

A CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

December 24, 2014

Five o'clock in the evening

Welcome to worship. What a wonderful celebration of Jesus' birth. This is such an exciting time for our children. The energy that they share makes this worship service even the more special. Please sit close to the front – it helps the children to see and to feel a part of the service. We encourage you to talk with your children about the service. Help them to understand what we're doing. Talk with them about what they're coloring or what they're seeing. Prepare them for some of the different parts of worship (the choir is getting ready to sing, we're going to bring our food to the front soon, we're going to stand up when we sing a song). We want to honor children as full participants in worship.

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

Zach Bostic and Tyler Butterworth

VOLUNTARY *Noel Suisse*
Carillon

Louis-Claude Daquin
Leo Sowerby

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

Rev. Paul Honaker, director

Youth Handbell Choir

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 41 *O Come All Ye Faithful*

Adeste Fideles

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Daniel Bagby

Minister: We believe in God, who made a promise to us to send Jesus.
Congregation: For a child has been born for us.
 Minister: We believe God loves us and guides us. God loved Mary and Joseph and guided them.
Congregation: For a child has been born for us.
 Minister: We believe God cares for us. God cared for shepherds and wise men.
Congregation: For a child has been born for us.
 Minister: We believe in God's Son, Jesus. We celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Savior.
Congregation: For a child has been born for us. Amen!

*INVOCATION AND OUR LORD'S PRAYER

WELCOME

Dr. Michael Clingenpeel

LESSON For unto us a child is born Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Jake Nurney

CAROL *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

Carol

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.

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.

Youth Bells move into place behind bell tables during this 2nd stanza.

VOLUNTARY *The First Noel*

Youth Handbell Choir

arr. Martha Lynn Thompson

LESSON The angel visits Mary Luke 1:26-33

David Cipolletti and Ella Hurlbert

CAROL *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

St. Louis

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
 Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
 Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
 The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
 Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
 We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
 O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Carol and Crusader Choir move to Chancel steps during 2nd stanza.

ANTHEM

The Snow Lay on the Ground

Vicki Hancock Wright

The snow lay on the ground, the stars shone bright,
 When Christ our Lord was born on Christmas night.
 Venite adoremus Dominum, Venite adoremus Dominum.
 Venite adoremus Dominum, Venite adoremus Dominum.

'Twas gentle Mary mild, so young and strong,
 Who welcomed here the Christchild with a song.
 She laid Him in a stall at Bethlehem;
 The cow and oxen shared the roof with them.
 Venite adoremus Dominum, Venite adoremus Dominum.

Saint Joseph, too, was there to tend the Child,
 To guard Him and protect His mother mild,
 The angels hovered 'round and sang this song:
 Venite adoremus Dominum.
 Venite adoremus Dominum, Venite adoremus Dominum.

Carol and Crusader Choirs wait on steps during the Lesson "Jesus is born", listening attentively.

Carol and Crusader Choirs, directed by Kara Harman-Barrios
 Handbells ~ Lucy Thornton, Michael Whitty, and Zach Bostic

LESSON

Jesus is born

Luke 2:1-7

Elizabeth Ezzelle and Jack Ryan

CAROL

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
 The little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head.
 The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
 The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
 Close by me forever, and love, me, I pray.
 Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
 And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

Carol/Crusader choirs move back to pews and wait for signal to sit. Youth Choir moves to Chancel steps.

ANTHEM

Come, Shepherds, Come

David N. Davenport and Douglas E. Wagner

Come, shepherds, come, your silent sheep no longer need your keeping,
 The newborn King has come to earth, so why should you be sleeping:
 Come sing with joy and with your pipes set all the echoes ringing.
 Often the meadows you have filled with dancing and with singing.
 Come, shepherds, come, come and greet your King.
 Too long you rest, come, shepherds, come, your weariness betrays you.
 See, now there dawns unearthly light to rouse and to amaze you.
 Angelic voices bring the news that gladdens all creation:
 A God is born in human form who shall be your salvation.
 Noel, Noel, Noel, shepherds now be glad,
 For Christ is born this day and no one need be sad.
 Come, shepherds, come, and do prepare, rejoice, there is no danger.
 Come give your hearts to God Himself, who lies within a manger.
 He is our life and all the earth shall bend the knee before Him.
 With angel hosts to lead us on, we hasten and adore Him.
 Come, shepherds, come! Hasten to adore!

