

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

The Worship of God begins with the Opening Voluntary.
As you enter, pause for a moment to become aware of God's presence.

December 18, 2016 Eleven o'clock in the morning

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES Kaylee Butterworth and Tyler Butterworth

VOLUNTARY *Pastorale* Alfred Hollins
Berceuse, Opus 79 Alexandre Guilmant
Hannah Hammel, flute

INTROIT George Thalben-Ball
God is love: and they that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God and God in them.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 9 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* VENI EMMAUEL

*CALL TO WORSHIP Dr. Daniel Bagby

Minister: Again, we meet God together in this sacred place.

Congregation: We come, because we need to be reminded of God's love and expectations for our living.

Minister: We are like the vine planted by God, watered and protected.

Congregation: We know in our hearts that we need, want, and desire God's loving presence in our lives.

Minister: So we come, in prayerful expectation to find God's love together, among God's family.

Congregation: We encounter God's loving Spirit and listen for God's call on our lives.

~Inspired by Isaiah 5:1-7 and Psalm 80

*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.**

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

**Congregation standing if able*

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 7:10-16 (p.554) Chuck Ursiny

Minister: The Word of the Lord.
Congregation: Thanks be to God.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Zelda Goode

*We light this Advent candle of love, the gift of the Christ child
by which we know the joy of being loved by our God.*

ANTIPHON FOR ADVENT David M. Cherwien

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel.
Alleluia!

*GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 1:18-25 (p.783)

Minister: The Gospel of our Lord.
Congregation: Praise be to You, O Christ.

ANTHEM *Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow* Arranged by Cynthia Dobrinski
Family Handbell Choir ~ Paul Honaker, Director

CALL TO PRAYER Rev. Chester Phelps

Minister: Loving God, like Joseph, we do not always understand why things happen the way they do.

Congregation: Why our plans and dreams fail and change, why we find ourselves facing challenge after challenge, disappointment after disappointment.

Minister: Yet, like Joseph, we also believe that You are at work in our lives, and that You have a larger plan and purpose for us.

Congregation: Give us faith to trust in You no matter what challenges we face. Give us courage to place our dreams and ambitions in Your hands.

Minister: Like Joseph, we remember our call to love as You loved us.

Congregation: May we follow where You lead us without hesitation, confident that Your loving presence goes with us.

PASTORAL PRAYER

*HYMN OF DEVOTION 16 *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

*OFFERTORY SENTENCES Rev. Kim Crowley

ANTHEM AT OFFERTORY *What Sweeter Musick* William Bradley Roberts

(see insert for anthem text)

Hannah Hammel, flute ~ Beverly Geissler, harp

*PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS Hymn 592

**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 - 2 may meet Rev. Crowley
at the front of the Sanctuary, on the pulpit side, to continue worship in the chapel.*

SERMON “Advent Love” Dr. Daniel Glaze

TIME OF REFLECTION

*RECESSIONAL HYMN 58 *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks* WINCHESTER OLD

*BENEDICTION Dr. Daniel Glaze

EXTINGUISHING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

VOLUNTARY *From Heaven on High to Earth I Come, BWV700* J.S. Bach

THE CHURCH STAFF

Daniel E. Glaze, D. Min., *Pastor*

Daniel G. Bagby, Ph.D., *Minister of Pastoral Care*

Kimberly C. Crowley, M.Div., *Interim Minister to Children*

Robert P. Gallagher, D.M.A., *Minister of Music*

Libby M. Grammer, M. Div., M.A., *Interim Minister of Christian Education and Spiritual Formation*

Chester L. Phelps, Jr., M.A., *Interim Minister of Youth and Visitation*

Billy Burford, *Intentional Interim Church Administrator*

Cassandra Ducca, *Communications Specialist* • Zelda Goode, *Cook / Housekeeper*

Wendy Graves, *Preschool Administrative Assistant* • Kevin Harris, *Building Support Team*

LeAnne Lane, *Office Manager* • Lyndsay McGreevy, *Preschool Director*

Terri McMahon, *Administrative Assistant* • Chuck Ursiny, *Building Services Coordinator*

Susan S. Young, *Administrative Assistant*

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

E. Carl Freeman, Jr., Mus.B., *Minister of Music Emeritus*

RIVER ROAD CHURCH, BAPTIST
8000 RIVER ROAD • RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23229

WELCOME TO RIVER ROAD CHURCH! Our congregation is an open fellowship gladly receiving those who wish to share in its life and community by request for baptism, statement, or transfer from another church. If you wish to join the church, please indicate this to a staff member prior to the service so we may introduce you.

