

WELCOME TO

*Christmas  
Eve*

AT RIVER ROAD CHURCH



# CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF WORSHIP AND HOLY COMMUNION

December 24, 2023

Nine o'clock in the evening

## LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

Ashley Glaze, Mollie Ingram,  
Claire McAllister, and Emelia Roberts

## VOLUNTARIES

<i>Adeste Fidelis (Musette)</i>		Jeanne Demessieux
+ <i>Tidings of Comfort and Joy</i>		Douglas Wagner
* <i>Laudamus Te (from Gloria)</i>		Antonio Vivaldi
<i>Laudamus te,</i>	We praise you,	
<i>Benedicimus te,</i>	We bless you,	
<i>Adoramus te,</i>	We adore you,	
<i>Glorificamus te.</i>	We glorify you.	
* <i>Adam Lay Ybounden</i>		Boris Ord, arr. Barry Rose
Adam lay ybounden,	And all was for an apple,	
Bounden in a bond:	An apple that he took,	
Four thousand winter	As clerkès finden	
Thought he not too long.	Written in their book.	
Nè had the apple taken been,	Blessèd be the time	
The apple taken been,	That apple taken was,	
Ne had never our lady	Therefore we moun singen,	
Abeen heavenè queen.	Deo gracias!	
* <i>As I Outrode this Endris Night</i>		Gerald Hendrie
As I rode out this enderes night,	Down from heaven, from heaven so high,	
Of three jolly shepherds I saw a sight,	Of angels there came a great company,	
And all about their fold a star shone bright:	With mirth and joy and great solemnity,	
They sang terly terlow;	They sang terly terlow;	
So merrily the shepherds their pipes gan blow.	So merrily the shepherds their pipes can blow.	
+ <i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>		Redner, arr. Judy Phillips
<i>O Jesulein süss</i>		Rebecca Groom te Velde
+ <i>Lo, How a Rose</i>		arr. Cathy Moklebust
<i>On This Day Earth Shall Ring</i>		Mary Beth Bennett

Dr. Robert Gallagher, organ  
+Chancel Bell Choir; Charles Todd, director  
\*River Road Camerata, conducted by Lauren Maho

## INTROIT

### *Christmas Processional*

Richard Proulx

Cantor: Let us go forth in peace.  
Choir: In the name of Christ. Amen.  
Refrain: Glory to God on high!  
Glory to God on high and peace to his people on earth.  
Alleluia, Alleluia!  
Judah and Jerusalem,  
Fear ye not, nor be dismayed.  
Today ye go forth, And the Lord is with you. *Refrain.*  
Say to those who are frightened: be strong, fear ye not.  
Here is our God who has come to save us. *Refrain.*

David Gulick, conductor  
Seth Roberts, cantor

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come  
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,  
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -

ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,  
 of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -  
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all  
 sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

*Refrain*

born the King of an - gels!  
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let  
 glo - ry in the high - est!  
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Beth Bailey

Emmanuel, open our eyes to the wonder of this night,

**that we might catch a glimpse of your glory in the simplicity of these moments.**

Emmanuel, soften our hearts to the message of this hour,

**that we might turn toward you, and have the way prepared in us for your coming.**

Emmanuel, open our minds to different voices

**through all who speak and sing this evening, that we might hear your voice from many places.**

Emmanuel, with eyes open, hearts softened, and minds listening,

**we rejoice that you bring into being something more than we dare imagine. Amen.**

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

*Ding, Dong, Merrily on High*

David Willcocks

Ding dong! merrily on high!  
In heav'n the bells are ringing;  
Ding dong, verily the sky  
is riv'n with angel singing.  
Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below,  
let steeple bells be swungen,  
And io, io, io,  
by priest and people sungen.  
Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!

Pray ye dutifully prime  
your matin chime, ye ringers;  
may ye beautifully rime  
your evetime song, ye singers.  
Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7 (p. 555)

Rev. Anna Perry Miller

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

\*HYMN 31/32

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King.  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold Him come,  
Offspring of the virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
Hail, the incarnate Deity,  
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Risen with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by,  
Born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise us from the earth,  
Born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

\*GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2:1-14 (pp. 832-833)

Rev. Anna Perry Miller

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

ANTHEM

*There Is No Rose of Such Virtue*

Stephen Caracciolo

There is no rose of such virtue  
As is the rose that bare Jesu,  
*Alleluia.* [Praise the Lord.]  
For in this rose contained was  
Heav'n and earth in little space,  
*Res Miranda.* [Marvelous thing.]  
By that rose we may well see  
That there be one God in persons three,  
*Pares forma.* [Equal in form]  
Leave we all this worldly mirth,  
And follow we this joyful birth,  
*Transeamus.* [Let us cross over.]  
There is no rose of such virtue  
As is the rose that bare Jesu,  
*Gaudeamus.* [Let us rejoice.]

Lauren Maho, alto

CHRISTMAS EVE MEDITATION

Rev. Dr. Daniel Glaze

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| <p>1. O little town of Bethlehem,<br/>how still we see thee lie!<br/>Above thy deep and dreamless sleep<br/>the silent stars go by.<br/>Yet in thy dark streets shineth<br/>the everlasting light;<br/>the hopes and fears of all the years<br/>are met in thee tonight.</p> <p>3. How silently, how silently,<br/>the wondrous gift is given!<br/>So God imparts to human hearts<br/>the blessings of his heaven.<br/>No ear may hear his coming,<br/>but in this world of sin,<br/>where meek souls will receive him, still<br/>the dear Christ enters in.</p> | <p>2. For Christ is born of Mary:<br/>and gathered all above,<br/>while mortals sleep, the angels keep<br/>their watch of wondering love.<br/>O morning stars, together<br/>proclaim the holy birth!<br/>And praises sing to God the king,<br/>and peace to all on earth.</p> <p>4. O holy child of Bethlehem,<br/>descend to us, we pray;<br/>cast out our sin and enter in,<br/>be born in us today.<br/>We hear the Christmas angels<br/>the great glad tidings tell;<br/>O come to us, abide with us,<br/>our Lord Emmanuel!</p> |
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INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Dr. Daniel Glaze

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

**Holy One, enter into our lives and repair the divisions we have created. Enter into our world and lead us out of the ways of violence and into the ways of peace. Enter into our heart and heal our wounds of hatred and bitterness, and fill us again with hope. Come into our lives, Lord Jesus. Come and be born in us today. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

God's true light has come into the world.