Youth Choir

Immediately after anthem, Youth Bell members go to their positions. Youth (Vocal) Choir members go to pew and are seated.

LESSON

An angel visits the shepherds

Luke 2:8-16

Kaylee Butterworth, Grace Johnson, and Patrick Barbier

VOLUNTARY *Joy to the World*

Youth Handbell Choir

arr. Valerie Stephenson

* CAROL

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing,
 "Glory to the newborn King.
 Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
 God and sinners reconciled!"
 Joyful, all ye nations rise,
 Join the triumph of the skies
 With the angelic host proclaim,
 "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
 Hark! the herald angels sing,
 "Glory to the newborn King!"

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!"

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

Dr. Michael Clingenpeel, Rev. Michael Kellett

*CAROL

Joy to the World

Antioch

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.

During 2nd stanza,
Youth and Crusader
Choirs move to
Chancel steps.

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.

ANTHEM

Stars Are for Those Who Lift Their Eyes

Pauline Delmonte

Stars are for those who lift their eyes.
We stand on a cloudless night,
And look up at a million stars
So distant and so bright.

The shepherds hear, near Bethlehem
The heavenly host proclaim
The wonder of His coming
And the power of His name.

I wonder if that shining night,
The night of Jesus' birth –
The stars sang with the angels
Above the sleeping earth.

If stormy clouds should hide the stars,
No fearful thought is mine.
Far beyond all earthly storms,
The stars, the heavenly stars still shine.

Crusader and Youth Choirs

Crusader Choir returns to pew. Youth Choir remains in place for lighting of the Christ Candle.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Michael Whitty

Youth who are passing the light remain in place. Michael Kellett will instruct you at 3:30 today. Other singers proceed to pews.

PASSING OF THE LIGHT *Silent Night*

Stille Nacht

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child;
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

Michael Whitty, guitar

BENEDICTION

Dr. Michael Clingenpeel

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *Joy to the World*

Antioch

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 and wonders of His love!

** Congregation standing if able.*

Please return your candles to the baskets provided in the narthex or at the two doors at the front of the sanctuary.

Thanks to Mary Collier, Helen Halloran, Allie Johnson, Alex Knerr, Evan Knerr, Winn Kral, and Mason Shirkey
for welcoming us to worship.

THE CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS are given to the glory of God by
Mr. & Mrs. Louis W. Moelchert, Jr. to the glory of God and in memory of loved ones.

THE CHRISTMAS WREATHS are given to the glory of God and in honor of
Michael and Christine Kellett for their devotion to the children and youth ministry at
River Road Church by Hilton and Margaret Almond.

