

RIVER ROAD CHURCH, BAPTIST

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2020

Today we worship via the internet. As you gather around your phone, computer, or tablet, we encourage you to pause for a moment to become aware of God's presence. Quiet your mind, listen to the voluntary, and prepare to worship God.

Voluntary

Benedictus
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
—Matthew 23:39b

Settings by François Couperin
and Alec Rowley

Welcome, Invocation, and Our Lord's Prayer

Rev. Anna Perry Miller

**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.**

Hymn

People, Look East

BESANÇON

1. People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able;
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.
2. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.
3. Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 64:1-9

Rev. Anna Perry Miller

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

The Word of the Lord;
Thanks be to God.

**Please stand if you are able.*

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Rev. Dr. Daniel Glaze

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 first candle as a sign of hope.

As a people of hope, let us bear witness to the hope that is eternal through Christ our Lord. O come, O come, Emmanuel.

*Antiphon for Advent

*Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*TIF IN VELDELE
Text: Wayne Wold

Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.

He__ shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills__ the pro - mise.

*Gospel Lesson

Mark 13:24-37

Rev. Anna Perry Miller

“But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. “But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

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

Solo

Accompagnato and Air from Messiah

George Frederick Handel

Accompagnato

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplish'd, that her Iniquity is pardoned. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness; prepare ye the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. —*Isaiah 40:1-3*

Air

Ev'ry valley shall be exalted, and ev'ry mountain and hill made low; the crooked straight, and the rough places plain. —*Isaiah 40:4*

Christopher Ahart, tenor

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Anna Perry Miller

**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.**

Solo

Come, Thou Dear Redeemer

César Franck

Come thou, come thou, dear Redeemer.
Come, Lord Jesus, so set us free.
From our fears and sins release us.
Let us find our rest in thee.
Hope of all the earth thou art,
joy of every longing heart

Come thou, come thou, dear Redeemer,
born a Child, yet thou are a King.
Born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
Rule in all our hearts alone.
Raise us to thy glorious throne. Amen.

Christopher Ahart, tenor

Sermon

In Times Like These...Hope

Rev. Dr. Daniel Glaze

Hymn

The Days Are Surely Coming

AURELIA

1. The days are surely coming, says God to all the earth,
when you will see my promise: salvation come to birth.
My righteousness and justice will spread throughout the land
and you will be delivered by my almighty hand.
2. The days are surely coming, says Christ, the promised one,
when you will read my warning in moon and stars and sun.
Though earth and heaven tremble, stand up and do not fear,
for I am your redeemer, and I am drawing near.
3. The days are surely coming when we will know at last
the fullness of God's presence, God's promise, come to pass.
Then righteousness and justice will spread throughout the land
and we will be delivered by God's almighty hand.

*Benediction

Rev. Dr. Daniel Glaze

Voluntary

Savior of the Nations, Come

Dietrich Buxtehude

Chancel flowers are given to the Glory of God and to honor all the first responders serving in the COVID-19 pandemic by James Gray.

We are grateful for your continued generosity to God through our church ministry. You may give securely online at www.rrcb.org/give-online or by mailing a check. Thank you for your faithfulness. This QR code will take you to our giving page.



Online Worship Through Advent—Beginning today, Sunday, November 29, and continuing through the end of the year, worship will be online only in an effort to contribute to the safety of our congregation. Because of our desire to love and care for our congregation, coupled with rising COVID numbers in our area, we feel this is the most prudent approach. As a church family, we will continue to worship on Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m. at rrcb.org/live. As we approach January, the Ad Hoc Re-Entry Task Force will monitor the situation and make a recommendation based on their findings.

- Sun, Nov 29 **Breakfast Chat with Mrs. Sandy**, 9:00 a.m., Zoom Meeting (Online)
Faith Walk Sunday School Class, 9:45 a.m., Zoom Meeting (Online)
Life Sunday School Class, 9:45 a.m., Zoom Meeting (Online)
New Horizons Sunday School Class, 10:00 a.m., Zoom Meeting (Online)
Worship, 11:00 a.m., Online Broadcast
Churchwide Advent Drive-Thru, 3:00 p.m., North Parking Lot
Church Hill Wellness Center Christmas Stores Drop Off, 3:00 p.m., North Parking Lot
- Wed, Dec 2 **Men’s Group: The Huddle**, 8:00 a.m., Zoom Meeting (Online)
Finance Committee, 7:00 p.m., Zoom Meeting (Online)
In-person Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary
- Thurs, Dec 3 **Chancel Choir Zoom Rehearsal**, 7:30 p.m., Zoom Meeting (Online)
- Sun, Dec 6 **Breakfast Chat with Mrs. Sandy**, 9:00 a.m., Zoom Meeting (Online)
Faith Walk Sunday School Class, 9:45 a.m., Zoom Meeting (Online)
Life Sunday School Class, 9:45 a.m., Zoom Meeting (Online)
New Horizons Sunday School Class, 10:00 a.m., Zoom Meeting (Online)
Worship, 11:00 a.m., Online Broadcast
Church Conference—Online, 12:00 p.m., Zoom Meeting (Online)
Preschool Development Center Committee, 1:30 p.m., Zoom Meeting (Online)
Preschool Christmas Party, 3:00 p.m., Courtyard
Elementary Christmas Party, 3:00 p.m., Children’s Playground
Middle School Christmas Party, 3:00 p.m., Plaza
High School Christmas Party, 3:00 p.m., North Parking Lot
Robert Smart Sunday School Class, 3:00 p.m., North Parking Lot
Youth Choir, 4:00 p.m., Plaza (in front of the Fellowship Hall)

