River Road Church, Baptist
The Worship of God

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 18, 2022

As we gather together for worship, please pause for a moment to become aware of God’s presence.
Quiet your mind, listen to the music, and prepare to worship God.

Lighting of the Altar Candles
Braden Lesher and Amanda Rooney, Acolytes

Voluntaries
People, Look East
Meditation on “Conditor alme siderum”
Dr. Robert Gallagher, organ

Robert Edward Smith
Rebecca Groom te Velde

Introit
Sarum plainsong

At your great name, O Jesus, now
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow:
All things on earth with one accord,
Like those in heaven, shall call You Lord.

*Processional Hymn 12
People, Look East
Sarum plainsong

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.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the bird, is on the way.

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.

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.

*Call to Worship
Rev. Lacey Wondere

Our God appears in ways that we are not looking for,
And meets us in places we did not plan to go.
God is revealed in ways that leave us wondering, unsure, amazed.
May God allow us to see, know, and trust, so that we may receive the Lord, when the time comes.
Yes, may God give us courage to trust and follow, even when the way seems uncertain.
We worship the Lord, who works in mysterious and wonderful ways.

Welcome, 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.

Old Testament Lesson
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (pp. 470-471)
Mark Cipolletti

The Word of the Lord; Thanks be to God.

* Please stand, if you are able.
Lighting of the Advent Candle

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.

Anthem

*Light One Candle*  
Natalie Sleeth

1. Light one candle for hope, one bright candle for hope,  
   He brings hope to ev’ry heart. He comes! He comes!
2. Light one candle for peace, one bright candle for peace,  
   He brings peace to ev’ry heart. He comes! He comes!
3. Light one candle for joy, one bright candle for joy,  
   Every nation will find salvation in Bethlem’s baby boy.
4. Light one candle for love, one bright candle for love,  
   He brings love to ev’ry heart. He comes! He comes!

Carol, Children’s, and Youth Choirs; conducted by Claire Lukenbill

*Gospel Lesson*  
Matthew 1:18-25 (p. 783)  
Mark Cipolletti

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

Anthem

*Gloria (from Gloria in D major)*  
Antonio Vivaldi

*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*  
Glory to God in the highest.

Youth and Chancel Choirs  
Conducted by Allison Yablonski

Pastoral Prayer  
Rev. Lacey Wondree

*Hymn of Devotion 16*  
*The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*  
GABRIEL’S MESSAGE  
Rev. Lacey Wondree

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 favored maiden. Gloria!
2. “For know a blessed mother you shall be,  
   all generations praise continually,  
   Your Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold.”  
   Most highly favored maiden. 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 favored maiden, 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 favored maiden. Gloria!

*Offertory Sentences*  
Rev. Lacey Wondree

Anthem at Offertory

*Ave, Ave, the Angel Sang*  
Robert Lau

O lowly maiden, O blessed woman,  
You have been chosen to bring us the king.  
Peace be with you, O fairest holy one,  
Mary, mother, child of God.  
Ave, ave, ave Maria. Ave, ave the angel sang.  
Ave, ave, ave Maria. Ave, ave the angel sang.  
Fair one so gentle, filled with the Spirit,  
You will bear Jesus, the savior for all.  
Don’t be afraid now, God’s love surrounds you,  
Mary, mother, child of God.  
What will you call him, O lovely maiden?  
Rulers and nations will bow at his name.  
Let all creation give thanks for the holy one:  
Jesus, Savior, child of God.

Youth and Chancel Choirs; conducted by Allison Yablonski
*Doxology

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.

*Children in grades 1-3 may meet Mrs. Sandy Rooney
at the front of the Sanctuary, on the pulpit side, to continue worship in the Chapel.

Sermon

The Love of Advent
Rev. Dr. Daniel Glaze

Time of Reflection and Response

Take a moment to consider how the Spirit is leading you to respond to worship and the Word proclaimed this day.
If you desire to follow Christ as a disciple, or if you desire to become a member of River Road Church,
you are invited to come forward to the chancel steps at this time, and our pastor will meet you.

*Recessional Hymn 38

1. It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth,
to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heaven’s all-gracious King”;
the world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.

2. Still through the cloven skies they come,
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o’er all the weary world:
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o’er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

3. And ye, beneath life’s crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow,
look now, for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing:
O, rest beside the weary road,
and hear the angels sing.

