

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Christ the King Sunday ~ Commitment Sunday

The Worship of God begins with the Opening Voluntary.

As you enter, pause for a moment to become aware of God's presence.

November 20, 2016

Eleven o'clock in the morning

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES Kaylee Butterworth and Tyler Butterworth

VOLUNTARY *All Creatures of Our God and King* Cathy Moklebust
A Song of Gladness Cynthia Dobrinski
Chancel Bell Choir ~ Charles Todd, Director

INTROIT David Gulick

A hymn of glory let us sing, New hymns throughout the world shall ring;
By a new way none ever trod Christ takes his place, the throne of God.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 455 *All Creatures of Our God and King* LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Chester Phelps

Minister: Come and worship Christ,

Congregation: The visible image of the invisible God,

Minister: The firstborn of all creation, the eternal God.

Congregation: The one through Whom all things were created,

Minister: In Whom all things are held together.

Congregation: This is our God! Let us worship together.

~ Based on Colossians 1:15-17

*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

STEWARDSHIP STATEMENT Rev. Libby Grammer

ANTHEM *Gentle Words* Carol McClure

What the dew is to the flower, Gentle words are to the soul. Such a blessing to your neighbor You should never withhold.	Gentle words, so kindly spoken, Often soothe the troubled mind; While a friendship can be broken By words that are unkind
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Ever-loving, Gentle Spirit,
Thou my constant guardian be;
So that I might do to others
As I'd have them do to me.

Carol and Crusader Choirs ~ Kara Harman-Barrios, directing

**Congregation standing*

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 46 (p.450)

Hilary Blanchard

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.**

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Colossians 1:9-20 (p.956)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *Canticle of Creation*

Mark Burrows

Benedicite omnia opera Domini.
(Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord.)
Great are the works of the Lord.
Great are His works, Praise the Lord.
Let all the earth praise the Lord.
Mountains and hills; Flowers and forests;
All things that grow on the earth.
Rivers and streams, praise the Lord.
Birds of the air, flocks of the fields, whales of the sea.
Sun, moon, and stars praise the Lord.
Heaven and earth, sunlight and shadows,
all give their thanks to the Lord.

Youth Choir ~ David Gulick, accompanist

LITANY OF COMMITMENT

Dr. Daniel Bagby

Minister: The earth is the Lord's, the fullness thereof,
and all they that dwell within.

Congregation: In God, we live and move and have our being.

Minister: Let us all now dedicate in worship our total beings,
talents and possessions. And let all who are about
to present pledges of financial support to this church
and the Lord's work in the world now dedicate them
to the church and to her Lord.

**Congregation: This we do because Christ is Lord, because the
church is His bride, and because God has given us
all good things, both great and small; has done mighty
works; has provided us with ordinary gifts, life and health;
and has redeemed and reconciled us.**

Minister: Let us now offer our pledge of gifts and support to this
our church for the year that is soon to come.

**Congregation: In hope and thanksgiving we offer here a portion of all
talents and resources which we shall possess. This we do
as an expression of the full commitment of our talents to
God, Who entrusts them to us.**

*HYMN OF DEVOTION 415 *Come, Labor On*

ORA LABORA

*PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

Dr. Daniel Bagby

ANTHEM DURING GIVING OF COMMITMENT PLEDGES AND OFFERING

Judge Eternal, Throned in Splendor

Gerre Hancock

Judge Eternal, throned in splendor,
Lord of lords and King of kings,
with your living fire of judgment
purge this land of bitter things;
solace all its wide dominion
with the healing of your wings

Still the weary folk are pining
for the hour that brings release,
and the city's crowded clangor
cries aloud for sin to cease,
and the homesteads and the woodlands
plead in silence for their peace.

Crown, O God, your own endeavor;
cleave our darkness with your sword;
feed the faithless and the hungry
with the richness of your word;
cleanse the body of this nation
through the glory of the Lord.

*PRESENTATION OF COMMITMENT PLEDGES AND OFFERING

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 leave to continue worship in the Chapel.
Please have children meet Rev. Crowley at the front of the sanctuary on the lectern side,
bringing the children's bulletin and worship bag with them.*

SERMON

"My Prayer for You"

Dr. Bert Browning

*RECESSIONAL HYMN 151 *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

DIADEMATA

*BENEDICTION

Dr. Bert Browning

EXTINGUISHING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

VOLUNTARY *Grand Choeur Triomphale*

Alexandre Guilmant

THE CHURCH STAFF

Daniel G. Bagby, Ph.D., *Minister of Pastoral Care*
Herbert O. (Bert) Browning, Jr., D.Min., *Interim Preacher*
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 D. Ducca, *Communications Specialist* • Zelda Goode, *Cook / Housekeeper*
Wendy Graves, *Preschool Administrative Assistant* • Kevin Harris, *Building Support Team*
LeAnne K. Lane, *Office Manager* • Lyndsay McGreevy, *Preschool Director*
Terri McMahan, *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
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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 CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY, the final Sunday of the season of Pentecost. Christ the King Sunday points to God's ultimate victory and reign through Jesus Christ. It also leads immediately into the beginning of the new Christian year as Advent begins next Sunday. The liturgical color is white, symbolizing the purity and light 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 may meet [Rev. Kim Crowley](#) at the front of the sanctuary on the lectern side after the Doxology to continue worship in the Chapel.