Thanksgiving Offering for Welborne UMC Community Food Pantry

The Thanksgiving Offering, collected during the month of November, supports the Community Food Pantry at Welborne United Methodist Church. You may make donations online at rrcb.org/give-online (select “Thanksgiving” for the fund) or mail a check to the church office with “Thanksgiving Offering” in the memo.

Advent and Christmas at River Road Church

River Road Church, Baptist anticipates and prepares for the birth of the Christ child and the season of Christmas by observing the church season of Advent. For four weeks leading up to Christmas, we reflect on Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love as we light a candle to represent each theme during worship, and on Christmas Eve, just before Christmas Day begins, we light the Christ candle and remember the holy moment God came into humanity as a baby in a manger. While worshiping and gathering look different this year, join us as we prepare for Christmas and honor the holiness of this season together! Our listing of services and events, including any sign ups or reservations, is available at rrcb.org/advent. Please note, this page will continue to be updated as more plans are finalized.

Churchwide Advent Drive-Thru & Christmas Stores Drop Off

Today, November 29, 3:00-4:00PM in the North Parking Lot

Swing thru the North Parking Lot for intergenerational advent goodies, greet and see ministers, pick up supplies to make an Advent Wreath, and to bring gifts for the Church Hill Christmas Store. An entrance and exit will be marked off of Ridge Road. Please stay in your vehicle and follow the path marked. Sign up here to learn more and to let us know you are coming.

Sign-ups are not mandatory, but are helpful when planning: rrcb.org/drivethru. Advent Wreath kits are limited to 50 and will be prioritized to those signed up. We can’t wait to see you!

All Christmas Stores gifts have been selected—thank you! If you have signed up, today is the last day to drop them off. When dropping off your gifts, please clearly mark your gifts with the corresponding child number on your sign up.

Church Business Meeting

Sunday, December 6 at 12:00PM on Zoom

Last week you should've received the Nominating Committee's report via mail. We will hold a church conference to vote upon this report on Sunday, December 6, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. via the Zoom video conferencing platform. Per River Road Church bylaws, we need 100 people present to constitute a quorum. Please make plans now to attend. Thank you. If you did not receive the mailing, please contact the church office.

First Sunday Food Share for the Richmond Baptist Centers

Sunday, December 6, 1:00-3:00PM in the North Parking Lot

If you are able to safely come to the church, please drop off donations during the designated time. There will be two volunteers at the church to assist with directions and will maintain appropriate distancing. A full shopping list can be found rrcb.org/foodshare.

Children & Youth Christmas Parties

Sunday, December 6, 3:00-4:00PM

Preschoolers in the Courtyard, Elementary Schoolers on the Playground, Middle Schoolers on the Plaza, & High Schoolers in the North Parking Lot

Signs up are required and can be found at rrcb.org/advent or via children and youth emails.

2021 Altar Flower Calendar

Anyone interested in reserving a Sunday on the 2021 Altar Flower Calendar, please call Betsy Lowery (804-338-4604). The cost is \$90.

Virtual Starlight Service of Remembrance & Holy Communion

Wednesday, December 9 at 7:00PM

Traditionally, we offer a special time of worship, reflection, and communion to remember loved ones we have lost during the year or perhaps in recent years. Approaching the holiday season without that person present can be daunting, sad, and overwhelming. This year, an opportunity will be available for that purpose. This year, acknowledging loss and sadness has taken on new meaning due to the pandemic.

On Wednesday night, December 9, at 7:00 p.m. we will have an online service, just as we do on Sunday morning. You may go to rrcb.org/live, and join the service. You are encouraged to be present if you have any reasons you are approaching the holidays with angst, pain, fear, or dread, or to encourage others who are feeling these emotions. May this service of worship be a blessing, a balm on any wound, for you.

Starlight Service Group Reflection

Wednesday, December 9, at 7:45PM on Zoom (Online)

Following the Starlight Service, you may gather with others on a live Zoom follow up conversation where we can offer listening ears, warm presence, and words of hope. Please sign up to participate in this 7:45 p.m. time of sharing and receive the Zoom link at rrcb.org/starlight. A minister will also be present for this time.