

RIVER ROAD CHURCH, BAPTIST

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 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.

Voluntaries

Praise Be to Almighty God, BWV 602
Ave Maria, Ave Maris Stella, Op. 5, No. 2
The Annunciation

J. S. Bach
Jean Langlais
Johannes Brahms

1. "How blessed art Thou, gentle maiden so lowly!"
Thus sang to the Virgin God's angels all holy
as early one morning she knelt down to pray.
2. "Hail Mary! Thou hast with the Father found favor,
a Son shalt Thou bear who will be mankind's Savior,
the One who was promised the world long ago."
3. "O tell me bright angel, how can this come to me?
For I am a maiden and no man yet knew me.
No Virgin has ever brought forth a child."
4. "As dewdrops appear on a flower-filled meadow,
upon Thee, God's Spirit shall let fall His shadow,
thus, shalt Thou conceive Him, the Son of God.
5. The Virgin gave answer the, humble and fervent,
"Behold, Lord, Thine handmaiden, Thy willing servant.
So be it, according to Thy command."
6. Then sank to their knees the angelic throng
and sang for joy to the Virgin.
They sang to the Virgin their heavenly song!

Members of the Chancel Choir

Welcome, Invocation, and Our Lord's Prayer

Rev. Daniel 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

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

1. The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail," said he, "O lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favoured lady," Gloria!
2. "For know a blessed Mother you shall be,
all generations praise continually,
your Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favoured lady," Gloria!
3. Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
"To me be as it pleases God," she said,
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name.
Most highly favoured lady," Gloria!
4. Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say
"Most highly favoured lady," Gloria!

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

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

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Halloran Family

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.

Antiphon for Advent

Light Four Candles to Watch for Messiah

TIF IN VELDELE
 Text: Wayne Wold

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

5
 He__ is com - ing; tell the glad ti - dings. Let your light__ be shin - ing.

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Gospel Lesson

The Halloran Family

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

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

Bell Anthem *Angels We Have Heard on High* Dan Miller
Handbell Quartet: Ella Glaze, Eleanor Roberts, Holden Seward, and Elizabeth Thorne
Rev. Paul Honaker, director

Pastoral Prayer Rev. Daniel Ingram

Offertory Sentences and 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.**

Solo *Rejoice Greatly (from Messiah)* George Frederick Handel
Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, thy King cometh unto thee;
He is the righteous Saviour, and He shall speak peace unto the heathen. Rejoice greatly. . .
—*Zechariah 9:9-10*
Michelle Harman-Gulick, soprano

Sermon *In Times Like These...Love* Rev. Dr. Daniel Glaze

Hymn *Song of Mary* FOREST GREEN

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| 1. My soul gives glory to my God;
my heart pours out its praise.
God lifted up my lowliness
in many marvelous ways.
My God has done great things for me:
yes, holy is God's name.
All people will declare me blessed,
and blessings they shall claim. | 2. Love casts the mighty from their thrones,
promotes the insecure,
leaves hungry spirits satisfied;
the rich seem suddenly poor.
Praise God, whose loving covenant
supports those in distress,
remembering past promises
with present faithfulness. |
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Benediction Rev. Dr. Daniel Glaze

Voluntary *From Heaven High to Earth I Come* Johann Pachelbel

During the season of Advent, members of our church will read the Scripture lessons and light the candles of the Advent wreath. We give thanks to the Hallorans—Susan, Bob, Marty, Frank, Mary Alice, and Helen—for leading us in worship today through Scripture readings and Advent candle lighting.

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.

Hearty gratitude to those who helped decorate the church for Christmas in this most unusual year. We did not have one glorious, hectic day with many folks in the church together doing these happy tasks. Rather, individual tasks were done by one or two or a married couple working at different times in our empty building. Nevertheless, our sanctuary is beautiful and the window candles and fresh wreaths on many doors say to all “Christ is born!” A heartfelt thank you goes to Harper and Carol Alford, Hilton and Margaret Almond, Mike Christian, Paul Honaker, Daniel Ingram, Steve and Betsy Lowery, Ed and Peggy Pruden, and Julia Tyler.

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.



An email from Dr. Glaze was sent earlier this week that included some specifics about year-end giving. If you need to deliver a gift in person before the end of the year, the front office will be staffed:

- December 21, 1-5 p.m.
- December 22, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
- December 30, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
- December 31, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

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, Dec 20 **Breakfast chat with Mrs. Sandy**, 9:00 a.m., Zoom Meeting (Online)
Shepherd-Holland Sunday School Class, 2:00 p.m., Zoom Meeting (Online)
- Wed, Dec 23 **Men's Group: The Huddle**, 8:00 a.m., Zoom Meeting (Online)
Christmas Eve Drive-Thru Nativity & Food Collection, 4:30 p.m., North Parking Lot
Please note new date for this event!
- Thurs, Dec 24 **Virtual Christmas Eve Service**, available at 9:00 a.m., rrcb.org/live
- Fri, Dec 25 **Merry Christmas!**
Office Closed
- Sun, Dec 27 **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., rrcb.org/live

Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 24—See the new date for the Drive-Thru on next page!

Christmas Eve... what a special night in the life of our church. We are used to dressing up in special Christmas clothes, bringing canned goods to worship, seeing the nativity story acted out as it is read, and lighting our candles as we sing *Silent Night*. This year, we hope to keep some of these pieces in place because it is still such a spectacular night in our lives. Nothing is more important than Hope and Love and Peace being born into our world.

There will be two special pieces to our Christmas Eve worship and celebration. Make plans now to be a part of both.

Virtual Christmas Eve Service

At 9:00 a.m. on December 24, our traditional Christmas Eve service will become available at rrcb.org/live so that your family can participate in it when it suits you best.

Christmas Eve Drive-Thru Nativity & Food Collection
4:30-5:30PM, North Parking Lot

Due to rain in the forecast, this event has been moved to Wednesday, December 23!

On *Wednesday* there will be a drive-thru nativity at church. When you arrive, the parking lot will be marked for entrance and exit off of Ridge Road. You will have the opportunity to contribute canned goods for those in need, after which you can proceed through scenes from the Christmas story. While sign-ups are not mandatory, they are helpful when planning: rrcb.org/nativity. Ahead of *driving thru*, here are a few reminders:

- Please be sure to stay in your car for the duration of the drive-thru
- Please wear masks while in the car greeting ministers
- During the food drop off, please wear your mask, and hand the minister your offering through your car window

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, 222 pledge cards have been received which represents 68% 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.