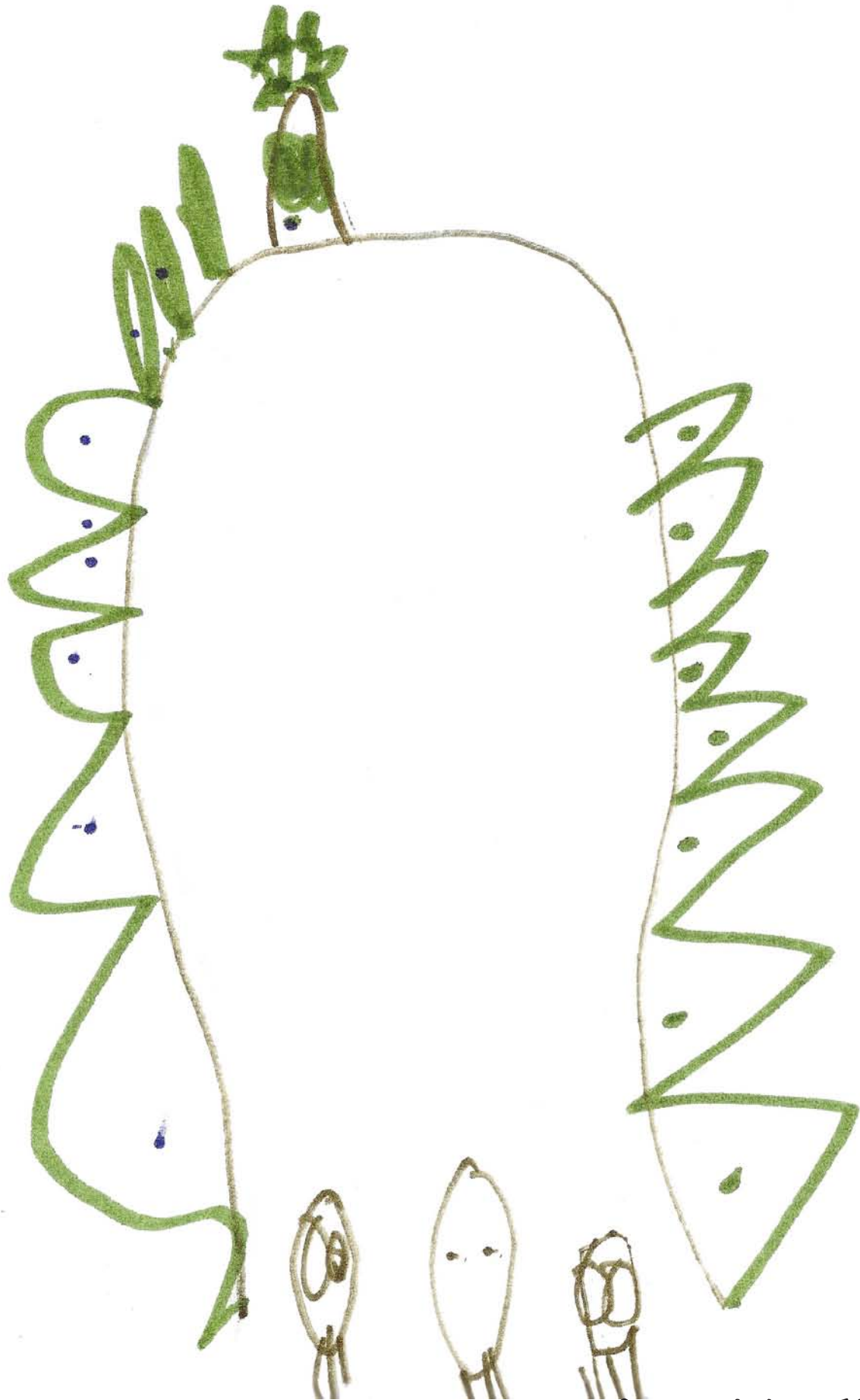
The Ministerial Staff

Michael J. Clingenpeel, Ph.D., *Pastor* • Robert P. Gallagher, D.M.A., *Minister of Music* • Daniel G. Bagby, Ph.D., *Minister of Pastoral Care*
Sheryl A. M. Johnson, Th.M., *Interim Minister of Christian Education and Spiritual Formation*
Michael P. Kellett, Jr., M.Div, *Minister with Children and Youth*
James H. Slatton, Th.D., *Pastor Emeritus* • E. Carl Freeman, Jr., Mus.B., *Minister of Music Emeritus*

RIVER ROAD CHURCH, BAPTIST
8000 RIVER ROAD • RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23229
(804) 288-1131 www.rrcb.org



Artwork by Allie Johnson



Artwork by Cole Frye



Madeleine

Artwork by Madeleine Barbier

MILLIE



Artwork by Millie Gray

Samuel



Artwork by Samuel Freeman