

RIVER ROAD CHURCH, BAPTIST

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 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

*Come Now, Savior of the Nations, BWV 659, 660
Comfort, Comfort You My People
Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*

J.S. Bach
Gerald Near
Wayne L. Wold

Welcome, Invocation, and Our Lord's Prayer

Rev. Dr. David Breckenridge

**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

Comfort, Comfort You My People

PSALM 42

1. Comfort, comfort you my people,
tell of peace, thus says our God;
comfort those who sit in darkness
bowed beneath oppression's load.
Speak you to Jerusalem
of the peace that waits for them;
tell them that their sins I cover,
and their warfare now is over.
2. Make you straight what long was crooked,
make the rougher places plain;
let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits God's holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
now o'er earth is shed abroad;
and all flesh shall see the token
that God's word is never broken.

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 40:1-11

Sarah, Rob, Mary, and Libby Collier

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

The Word of the Lord;
Thanks be to God.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Collier 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 this candle as a sign of Christ, the Prince of Peace.

May we make room for the peace of Christ in our hearts, in our homes, and in our relationships. O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Antiphon for Advent

Light Two Candles to Watch for Messiah

TIF IN VELDELE
Text: Wayne Wold

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

5
He shall feed the flock like a shep- herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.

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New Testament Lesson

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Rev. Dr. David Breckenridge

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The Word of the Lord;
Thanks be to God.

Solo

Benedictus (from “*Little Organ Mass*”)

Joseph Haydn

Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Victoria Jackson, soprano

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Dr. David Breckenridge

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

He Shall Feed His Flock (from Messiah)

George Frederick Handel

He shall feed His flock like a shepherd; and He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those that are with young. —Isaiah 40:11

Come unto Him, all ye that labour, come unto Him that are heavy laden, and He will give you rest. Take His yoke upon you, and learn of Him, for He is meek and lowly of heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls. —Matthew 11:28-29

Victoria Jackson, soprano

Sermon

In Times Like These...Peace

Rev. Dr. Daniel Glaze

Invitation to Communion

The Blessing and the Breaking of the Bread

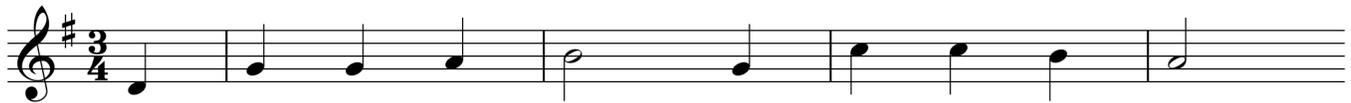
The Blessing and Giving of the Cup

Hymn

Together We Serve

LYONS

Text: Daniel Charles Damon



1. To - geth - er we serve, u - nit - ed by love,
2. We seek to be - come a bea - con of hope,
3. We wel - come the scarred, the wealth - y, the poor,
4. To - geth - er, by grace, we wit - ness and work,



in - vit - ing God's world to the glo - ri - ous feast.
a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.
the bu - sy, the lone - ly, and all who need care.
re - mem - ber - ing Je - sus, in whom we grow strong.



We work and we pray through sor - row and joy,
We learn, year by year, to let love shine through
We of - fer a home to those who will come,
To - geth - er we serve in Spir - it and truth,



ex - tend - ing God's love to the last and the least.
un - til we see Christ in each per - son we meet.
our hands quick to help, our hearts read - y to share.
re - mem - ber - ing love is the strength of our song.

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Daniel Glaze

Voluntary

Come Now, Savior of the Nations, BWV 661

J.S. Bach

During the season of Advent members of our church will read Scripture and light the candles of the Advent wreath. We give thanks to Sarah and Rob Collier and their children, Mary and Libby, for leading us in worship today through Scripture reading and Advent Candle lighting.

Chancel flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Dr. and Mrs. Vernon B. Richardson by their children.

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—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, Dec 6 **Church Conference**, 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
Youth Choir, 2:30 p.m., Place TBA
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., South Parking Lot
Board of Missions, 7:00 p.m., Zoom Meeting (Online)
- Wed, Dec 9 **Men's Group: The Huddle**, 8:00 a.m., Zoom Meeting (Online)
Starlight Service of Remembrance & Holy Communion, 7:00 p.m., Online Broadcast
Starlight Service Group Reflection, 7:45 p.m., Zoom Meeting (Online)
In-person Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary
- Thurs, Dec 10 **Chancel Choir Zoom Rehearsal**, 7:30 p.m., Zoom Meeting (Online)
- Sun, Dec 13 **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
Youth Choir, 4:30 p.m., Zoom Meeting (Online)
Youth Christmas Games, 5:00 p.m., Zoom Meeting (Online)

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.

Church Business Meeting

Today, December 6 at 12:00PM on Zoom (Online)

The week of November 16 you should have received the Nominating Committee's report via mail. We will hold a church conference to vote upon this report today 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. An email reminder with the Zoom link was sent out at 8:00 this morning.

First Sunday Food Share for the Richmond Baptist Centers

Today, 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

Today, 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

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

Virtual Starlight Service of Remembrance & Holy Communion

Wednesday, December 9 at 7:00PM, Online Broadcast

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, 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. If you are unable to join us live, you may watch the service at a later time at rrcb.org/worship-archive.

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.

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.