

RIVER ROAD CHURCH, BAPTIST

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Observance of Epiphany

January 3, 2021

*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.*

Voluntaries

How Brightly Shines the Morning Star
Pastorale
Greensleeves

Johann Pachelbel
Giuseppe Aldrovandini
Richard Purvis

Dr. Robert Gallagher, organ

Welcome, Invocation, and Our Lord's Prayer

Rev. Marnie Fisher-Ingram

**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

What Child Is This?

GREENSLEEVES

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| 1. What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary! | 2. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high.
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary! |
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Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 60:1-6

Rev. Marnie Fisher-Ingram

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

Solo

The Three Kings

Peter Cornelius

Three Kings from Persian lands afar
 to Jordan follow the pointing star:
 and this the quest of the travelers three,
 where the new-born King of the Jews may be.
 Full royal gifts they bear for the King;
 Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

The star shines out with a steadfast ray;
 the kings to Bethlehem make their way,
 and there in worship they bend the knee,
 as Mary’s child in her lap they see;
 their royal gifts they show to the King;
 gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

Thou child of man, lo, to Bethlehem
 the Kings are travelling, travel with them!
 The star of mercy, the star of grace,
 shall lead thy heart to its resting place.
 Gold, incense, myrrh thou canst not bring;
 offer thy heart to the infant King.

Holden Seward, bass

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Marnie Fisher-Ingram

Offertory Sentences and Doxology

GREENSLEEVES

**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.
 This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
 Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary. Amen.**

Solo

A Christmas Carol

Charles Ives

Little star of Bethlehem!
 Do we see Thee now?
 Do we see Thee shining
 O’er the tall trees?
 Little Child of Bethlehem!
 Do we hear thee in our hearts?
 Hear the Angels singing:
 Peace on earth, good will to men! Noel!

O’er the cradle of a King,
 Hear the Angels sing:
 In Excelsis Gloria, Gloria!
 From his Father’s home on high,
 Lo! for us He came to die;
 Hear the Angels sing:
 Venite adoremus Dominum.

Holden Seward, bass

Sermon

Surprising Light

Rev. Anna Perry Miller

Invitation to Holy Communion

Blessing and Giving of the Bread
Blessing and Giving of the Cup

Hymn

Brightest and Best

MORNING STAR

1. Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
drawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.
2. Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining,
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
angels adore him in slumber reclining,
maker and monarch and savior of all!

Benediction

Rev. Anna Perry Miller

Voluntary

In Thee Is Joy

J. S. Bach

We give thanks to Holden Seward for serving as our Soloist and Cantor this morning.

The Christmas wreaths are given to the glory of God and in honor of the incredible staff at River Road Church, Baptist for their tireless work during the pandemic, by Margaret and Hilton Almond.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to Amy and Clint Hubbard upon the death of her father, to Bobby and John Hubbard upon the death of their grandfather, Ryland Wilbun, on December 21, in Rockingham, NC.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to the family and friends of Ellis Cunningham upon his death on December 27, 2020. A memorial service for Mr. Cunningham is not yet planned.

CONGRATULATIONS to Tim and Beth Clingenpeel upon the birth of their son, Olsen Richard Clingenpeel, on December 27. The proud big brothers are Hatcher and Colby; grandparents are Rich and Becky Jante, and Mike and Vivian Clingenpeel; uncle and aunt are Adam and Vanessa Jante; and cousins Milton and Ella Jante.

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.



NOTICE REGARDING ONLINE WORSHIP—Until further notice, 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. The Ad Hoc Re-Entry Task Force will continue to closely monitor the situation and make recommendations based on their findings.

- Sun, Jan 3 **Breakfast Chat with Mrs. Sandy**, 9:00 a.m., Zoom Meeting (Online)
First Sunday Food Share, 12:00 p.m., North Parking Lot
Shepherd-Holland Sunday School Class, 2:00 p.m., Zoom Meeting (Online)
- Mon, Jan 4 **Board of Deacons**, 7:00 p.m., Zoom Meeting (Online)
- Wed, Jan 6 **Men's Group: The Huddle**, 8:00 a.m., Zoom Meeting (Online)
TFC-Adults: What Star is This?, 7:00 p.m., Zoom Meeting (Online)
Finance Committee, 7:00 p.m., Zoom Meeting (Online)
In-person Choir Rehearsal, 8:00 p.m., Sanctuary
- Thurs, Jan 7 **Chancel Choir Zoom Rehearsal**, 7:30 p.m., Zoom Meeting (Online)
- Sat, Jan 9 **Board of Missions Retreat**, 9:00 a.m., Zoom Meeting (Online)
- Sun, Jan 10 **Breakfast Chat with Mrs. Sandy**, 9:00 a.m., Zoom Meeting (Online)
Life Sunday School Class, 9:30 a.m., Zoom Meeting (Online)
Faith Walk 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

First Sunday Food Share for the Richmond Baptist Centers

Today, January 3, 12:00-2:00PM 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.

TFC-Adults: What Star is This?

An astronomer's thoughts on the Star of Bethlehem with Dr. George Spagna

Wednesday, January 6 at 7:00 PM on Zoom

A special presentation will be offered by Dr. George Spagna, Chair of the Physics Department at Randolph-Macon College and Director of the Keebler Observatory. "What Star is This? An astronomer's thoughts on the star of Bethlehem" is a timely presentation, as we enjoyed a rare planetary alignment in December and our first Wednesday program falls exactly on Epiphany. We will share in a Zoom meeting at 7:00 p.m. on the 6th, to hear his interesting exploration about the star observed and followed by the Magi.

If you would like to join this program, please sign up at rrcb.org/tfc-star to receive the Zoom link. If you are unable to join, the program will be available at a later date at rrcb.org/tfc-archive.

Dr. Spagna lives in Ashland with his wife, Sylvia, where they raised 2 daughters, Amy and Kimberley, who are both grown. They have one grandson, 19-month-old Evan. Having taught at Randolph-Macon for almost 35 years, he is looking forward to retiring at the end of this academic year. The Spagnas are part of the Episcopal Church of St. James the Less in Ashland, VA.

The Stewardship Committee is working with the Finance Committee for our 2021 budget. If you have not turned in your pledge yet, you are encouraged to do so. As of this writing, 236 pledge cards have been received which represents 69% of the goal (using 2020 budget as our goal). You can submit your pledge by mailing your pledge card to the church, filling out the secure form at rrcb.org/pledge, or calling LeAnne Lane in the church office.

2021 Altar Flower Calendar

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