

**The Fourth Sunday of Advent
at River Road Church
December 24, 2023**



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Catie Burkett and Matthew Cipolletti, Acolytes

Voluntaries

Magnificat on the First Tone
Trio - Duo - Basse de Trompette
Joseph est bien Marié
Dr. Robert Gallagher, organ

Jean-Adam Guilain

Claude Balbastre

Introit

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Robert Gallagher

*Processional Hymn 49

Once in Royal David's City (see last page)

IRBY

*Call to Worship

Rev. Dr. David Breckenridge

People, look east. See! Hear the coming of God.

Mary's song is for God and for people who need real hope, displayed through love.

Mary's song expresses her devotion and releases a melody of hope.

Mary's song is a light which welcomes God. It is a light for the way to welcome us.

May we hear her story through song going out into the earth.

May we join her, embodying God for the world;

carrying inside of us the love that is so sincerely needed.

May we shine like stars, filled with the light of God.

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 89:1-4, 19-26 (p. 475)

Betsy Lowery

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

*Gospel Lesson

Luke 1:46b-55 (p. 832)

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

*Antiphon for Advent—Hymn 12, stanza 4

People, Look East

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 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.

** Please stand, if you are able.*

Anthem

Love Came Down at Christmas

John Rutter

1. Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, love divine;
Love was born at Christmas;
star and angels gave the sign.
2. Worship we the Godhead,
Love incarnate, love divine;
worship we our Jesus,
but wherewith for sacred sign?
3. Love shall be our token;
love be yours and love be mine;
love to God and others,
love for plea and gift and sign.

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Dr. David Breckenridge

*Hymn of Devotion 48

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (see last page)

ES IST EIN' ROS'

*Offertory Sentences

Rev. Dr. David Breckenridge

Anthem at Offertory

Mary's Magnificat

Andrew Carter

Softly a light is stealing,
Sweetly a maiden sings,
Ever wakeful, ever wistful.
Watching faithfully, thankfully,
tenderly her King of kings.
My soul doth magnify the Lord:
And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
Mary, her song to Jesus
Softly, serenely sings:
"I will love you, I will serve you,
May my lullaby glorify,
Magnify my King of kings."
Lullaby, lullaby, lullaby.

Ashley Glaze, soprano

*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 Loves

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 22

Angels, from the Realms of Glory (see last page)

REGENT SQUARE

*Benediction

Rev. Dr. Daniel Glaze

Extinguishing of the Altar Candles

Voluntary

Fugue on the Magnificat

J. S. Bach

Today is the Fourth 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.

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. Gifts placed in the offering plate on December 31, 2023 will be applied to 2023. 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

- **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.

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

This Week @ RRCB:

Sun, Dec 24	Worship , 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary and rrcb.org/live Nativity Service of Lessons and Carols , 4:00 p.m., Sanctuary Service of Candlelight and Holy Communion , 9:00 p.m., Sanctuary and rrcb.org/live
Mon, Dec 25	Church Office Closed
Tue, Dec 26	Church Office Closed
Wed, Dec 27	Men's Group: The Huddle , 8:30 a.m., Founders Room
Sun, Dec 31	Sunday School , 9:45 a.m., Various Rooms Worship , 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary and rrcb.org/live



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*

*Processional Hymn 49

Once in Royal David's City

IRBY

1. Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little child.
 2. He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall.
With the poor, oppressed, and lowly,
lived on earth our Savior holy.
 3. Jesus is our childhood's pattern,
day by day like us he grew;
he was little, weak and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feels for all our sadness,
and he shares in all our gladness.
 4. And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love,
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.
-

*Hymn of Devotion 48

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN' ROS'

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.
 2. Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
the rose I have 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.
-

*Recessional Hymn 22

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

1. Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye, who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!
2. Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant light:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!
3. Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations;
you have seen his natal star:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!
4. All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!