

# O Holy Night

CHRISTMAS AT  
RIVER ROAD CHURCH



## Christmas Eve Service of Worship and Communion

December 24, 2020

### VOLUNTARIES

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Chancel Bell Choir - Charles Todd, director

Sandra Eithun

*La Nativité*

Dr. Robert Gallagher, organ

Jean Langlais

*Silent Night*

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

Chancel Bell Choir

Sallie Ray Wilkinson

Fred Gramann

### WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Daniel Glaze

### PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELES

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels!  
*(Refrain)*
2. See how the shepherds, summoned to His cradle,  
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;  
*(Refrain)*
3. Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,  
Fain we embrace Thee with awe and love;  
Who would not love Thee, loving us so dearly?  
*(Refrain)*
4. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!  
*(Refrain)*
5. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!  
*(Refrain)*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. David Breckenridge

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.**

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*

Gerald Near

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|--|---|
| 1. Ding dong! Merrily on high<br>in heav’n the bells are ringing:<br>ding dong! verily the sky<br>is riv’n with angel-singing.<br>Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis! | 2. E’en so here below, below,<br>let steeple bells be swungen,<br>and io, io, io,<br>by priest and people sungen:<br>Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis! |
| 3. Pray you, dutifully prime<br>your matin chime, ye ringers;<br>May you beautifully rhyme<br>your eventime song, ye singers.<br>Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!  |   |

Members of the Chancel and Youth Choirs

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

Rev. Anna Perry Miller

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

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

Sing this night, for a boy is born in Bethlehem,  
 Christ our Lord in a lowly manger lies;  
 bring your gifts, come and worship at his cradle,  
 hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

*Refrain:*

See his star shining bright  
 in the sky this Christmas night!  
 Follow me joyfully;  
 hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

Angels bright, come from heaven's highest glory,  
 bear the news with its message of good cheer:  
 "Sing, rejoice, for a King is come to save us,  
 hurry to Bethlehem to see the son of Mary!"

*Refrain*

See, he lies in his mother's tender keeping;  
 Jesus Christ in her loving arms asleep.  
 Shepherds poor, come to worship and adore him,  
 offer their humble gifts before the son of Mary.

*Refrain*

Let us all pay our homage at the manger,  
 sing his praise on this joyful Christmas Night;  
 Christ is come, bringing promise of salvation;  
 hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

*Refrain*

Members of the Chancel Choir

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

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

DUET

*The Virgin's Slumber Song*

Max Reger

Amid the roses Mary sits and rocks her Jesus child,  
While amid the treetops sights the breeze so warm and mild.  
And soft and sweetly sings a bird upon the bough:  
Ah, baby, sleep dear on, slumber now!

Happy is thy laughter, holy is they silent rest,  
Lay thy head in slumber fondly on thy mother's breast.  
Ah, baby, sleep dear on, slumber now!

Eleanor Roberts and Emelia Roberts, sopranos

CHRISTMAS EVE MEDITATION

*A Scandalous Miracle*

Rev. Dr. Daniel Glaze

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

THE BLESSING AND BREAKING OF THE BREAD

SOLO

*What Songs Were Sung*

John Jacob Niles

1. We cannot tell, we do now know  
What stars shone down so long ago,  
When Mary birthed her own sweet son,  
And peace and love became as one.
2. The Son of God, as scriptures said,  
Was virgin born in a tiny shed,  
Where simple shepherds stood hard by  
While heavenly sound filled up the sky.
3. Now let us stand, uncovered all,  
Before the crèche in lowly stall,  
Where kings and angels dignify  
God's gift, His son, in humility.
4. We do not know, we cannot tell  
What songs were sung, what starlight fell,  
Or why the holy mystery stands  
For so many years in so many lands.
5. We cannot tell, we do now know  
What stars shone down so long ago,  
When Mary birthed her own sweet son,  
And peace and love became as one.

Michelle Harman-Gulick, soprano

THE BLESSING AND GIVING OF THE CUP

ANTHEM

*Still, Still, Still*

Austrian Carol, Arr. Mack Wilberg

1. Still, still, still,  
The child's eyes softly close.  
And Mary, breathless, draws Him, weeping,  
To her heart made pure for keeping.  
Still, still, still,  
His bright eyes softly close.
2. Sing, sing, sing,  
He hears and sweetly smiles.  
And kneeling, Joseph joins in chorus  
With the angels bending o'er us.  
Sing, sing, sing,  
He hears and sweetly smiles.
3. Sleep, sleep, sleep,  
He breathes a tender sigh,  
For soon He'll wake the world from slumber,  
Bringing life and endless wonder,  
Sleep, sleep, sleep,  
He breathes a tender sigh.

Sleep, Holy Jesus, sleep, sleep, sleep.

Members of the Chancel and Youth Choirs

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.*

SHARING IN THE LIGHT

*You are invited at this time to light a candle and reflect on God's gift of light in Jesus Christ.*

HYMN OF MEDITATION

*Silent Night, Holy Night*

STILLE NACHT

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|---|---|
| <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> | <p>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."</p> <p>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.</p> |
|---|---|

HYMN

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN

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|---|--|
| <p>1. Hark! the herald angels sing,<br/>"Glory to the newborn King.<br/>Peace on earth, and mercy mild,<br/>God and sinners reconciled!"<br/>Joyful, all ye nations, rise,<br/>Join the triumph of the skies;<br/>With the angelic host proclaim,<br/>"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"<br/>Hark! The herald angels sing,<br/>"Glory to the newborn King!"</p> | <p>2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,<br/>Christ, the everlasting Lord!<br/>Late in time behold Him come,<br/>Offspring of the virgin's womb.<br/>Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;<br/>Hail, the incarnate Deity,<br/>Pleased in flesh with us to dwell,<br/>Jesus, our Emmanuel.<br/>Hark! The herald angels sing,<br/>"Glory to the newborn King!"</p> |
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3. 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!"

HYMN

*Joy to the World!*

ANTIOCH

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come:  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing
2. Joy to the world! the Savior reigns:  
Let us our songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Daniel Glaze

VOLUNTARY

*Fanfare Noel*

Jean-François Dandrieu

### 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.

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### WE GIVE THANKS

to Cassandra Ducca for her editing of this Christmas Eve worship service  
and to Zachary Short for his editing of the virtual choir videos.



*Our prayer is that the hope,  
peace, joy, and love of the  
Christ Child will reign in your  
homes and hearts this Christmas.*

Daniel, Bob, Sandy, David, Daniel, Marnie, Anna,  
Jim, Mike, Carl, and 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, the commitment to theological education, and the autonomy of the local church.

**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*

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### 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*

James H. Slatton, Th.D., *Pastor Emeritus* Michael J. Clingenpeel, Ph.D., *Pastor Emeritus*  
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