TODAY IS THE FOURTH AND FINAL 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 joyous and solemn expectation. The liturgical color is purple, symbolic of a spirit of penitence and preparation.

THE RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP is our opportunity to welcome you to worship. During this time, please sign the register in the maroon binder as it is passed along the row. If you are our guest today, please include contact information.

TO ENHANCE WORSHIP FOR CHILDREN, children's bulletins and worship bags for all ages are in the Narthex (foyer at the back of the Sanctuary). These bags are intended to help children process what they are hearing and seeing as they worship with their families. Please return the bags so they can be used next week. Children in grades 1-2 may meet Rev. Kim Crowley at the front of the sanctuary on the pulpit side after the Doxology to continue worship in the Chapel.

THE CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS are given to the glory of God by Mr. and Mrs. Lou Moelchert in memory of loved ones.

THE CHRISTMAS WREATHS are given by Dr. and Mrs. Hilton R. Almond to the glory of God and in honor of Dr. and Mrs. Daniel Glaze and their daughters, Ella and Ashley, as we welcome them to River Road Church.

EACH SUNDAY MORNING our worship is enriched as laity from our congregation read the Scripture lessons. During Advent, members of some of our ministries and small groups will read the texts and light the candles of the Advent wreath. Reading the text today is Chuck Ursiny, RRCB's Building Services Coordinator. The River Road Church staff has provided our church love and care during our time of interim and will continue to love us into this new season with a new pastor, a fitting group to light the Advent candle of Love. Lighting the candle together is Zelda Goode, RRCB Housekeeper and Cook, with members of our ministerial, building support, and office staff.

THE RECEPTION AFTER WORSHIP is held in the Fellowship Hall hosted by deacons Bob Oakes, Hilton Almond, Anita Tamagni, Carl Collier, Peggy Stevens, and Susan Vaughan. Everyone is invited to attend.

THANK YOU FOR MAKING YOUR 2017 PLEDGE, so far we have received 246 pledges making up \$1,148,917. Our numbers are currently ahead of where we were last year. Pledge cards can be found in the pew racks.

FELLOWSHIP FUND ~ Every fellowship collection on Sunday is quickly used at the beginning of the week based on requests we receive weekly for assistance. Your generosity is greatly appreciated, and we ask for your ongoing support and donations. You will find designated blue envelopes in the pew racks, or you may give online (www.rrcb.org/onlinegiving).

THE 2017 ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR ~ Anyone wishing to contribute altar flowers for a Sunday should contact Betsy Lowery (804-338-4604) to see what dates are still available. The cost is \$85.

COMING EVENTS

- Sunday, December 18 **Reception**, 12:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Youth Handbell Choir, 4:15 p.m., Bell Room
Youth Choir, 5:00 p.m., Youth Choir Room
- Tuesday, December 20 **Insurance Committee Meeting**, 11:00 a.m., Parlor
- Wednesday, December 21 **Men's Group: The Huddle**, 8:00 a.m., Reception Room
Christmas Pageant Dinner & Rehearsal, 5:30 p.m.,
Fellowship Hall & Sanctuary
Chancel Bell Choir, 6:30 p.m., Bell Room
- Thursday, December 22 **Chancel Choir Rehearsal**, 7:30 p.m., Choir Room
- Saturday, December 24 **Christmas Eve Family Service**, 4:00 p.m., Sanctuary
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 11:00 p.m.,
Sanctuary
- Sunday, December 25 **Christmas Worship**, 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary
- Monday, December 26 **Church Office Closed**
- Tuesday, December 27 **Church Office Closed**

~ News in the Pews ~

Following the lead of the pew cards, you are encouraged to pick up a copy of the *Connections*, our Sunday newsletter, in the entrance foyers of the Sanctuary or the Lower Commons, to find out more information about the events below and more!