[THE ALTAR FLOWERS](#) are given to the glory of God and in honor of [Audrey Ligon](#) by [Jaye, Rhonda, and Tom Ligon](#).

THE RECEPTION AFTER WORSHIP TODAY is held in the Fellowship Hall hosted by deacons [Nancy Jackson, Mary Beth Scherer, Mark Matthews, Richard Seward, Sallie Sparks, and Jean Cauble](#), the Personnel and Social Committees in honor of the staff. Everyone is invited to attend. After the recognition the business meeting will convene for our November meeting. We need a quorum of 100 to conduct the business of the church.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is expressed to Carolyn Foster upon the death of her aunt, and to family and friends on the death of Opal Bristow, who passed away on November 15. A memorial service will be held on November 22 at 2:00 p.m. at Lucy Corr Villiage.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is expressed to family and friends of Lucie Johnson who passed away on November 15.

CONGRATULATIONS to Katie and Tim Merritt upon the birth of their son, Oliver Byron Merritt, on November 18, and to big brother Owen. The proud grandparents are Laura Lee and Ted Chandler.

THANK YOU TO OUR INTERIM PREACHER DR. BERT BROWNING for providing us nearly a year of excellent preaching and pulpit care. We have enjoyed your good work and words during our time of interim. The Introit today was composed for Dr. Browning, in honor of his gifts to River Road Church. Welcome always, Bert and Rose!

NEXT SUNDAY our new pastor, Dr. Daniel E. Glaze, will begin his tenure with River Road Church! We look forward to sharing the future here with Daniel, Andrea, and daughters Ella and Ashley. Celebration!

THE THANKSGIVING OFFERING is designated to Oak Grove Elementary School to provide food for the students over the holidays. Envelopes can be found in the pew racks.

ATTENTION PARENTS OF COLLEGE STUDENTS ~ Please give the mailing address of your student to Chester Phelps TODAY, November 20.

LOSS: GETTING THROUGH THE HOLIDAYS ~ On Tuesday, November 22 at 7:00 p.m., anyone who has experienced an important loss is invited to gather in the church parlor with Dan Bagby to identify the dynamics of loss and grief, and compare notes on how to move through the holidays, sharing mutual support and care.

THE OUTSIDE OF THE CHURCH WILL BE DECORATED FOR CHRISTMAS on Friday, December 3 at 9:00 a.m. ~ Volunteers will be tying bows on 24 wreaths, hanging them on outside doors, and wrapping pine roping on lamp posts. The group will gather in the narthex of the Sanctuary.

COMING EVENTS

- Sunday, November 20 **Reception Recognizing Church Staff**, 12:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Church Business Meeting, 12:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Youth Handbell Choir, 4:15 p.m., Bell Room
Youth Choir, 5:00 p.m., Youth Choir Room
Youth Snack Supper, 5:45 p.m.,
Youth Music and Program, 6:15 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Board of Administration, 7:00 p.m., Assembly Room
- Monday, November 21 **Joyful Hearts**, 9:15 a.m., LC 102
Yoga, 5:45 p.m., Assembly Room
Endowment 50th Anniversary Team Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Parlor
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m., Choir Room
- Tuesday, November 22 **Loss: Getting Through the Holidays**, 7:00 p.m., Parlor
- Wednesday, November 23 **No Wednesday Programs ~ Happy Thanksgiving!**
- Thursday, November 24 **Church Office Closed ~ Thanksgiving**
- Friday, November 25 **Church Office Closed ~ Thanksgiving**

~ Commitment Sunday ~

~ Thoughtful Giving: For Such a Time as This ~

Today is Congregational Commitment Sunday. We will make our financial and service pledges for 2017, committing to God the very best we have to give of all our resources - our time, our talents, and our financial gifts. We ask that you thoughtfully, thankfully, and generously increase your giving so that together we can achieve our shared vision

Present your commitment card as an expression of your gratitude for God's goodness and of your confidence in the future of River Road Church.

We join as one body of Christ in this endeavor. As one church family giving together, two younger members of our community will bring our commitment cards forward during worship. Beth Rooney and Jackson Koskinen will join the ministers during the Offering in showing that all ages take part in ministry at River Road Church.

On this day, we make our personal commitments to the work of God's kingdom in this place. As we stretch our willingness to give, we stretch, too, the impact of the ministries of this church. May we stretch together toward our *Thoughtful Faith* and *Thoughtful Giving*.

~ 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, entrance foyers of the Sanctuary or the Lower Commons, to find out more information about the events below and more!

~ADVENTure Lunch ~

Sunday, November 27 at 12:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Prepare for the season of Advent with your children at this lunch and Advent wreath-making time!

~ Christmas Stores ~

Needed: Children's toys and clothes for the Church Hill Baptist Christmas Store.