**Emmanuel, God is with us!**

The light has dawned for all creation.

**Joy to the world!**

We receive Christ, and are children of God.

**May Christ's light within us shine for all the world to see.**

Joy to the world, the Lord has come.

**Joy to the world! Thanks be to God, for this indescribable gift!**

SANCTUS

George Thalben-Ball

THE BLESSING AND GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

ANTHEM

*Whence Is That Goodly Fragrance Flowing*

David Willcocks

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| <p>1. Whence is the goodly fragrance flowing,<br/>Stealing our senses all away,<br/>never the like did come a-blowing,<br/>Shepherds, in flow'ry fields of May,<br/>Whence is that goodly fragrance flowing,<br/>Stealing our senses all away.</p> | <p>2. What is that light so brilliant, breaking<br/>Here in the night across our eyes.<br/>Never so bright, the day-star waking,<br/>Started to climb the morning skies!<br/>What is that light so brilliant, breaking,<br/>Here in the night across our eyes.</p> |
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3. Bethlehem! there in manger lying,  
Find your Redeemer haste away,  
Run ye with eager footsteps vieing!  
Worship the Saviour born today.  
Bethlehem! there in manger lying,  
Find your Redeemer haste away.

Christopher Ahart, tenor

ANTHEM

*Myn Lyking*

R. R. Terry

1. I saw a fair mayden syttin and sing.  
She lulled a lyttel childe, a sweetè Lording.  
  
Refrain: Lullay myn lyking, my dere sonne, my sweeting.  
Lullay my dere herte, myn own dere derling.
2. That same Lord is he that made alle thing  
Of alle lordes He is Lord of alle kynges Kyng.  
Refrain
3. There was a mickle melody at that chylde's birth.  
All that were in heav'nly bliss, they made mickle mirth.  
Refrain
4. Angels bright sang their song to that chyld;  
Blyssid be thou, and so be she, so meek and so mild.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Rev. Dr. Daniel Glaze

*We light the Christ candle, for in Christ we find light and life, and the courage to be like him, answering his call and following in his footsteps. Come to us, Lord Jesus; be born in us this night—in our hearts, our minds, our lives. May the light of Christ's life be kindled in us.*

PASSING OF THE LIGHT

*As you receive the light from a minister or deacon, may you reflect on God's gift of light in Jesus Christ.*

HYMN OF MEDITATION 60

*Silent Night, Holy Night*

STILLE NACHT

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Silent night, holy night!<br/>All is calm, all is bright,<br/>Round yon virgin mother and child!<br/>Holy Infant, so tender and mild,<br/>Sleep in heavenly peace,<br/>Sleep in heavenly peace.</li> <li>3. Silent night, holy night!<br/>Son of God, love's pure light<br/>Radiant beams from Thy holy face,<br/>With the dawn of redeeming grace,<br/>Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,<br/>Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Silent night, holy night!<br/>Shepherds quake at the sight,<br/>Glories stream from heaven afar,<br/>Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia;<br/>Christ the Savior is born,<br/>Christ the Savior is born."</li> <li>4. Silent night, holy night!<br/>Wondrous star, lend thy light;<br/>With the angels let us sing,<br/>Alleluia to our King;<br/>Christ the Savior is born,<br/>Christ the Savior is born.</li> </ol> |
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\*RECESSIONAL HYMN 40

*Joy to the World!*

ANTIOCH

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come:<br/>Let earth receive her King;<br/>Let every heart prepare Him room,<br/>And heaven and nature sing,<br/>And heaven and nature sing,<br/>And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Joy to the world! the Savior reigns:<br/>Let us our songs employ;<br/>While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains<br/>Repeat the sounding joy,<br/>Repeat the sounding joy,<br/>Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.</li> </ol> |
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| <p>3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,<br/>Nor thorns infest the ground;<br/>He comes to make His blessings flow<br/>Far as the curse is found,<br/>Far as the curse is found,<br/>Far as, far as the curse is found.</p> | <p>4. He rules the world with truth and grace,<br/>And makes the nations prove<br/>The glories of His righteousness,<br/>And wonders of His love,<br/>And wonders of His love,<br/>And wonders, wonders of His love.</p> |
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*You are invited to lift your candle on the last stanza.*

\*BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Daniel Glaze

*Please extinguish your candle after the benediction.  
You may return your candle to the baskets at each exit of the Sanctuary.*

EXTINGUISHING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

*Please remain seated until the choir exits to the Narthex.*

VOLUNTARY

*Fantasia on "In dulci jubilo", BWV 729*

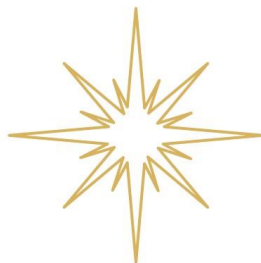
J. S. Bach

**THE CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS**

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

**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.



*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*



# 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.

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## *River Road Church* *Baptist*

8000 River Road  
Richmond, Virginia 23229  
804.288.1131 [rrcb.org](http://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*