You may also visit www.rrcb.org/christmas for more information about Christmas celebrations at River Road.

~ Christmas Eve Family Service ~

This year, our Christmas Eve family service will begin at 4:00 p.m. (note the earlier time!). The service will include our children's Christmas pageant and white gifts offering. Join us for this celebration, and invite your family and friends!

~ Christmas Eve Service of Candlelight & Holy Communion ~

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight service will begin with organ and handbell music at 10:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary, followed by worship at 11:00p.m. Join us to worship together as Christmas arrives. We will celebrate with beautiful choral and handbell music, candlelight, and Holy Communion. All are welcome.

No Wednesday Night Dinner & Program December 21
Children and Youth will have Dinner and Rehearse the Christmas Pageant for the Christmas Eve Family Service

~ Christmastide & Epiphany Services ~

~ Service of Christmastide and New Years' Day, Sunday, January 1 ~

No Sunday School on January 1, 2017. Join us for a Christmastide and New Years' worship service at 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary.

~ Service of Epiphany, Wednesday, January 4 ~

Epiphany celebrates the manifestation of God in Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, represented by the magi who visited the infant Jesus. We will celebrate the arrival of the magi with a festive Epiphany-themed dinner—fun for all ages—followed by a worship service in the chapel with adults and children of all ages.

Services of Advent and Christmastide 2016

For more information about these events and services, please visit our website at www.rrcb.org/advent.

ADVENT DEVOTIONS

A limited number of books are still available in the Narthex.
Behold! Cultivating Attentiveness in the Season of Advent by Pamela C. Hawkins, published by the *UpperRoom*

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

Sunday, December 25, 2016
11:00 a.m., Sanctuary
Sermon by Daniel Glaze
No Sunday School
Childcare not provided

LABYRINTH WALK & PERSONAL MEDITATION

Saturday, December 31, 2016
10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Guided meditations 10:00 a.m. -noon

NEW YEAR'S DAY WORSHIP

Sunday, January 1, 2017
11:00 a.m., Sanctuary
Sermon by Daniel Glaze
No Sunday School
Childcare provided

EPIPHANY SERVICE

Wednesday, January 4, 2017
6:30 p.m., Chapel
Dinner at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall; Reservations required at www.rrcb.org/wednesdays
Childcare provided

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

December 26 & December 27, 2016
January 2 & January 3, 2017

CBF GLOBAL MISSIONS CHRISTMAS OFFERING DEADLINE: JANUARY 1, 2017 | RRCB GOAL: \$3,000

This offering is the primary way CBF field personnel are funded, making your gifts an essential part of spreading the Gospel and meeting physical needs in the world. Alicia and Jeffrey Lee work in Skopje, Macedonia, serving many ethnic groups marginalized by poverty, showing the love of God to many who feel unloved. They work with local grassroots organizations to address the needs of families living in extreme poverty, people neglected by society, and children who are rescued from or are at-risk for human trafficking. You will find designated envelopes in the pew racks, or you may give online (www.rrcb.org/onlinegiving).

ANTHEM AT OFFERTORY

What Sweeter Musick

William Bradley Roberts
Christopher Ahart, soloist

What sweeter musick can we bring
than a carol, for to sing
the birth of this our heavenly King?
Awake the voice! Awake the string:

*We see him come, and know him ours,
who, with his sunshine and his showers
turns all the patient ground to flowers.*

Dark and dull night, fly hence away,
and give the honour to this day,
that sees December turn'd to May,
If we may ask the reason, say:
We see him come. . .

The darling of the world is come,
and fit it is we find a room
to welcome him. The nobler part
of all the house here is the heart:

Which we will give him, and bequeath
this holly and this ivy wreath,
to do him honour who's our King,
and Lord of all this reveling.

We see him come. . .

Robert Herrick (English 1591-1674)