

NATIVITY SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

December 24, 2023 Four o'clock in the afternoon

Welcome to worship as we tell the story of Jesus' birth and celebrate the wonder of the Holy Child being born.

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES Ellie Dixon and Amanda Rooney

VOLUNTARIES *Adeste fidelis (Musette)* Jeanne Demessieux
In dulci jubilo Dietrich Buxtehude
God Rest Ye Merry Robert Edward Smith
O Jesulein süß Rebecca Groom te Velde

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 41/42 *O Come, All Ye Faithful* ADESTE FIDELES

*CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Dr. Daniel Glaze

We come to celebrate a God of Love.

We come to celebrate that God is Love.

We come to celebrate that Love revealed.

Jesus, God's only son, has come into the world so that in him we might have life!

Let our celebration begin!

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 *Adam lay ybounden* Boris Ord, Arr. Barry Rose

Adam lay ybounden, Bounden in a bond, Four thousand winters Though he not too long; And all was for an apple, An apple that he took, As clerkes finden written in their book.	Nay had the apple taken been, The apple taken been, Ne had never Our Lady Abeen heaven's Queen. Blessed be the time That apple taken was. Therefore we bound singen: Deo gracias!!
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River Road Camerata; conducted by Lauren Maho

ANTHEM *As I Outrode this Endris Night* Gerald Hendrie

As I rode out this enderes night, Of three jolly shepherds I saw a sight, And all about their fold a star shone bright: They sang terly terlow; So merrily the shepherds their pipes gan blow.	Down from heaven, from heaven so high, Of angels there came a great company, With mirth and joy and great solemnity, They sang terly terlow; So merrily the shepherds their pipes can blow.
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FIRST LESSON Isaiah 9:2-7 John Straw

Prophecy of the One to come

*HYMN 31/32 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* MENDELSSOHN

SECOND LESSON Luke 1:26-38 Katherine Clark and Ella Glaze

Gabriel brings Mary a message

** Please stand, if you are able*

ANTHEM *By Candlelight* Ruth Elaine Schram

There is a baby tucked in a manger sleeping tight.
And over the manger, there is a star that is shining bright in the night
Showing the world the way to the place where He sleeps upon the hay.
And we make our way by candlelight.

Animals share their humble abode with Him willingly,
But they seem to be asking, "Why has He come, and who is He? Is He royalty?"
Gently, Mary sings to the child lullabies fit for a king.
And she softly sings by candlelight.

Flickering candles, twinkling stars shine like diamonds in midnight blue;
Shimmering snow is reflecting their sparkle in ev'ry hue.
There is a sense of wonder, for our faith has been renewed
As we see His face in this simple place by candlelight.

Over the manger, angels spread their golden wings;
While He is presented priceless things, gifts from kings,
What could we bring to this baby from above?
We will bring our love by candlelight, by candlelight.

Jubilate and Youth Choirs, conducted by Lauren Maho

THIRD LESSON Matthew 1:18-23 Elizabeth Seward

Gabriel brings Joseph a message

*HYMN 44 *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (stanzas 1 and 4) ST. LOUIS

FOURTH LESSON Luke 2:1-7 Abigail McAllister

Jesus is born

ANTHEM *Away in a Manger* (Everyone join on second stanza) Traditional

Away in a manger, no crib for His bed, The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay, The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.	The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes, But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes. I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky, And stay by my side until morning is nigh.
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Carol and Jubilate Choirs; conducted by Suzanne McClain and Mary Langston

FIFTH LESSON Luke 2:8-20 Mary Alice Halloran and Elisabeth Dixon

The shepherds learn of the Messiah's birth

HYMN 29 *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* GO TELL IT

SIXTH LESSON Matthew 2:1-11 Charlie Knerr and Braden Leshner

Magi visit Jerusalem and go to Bethlehem

ANTHEM *Laudamus Te* (from Gloria) Antonio Vivaldi

<i>Laudamus te,</i> <i>Benedicimus te,</i> <i>Adoramus te,</i> <i>Glorificamus te.</i>	We praise you, We bless you, We adore you, We glorify you.
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River Road Camerata

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS Rev. Marnie Fisher-Ingram

Please come forward with your gift using the center aisle, and return to your seat using the side aisles.

ANTHEM *O Holy Night* Adolphe Adam

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

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

Christ is the Lord!
O praise his Name forever,
His power and glory evermore proclaim.
His power and glory evermore proclaim.

River Road Camerata

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE Sandy Rooney

HYMN 60 *Silent Night, Holy Night* (stanzas 1 and 4) STILLE NACHT

As the hymn begins, you are invited to light your candle.

*HYMN 40 *Joy to the World!* (stanzas 1 and 4) ANTIOCH

*BENEDICTION Rev. Marnie Fisher-Ingram

VOLUNTARY *On This Day Earth Shall Ring* Mary Beth Bennett

We are happy for you to take your candle home as a reminder of the birth of Christ. However, should you choose to return it, there are baskets at the doors where you may place your candle.

The Christmas Pageant is presented by the Children, Youth, and Young Adults of River Road Church to the glory of God and with the hope that the telling once again will bring to all present a sense of wonder, hope, peace, joy, and love. Thank you to the following youth and children for their leadership in worship:

Mary: Amanda Rooney
Joseph: Matthew Cipolletti
Baby Jesus: Farrah Broadnax
Gabriel: Ellie Dixon
Angel Chorus: Mollie Ingram, Emelia Roberts, Scarlet Tucker,
Eden Broadnax, Penn Clark, Colby Clingenpeel,
Jacob Ladnier, Caroline Suwal, Lynda Oakey, Mary Collier

Herod: Michael Cipolletti
Innkeeper: Ashley Glaze
Star Holder: Catie Burkett
Magi: Douby Pierre, Alex Knerr, Evan Knerr
Shepherds: Jack Tucker, Teddy Broadnax, Katherine Clark, Hatcher Clingenpeel,
Libby Collier, Charlie Knerr, Ruthie Mustian, Crawford Meyer
Guards: Abby Leshner, Claire McAllister, Helen Halloran

We ask all worship leaders to come forward to the chancel following the service for a picture.



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 magnified in our hearing 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.



*Our prayer is that the hope,
peace, joy, and love of the Christ
Child will reign in your homes
and hearts this Christmas.*

*Sandy Marnie Bob Daniel
David Anna Daniel Beth
Jim, Mike, Carl, & Chester*

THE CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS are given to the glory of God and in memory of loved ones by Lou and Carol Moelchert.

THE CHRISTMAS WREATHS 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 Bulletin Covers this evening feature artwork provided by some of the children in our congregation. Special thanks to Mollie, Ashley, Emelia, Jay, Owen, Katherine, Caroline, Alexander, Jacob, Adeline, and Charles.

Start the New Year at River Road Church!

Our children’s, youth, young adults, and music ministries are vibrant at River Road Church. We hope that you will join us in the new year!

On Sunday mornings, we have Sunday School for all ages 9:45-10:45 a.m., followed by Worship at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Children in kindergarten or younger stay together for WorshipCare during worship. Children in grades 1-5 attend the worship service, and following the Children’s Time, those in grades 1-3 will have the opportunity to attend Children’s Church in the Chapel. Thoughtful Faith Community on Sunday evenings is our meal and fellowship time, including programming for children and youth. You can find out more about these ministries at rrcb.org.

*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*



Christmas Eve
AT RIVER ROAD CHURCH