4. For lo, the days are hastening on,
by prophet bards foretold,
when with the ever-circling years
comes round the age of gold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

* Benediction

Rev. Dr. Daniel Glaze

Extinguishing of the Altar Candles

Voluntary

Fugue on “From Heaven High to Earth I Come”
Johann Pachelbel

Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent, the inaugural season of the Christian year. Advent is a time of spiritual preparation for the coming of Christ; thus, it is a season of both joyous and solemn expectation. The liturgical color is purple, symbolic of a spirit of preparation.

The Christmas wreaths are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Marguerite Phelps Bostic by Hilton and Margaret Almond.

The Christmas poinsettias are given to the glory of God and in remembrance of Doug Moelchert by Lou and Carol Moelchert.

We extend Christian sympathy to Diane Marrow Beirne upon the death of her husband, Andrew Plunket Beirne III, and to Jenks Marrow upon the death of her son-in-law on November 22, 2022. A service was held on December 10, 2022.

If you are planning to make a contribution for 2022, we must receive it in the Church Office by 5:00 p.m., Friday, December 30, 2022. Mailed contributions must be postmarked December 31, 2022 or earlier. Online contributions through your bank or the church’s website (rrcb.org/give-online) must be initiated or dated December 31, 2022 or earlier. Thank you for giving! We are grateful for your generosity to the mission and ministries of River Road Church.
Christmas Eve
Saturday, December 24, 2022
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.

Nativity Service of Lessons and Carols at 4:00 p.m.
Join us for our annual Nativity Service of Lessons and Carols. This service tells the Christmas story through lessons and song, and is led by our children and youth. We will collect non-perishable goods for Welborne UMC Community Food Pantry. (You do not need to wrap the gifts in white paper.)

Service of Candlelight & Holy Communion at 8:00 p.m.
Join us for our traditional Christmas Eve Service of Candlelight and Holy Communion. Prelude music will begin at 7:30 p.m. This service will be broadcast live at rrcb.org/live.

Christmas Day Worship
Service of Worship
Sunday, December 25, 2022
11:00 a.m., Sanctuary and rrcb.org/live
Christmas Stories that Shape Us by River Road Family Members
Christmas sweaters encouraged!
No Sunday School or child care

Epiphany Worship
Service of Worship & Holy Communion
Sunday, January 1, 2023
11:00 a.m., Sanctuary and rrcb.org/live
Sermon by Rev. Dr. Daniel E. Glaze
No Sunday School or child care

You are invited to visit the display featuring a Porcelain Nativity Set in the History Cabinet in the Lower Commons during the Advent and Christmas seasons. The set was a gift to River Road Church by Frances Still, aunt of Joyce Gibson.

Sun, Dec 18
Worship, 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary and rrcb.org/live
Sunday Reception, 12:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Camrata, 4:30 p.m., Main Rehearsal Room
Youth Choir, 5:00 p.m., Main Rehearsal Room
Youth Christmas Party, 5:45 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Board of Administration, 7:00 p.m., Assembly Room (Zoom option available)

Mon, Dec 19
Yoga, 5:00 p.m., Assembly Room

Tue, Dec 20
CampRVA Event: Christmas Movie Night, 7:00 p.m., Byrd Theater

Wed, Dec 21
Men’s Group: The Huddle, 8:30 a.m., Reception Room
Stephen Ministry, 4:30 p.m., Assembly Room (Zoom option available)
Christmas Eve Rehearsal Dinner, 5:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Christmas Eve Rehearsal, 5:30 p.m., Sanctuary
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m., Main Rehearsal Room

Tue, Dec 22
Young Adult Christmas Party, 7:00 p.m., Home of Beth and Colin Bailey

Sat, Dec 24
Nativity Service of Lessons and Carols, 4:00 p.m., Sanctuary
Service of Candlelight and Holy Communion, 8:00 p.m., Sanctuary

RIVER ROAD CHURCH, BAPTIST
8000 River Road
Richmond, Virginia 23229
804.288.1131  rrcb.org

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
Beth Bailey, M.T., Seminary Intern for Young Adult Ministry
James H. Slatton, Th.D., Pastor Emeritus  Michael J. Clingenpeel, Ph.D., Pastor Emeritus
E. Carl Freeman, Jr., Mus.B., Minister of Music Emeritus
Chester L. Phelps, Jr., M.A., Minister of Youth Emeritus