So be it unto me!'</p> | <p>2. 'How could I a mother be
That am to man a stranger?
How should I my strong resolve,
My solemn vows endanger?'
'Pow'r from the Holy Ghost on high
Shall bring to pass this mystery.
Then have no fear:
Be of good cheer,
Believing
That still thy chastity
In God's Almighty keeping
Shall all unsullied be.'</p> <p>4. Hail! thou Mother of the Lord,
Who bring'st of gifts the rarest,
Peace to angels and to all
When Christ the Lord thou barest!
Do thou, we pray, entreat thy Son
For us our long'd redemption
Himself to win
And from our sin
Release us;
His succor for to give
That, when we hence are taken
We too in heav'n may live.</p> |
|---|---|

Chancel Choir and Camerata

*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 Rejoices

Rev. Dr. Daniel Glaze

Time of Reflection and Response

*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 40

Joy to the World (see last page)

ANTIOCH

*Benediction

Rev. Dr. Daniel Glaze

Extinguishing of the Altar Candles

Voluntary

Joy to the World

Robert Edward Smith

**Thank you for worshiping 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.

Worshiping 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

+ thoughtful faith +

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*

Parent-Child-Church Dedication

Introduction of the Family

Litany

Minister: As the family of God, we rejoice in God's good gift of life through the birth of children, and all that they represent to their family and to our church family. Parents, why are you here today?

Parents: We are here to affirm that our child is made in the image of God, to give thanks that she is a child of God, to commit ourselves to the faith and tradition in which we intend to nurture our child, and to seek the prayers and support of the church for this pursuit.

Minister: With gratitude to God, do you receive your child as a precious gift of God, and seek God's grace and this congregation's support in nurturing and caring for your child?

Parents: We do.

Minister: As parents, you are called by God to be on mission with the Lord, rearing your child in the Christian faith. Recognizing this high calling, do you commit to live out your own faith, teach this faith to your child, and partner with the Church as you serve God in this mission?

Parents: We promise, with God's help, and with the help of our Christian family.

Minister: Do you, members of the congregation of River Road Church, promise as a community of faith, to surround this family with your love, to be for these parents and child a family in Christ, to accept them into your loving care, and to tell them the good news of Christ, leading them in service to God and neighbor? Are you willing to pray for, to uphold, and to encourage them to continue to grow in God's grace and love?

Congregation: We promise, with God's help and with the help of our Christian sisters and brothers. As a family of God, we gladly join you—Jeff and Emily—in this sacred covenant.

Minister and Congregation: With gladness, we take this child—Sophia—under our care. We promise to care for and nurture this child. We accept her as our own. Your concerns are our concerns. Your joys are our joys. May God bless this child, may God bless these parents, may God bless our congregation, and may God bless our world. Amen.

Presentation of Bible

Prayer of Dedication

We Give God Thanks For

Sophia Grace Carretto

and her parents, Emily and Jeff Carretto

"I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous, do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

—Joshua 1:9

Today is the third 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 Beth Bailey and the young adults who are assuming positions of leadership at RRCB 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.

We welcome new member Virginia “Gigi” Yanishak who joined our church family on December 10, 2023. We look forward to ministering alongside her!

We extend Christian sympathy to Dick Harwood and family upon the death of his wife, Patricia Harwood, on December 13, 2023. A memorial service will be held on December 29, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

We extend congratulations to Ray and Ralph Nelson upon the birth of their grandchild, Magnus Emerson Brag Nelson, on December 10, 2023, in Boston, MA. The proud parents are Drs. Ryan Nelson and Katie Brag.

Following worship there will be a reception in the Fellowship Hall hosted by the Board of Christian Education and Spiritual Formation. The BCESF determines and plans Christian and spiritual educational programs for our church community. Additionally, the BCESF defines educational goals and standards for leadership.

2024 Chancel Flower Calendar—Anyone interested in reserving a Sunday on the 2024 Chancel Flower Calendar is invited to see Betsy Lowery during the reception today. 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. The Sign Up Genius with remaining dates will open in January.

If you are planning to make a contribution for 2023, we must receive it in the Church Office by 5:00 p.m., Friday, December 29, 2023. Mailed contributions must be postmarked December 30, 2023 or earlier. Online contributions through your bank or the church’s website (rrcb.org/give-online) must be initiated or dated December 31, 2023 or earlier. Thank you for giving! We are grateful for your generosity to the mission and ministries of River Road Church.

Christmas Eve at River Road Church, Sunday, December 24, 2023

Services at 11:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. will be broadcast live on our YouTube channel at youtube.com/riverroadchurch and rrcb.org/live.

- **The Fourth Sunday of Advent Service of Worship at 11:00 a.m.**
- **Nativity Service of Lessons and Carols at 4:00 p.m.** This service tells the Christmas story through lessons and song, and is led by our children, youth, and young adults. We will collect non-perishable goods for Welborne UMC Community Food Pantry. Please do not wrap the gifts and check expiration dates. Visit rrcb.org/christmas for a list of suggested items.
- **Service of Candlelight & Holy Communion at 9:00 p.m.** Prelude music begins at 8:30 p.m.

Thoughtful Faithful Community for January 7, 14, 21

Living Wisely, Loving Well: Insights from Proverbs, led by Rev. Dr. Dan Bagby, and Rev. Dean Miller.

Study books are available in the church office for those who want to read ahead or as we go to dive deeper into the material.

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 17 **Worship**, 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary and rrcb.org/live
Sunday Reception, 12:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Chancel Flower Calendar Sign Up, 12:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
River Road Camerata, 4:00 p.m., Youth Rehearsal Room
Youth Choir, 4:45 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)

Tue, Dec 19 **Yoga**, 5:00 p.m., Assembly Room

Wed, Dec 20 **Men’s Group: The Huddle**, 8:30 a.m., Founders Room
Building and Property Council, 4:30 p.m., UC 230 (Zoom option available)
Nativity Service Rehearsal, 5:00 p.m., Sanctuary
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m., Main Rehearsal Room

Thu, Dec 21 **Young Adult Christmas Party**, 7:00 p.m., Home of Scott and Sandy Rooney

*Processional Hymn 13

Prepare the Way

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

1. Prepare the way, O Zion,
your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley
a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory,
foretold in sacred story.
Refrain:
O blest is Christ that came
in God's most holy name.

2. Christ brings God's rule, O Zion;
he comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom,
and justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding,
for grace and joy abounding.
Refrain:
O blest is Christ that came
in God's most holy name.

3. Fling wide your gates, O Zion;
your Savior's rule embrace,
and tidings of salvation
proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow rejoicing,
their adoration voicing.
Refrain:
O blest is Christ that came
in God's most holy name.

*Antiphon for Advent—Hymn 12, stanza 3

People, Look East

BESANÇON

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.

*Hymn of Devotion 16

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

1. The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail," said he, "O lowly maiden Mary,"
Most highly favored lady. Gloria!

3. Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
"To me be as it pleases God," she said,
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name."
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

2. "For know a blessed mother you shall be,
all generations praise continually,
Your Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold."
Most highly favored lady. Gloria!

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!

*Recessional Hymn 40

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

2. Joy to the world! the Savior reigns:
Let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.