

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Christmas Day

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

December 25, 2016

Eleven o'clock in the morning

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

Michael Whitty

VOLUNTARY *Prelude on "Forest Green"*
Greensleeves

Richard Purvis
Alec Rowley

*OPENING HYMN 43 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

FOREST GREEN

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Libby Grammer

Minister: Come and see!

**Congregation: The light of God has come into our world
to proclaim God's justice and love;
It has overcome the darkness and brought new life.**

Minister: Come and follow!

**Congregation: Christ our companion has redeemed our world.
He draws us into a loving family,
from every tribe and family and culture.**

Minister: Go and tell!

**Congregation: The Spirit has equipped us for service
To love our neighbors as we do ourselves,
To bring God's salvation to the ends of the earth.**

Minister: Come and see, come and follow, go and tell!

Congregation: In God's Love, the nations of the earth will put their hope.

*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 9:2-7 (p.555)

Rev. Chester Phelps

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

*GLORIA PATRI

Hymn 579

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.**

*GOSPEL LESSON Luke 2:1-10 (p.832-833)

Minister: The Gospel of our Lord.

Congregation: Praise be to You, O Christ.

*HYMN 38 *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

CAROL

CALL TO PRAYER

Rev. Chester Phelps

Minister: Though Jesus entered this world centuries ago,

Congregation: His presence in our lives remains timely and timeless.

Minister: Though Jesus made His earthly home in a place far away,

**Congregation: His presence dwells in the community of the faithful
and in the hearts of us all.**

Minister: Though angels from the realms of glory delivered the
announcement of Jesus' birth,

**Congregation: It is we who translate the reality of His presence into
the impact of action and the form of faith.**

**All: We experience our Christ as an immediate, indwelling,
inspiring Presence that draws us together for worship
and for service.**

PASTORAL PRAYER

*HYMN OF DEVOTION 53 *What Child is This*

GREENSLEEVES

*OFFERTORY SENTENCES

Rev. Libby Grammer

ORGAN OFFERTORY *Il est né le divin enfant*

Robert Edward Smith

*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 will remain in worship with their families today.

SERMON “Unexpected Gifts” Dr. Daniel Glaze

TIME OF REFLECTION

*CLOSING HYMN 40 *Joy to the World* ANTIOCH

*BENEDICTION Dr. Daniel Glaze

EXTINGUISHING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

VOLUNTARY *Noel: Votre bonté grand Dieu* Claude Balbastre

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
(804) 288-1131 • www.rrcb.org

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 CHRISTMAS DAY in the Christian year. The season of Christmastide is a twelve-day celebration of the birth of Christ, beginning on Christmas Day and lasting until January 6. It is primarily a celebration of God's incarnation. The liturgical color white is used, symbolic of the purity of Christ.

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 will remain with their families in worship today.

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

THERE IS NO RECEPTION AFTER WORSHIP TODAY.

THANK YOU FOR MAKING YOUR 2017 PLEDGE, so far we have received 259 pledges making up \$1,172,917. Our numbers are currently ahead of where we were last year. Pledge cards can be found in the pew racks.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to Ron and Linda Benton upon the death of his father, to Alison and Ty Smith upon the death of her grandfather, and to Blake Thomas and Ashely Smith upon the death of their great-grandfather in Goldsboro, North Carolina.

CBF SEASON OF PRAYER FOR GLOBAL MISSIONS & CHRISTMAS OFFERING
RRCB OFFERING 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. Keith Holmes and Mary Van Rheenen, husband and wife team living in the Netherlands, dub Christian films, children videos, and audio recordings of scripture in Romany languages. Many are learning of Biblical characters for the first time. With no written language, these channels are so important. Pray for Keith and Mary as they work with partners at Wycliffe Bible Translations and with leaders in Romany churches. Pray that many come to know Jesus through their work. You will find designated envelopes in the pew racks, or you may give online (www.rrcb.org/onlinegiving).

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).

2016 END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS.~ This is the last Sunday you can put your 2016 contribution in the offering plate. Please note, contributions put in the offering plate next Sunday, January 1, 2017, will go toward your 2017 pledge. Here are some helpful reminders and other ways you can pay off your pledge:

- Deliver to the Church by 5:00 p.m on Friday, December 30
- Mail in with a postmark no later than Saturday, December 31
- Online payments through Saturday, December 31

COMING EVENTS

Sunday, December 25	No evening activities
Monday, December 26	Church Office Closed
Tuesday, December 27	Church Office Closed
Wednesday, December 28	No evening activities
Saturday, December 31	Labyrinth Walk , 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Sunday, January 1	Christmastide Worship , 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary
Monday, January 2	Church Office Closed
Tuesday, January 3	Church Office Closed
Wednesday, January 4	No Children's Choir Wednesday Night Dinner , 5:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall Epiphany Service , 6:30 p.m., Chapel

~ No Wednesday Night Dinner & Program December 28 ~

~ Labyrinth Walk & Personal Meditation ~ Saturday, December 31 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Our canvas labyrinth is a replica of the one originally laid in the 12th century in the floor of the Chartes Cathedral in France. At the cusp of the New Year, River Road Church cordially invites you to experience a meditative walk. Written material about the labyrinth's history and symbolism will be available. Bring a friend or come alone. We suggest that you allow approximately 45-60 minutes for the labyrinth experience.

For first time walkers, or if you would like to learn more about the labyrinth experience, Rev. Libby Grammer will offer guided meditative walks from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Appointments are not necessary; everyone is welcome.

~ 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 at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall (information below), followed by a worship service at 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel.

~ Wednesday Night Dinner ~ January 4 ~

Dinner Menu: Wild Mushroom Ravioli, Broccoli, Dinner Rolls, Key Lime Pie/King Cake

Dinner reservations are **required** each week. If you have not already made your reservation, please make your reservation **by Friday, December 30 at 4:00 p.m.** (The Church Office is closed January 2 and 3.) You may make your reservation by calling the church office, emailing susanyoung@rrcb.org, or filling out the form online (www.rrcb.org/wednesdays). Reservation cards are no longer available in the pew racks. Weekly Costs: Adults & Youth - \$7/each; Children - \$3/each; Family Max - \$20
Information about Standing Reservations and sign up are available in the *Connections* or online (www.rrcb.org/standingreservations). Costs: Adults & Youth - \$126/each; Children - \$54/each; Family Max - \$360