

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

The First 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.

November 27, 2016

Eleven o'clock in the morning

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

Jessica Thorne and Michael Whitty

VOLUNTARY "*Sleepers, Wake!*" *A Voice Astounds Us* Settings by Bach and Walther

INTROIT

David Gulick

I was glad when they said unto me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord."
Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and come before his courts with praise.
Lift your voice unto the Lord, and sing praises to our God.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 2 *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

HYFRYDOL

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Libby Grammer

Minister: As farmers wait for rainfall,
As prisoners wait for freedom,

Congregation: We wait for the coming of Christ.

Minister: As exiles yearn for home,
As peacemakers yearn for justice,

Congregation: We long for the coming of Christ.

Minister: As travelers search for shelter,
As disciples look for answers,

Congregation: We prepare for the coming of Christ.

*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

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON *Isaiah 2:1-5* (p.550)

Hilton Almond

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

**Congregation standing*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Fred Anderson
Pastor Search Committee

*We light the candle of hope, and dare to open the dark places in our lives
to the healing light of Christ. May our hearts be prepared for the coming of Christ
and the creative, transformative power of hope.*

ANTIPHON FOR ADVENT

David M. Cherwien

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Show us Your steadfast love O Lord, and give us Your salvation.

*GOSPEL LESSON *Matthew 24:36-44* (p.806)

Minister: The Gospel of our Lord.

Congregation: Praise be to You, O Christ.

ANTHEM from *Messiah*

G.F. Handel

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together:
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

CALL TO PRAYER

Rev. Kim Crowley

Minister: The coming of our Lord is near,
And we wait in joyful expectation,

**Congregation: Draw close, Lord Jesus Christ,
Shed Your light on all that is filled with darkness.**

Minister: The coming of our Lord is near,
And we wait with hope filled hearts,

**Congregation: Draw close, God's beloved Son,
Teach us the wonder of Your all-embracing love.**

Minister: The coming of our Lord is near,
And we wait for God's redeeming presence,

**Congregation: Draw close, Savior of all creation,
Our hearts ache for justice,
our minds long for holiness,
our spirits seek for unity.**

Minister: The coming of our Lord is near,
And we wait for the fulfillment of God's promises,

**Congregation: Draw close, Reconciler and Transformer of all things,
Renew our world, restore Your peace,
display Your righteousness.**

PASTORAL PRAYER

*HYMN OF DEVOTION 332 *Live Into Hope*

TRURO

*OFFERTORY SENTENCES

Dr. Daniel Bagby

ANTHEM AT OFFERTORY *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

Gustav Holst

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly-minded,
for with blessing in his hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
in the body and the blood;
he will give to all the faithful
his own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth
from the realms of endless day,
that the powers of hell may vanish
as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph,
cherubim, with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Lord Most High!

Soloists: Eleanor Roberts, William Dameron

*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 leave to continue worship with Rev. Crowley.

SERMON

“Advent Hope”

Dr. Daniel Glaze

TIME OF REFLECTION

PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBERS

Dr. Daniel Bagby

*RECESSIONAL HYMN 11 *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?* VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

*BENEDICTION

Dr. Daniel Glaze

EXTINGUISHING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

VOLUNTARY *Chorale Prelude on “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”*

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 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
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 FIRST 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.

WE WELCOME OUR NEW PASTOR Daniel E. Glaze, and his wife Andrea, and daughters Ella and Ashley, to River Road Church this morning. We are excited to begin this new chapter and new church year with you and your family! Welcome!

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 our daughters and their families, and grandchildren, Jake, Kate, Logan, Harrison, Abigail, and Matthew, by Charlie and Sherry Sorrell.

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 the Chair of the Pastor Search Committee, Hilton Almond. Hilton and the "servant twelve" have embodied River Road's hope for a new season with a new pastor, a fitting group to begin the Advent season on the Sunday of Hope. Lighting the candle together are Fred Anderson (secretary), George Davis, Bill Gray, Norma Hays, Clint Hubbard, Andy McAllister, Susan Phillips, Eleanor Nurney, Seth Roberts, Padgett Shoemaker, and Jane Terry.

THERE WILL BE NO RECEPTION AFTER WORSHIP TODAY due to the ADVENTure Lunch for children and families in the Fellowship Hall.

THANKSGIVING OFFERING ~ This year's offering will be designated to Oak Grove Elementary School to provide food for the students over the holidays. Envelopes can be found in the pew racks. You may also visit www.rrcb.org/onlinegiving to give online.

THANK YOU FOR MAKING YOUR 2017 PLEDGE, so far we have received 171 pledges making up \$920,609. Our numbers are currently ahead of where we were last year. Pledge cards can be found in the pew racks.

THE OUTSIDE OF THE CHURCH WILL BE DECORATED FOR CHRISTMAS on Friday, December 2 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.

THE 2017 ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR will be in the Upper Commons following worship on December 4, 11, and 18. Anyone wishing to contribute altar flowers for a Sunday should see Betsy Lowery (804-338-4604). The cost is \$85.

E. CARL FREEMAN CONCERT SERIES ~ CHANCEL CHOIR & ORCHESTRA CHRISTMAS CONCERT ~ Handel's *Messiah* Part I. Sunday, December 11 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Reserve your FREE tickets through Eventbrite at www.rrcb.org/messiah.

COMING EVENTS

- Sunday, November 27 **ADVENTure Lunch**, 12:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Youth Activities, 5:00 p.m., Youth Area
Youth Choir, 6:00 p.m., Youth Choir Room
- Monday, November 28 **Joyful Hearts**, 9:15 a.m., LC 102
Yoga, 5:45 p.m., Assembly Room
Chancel Committee, 1:00 p.m., Sanctuary
Endowment Board, 7:00 p.m., Parlor
- Tuesday, November 29 **Comma Club Trip**, 9:30 a.m., Offsite
- Wednesday, November 30 **Men's Group: The Huddle**, 8:00 a.m., Reception Room
Stephen Ministry, 4:30 p.m., Parlor
River Road Camerata, 4:45 p.m., Choir Room
Wednesday Night Dinner, 5:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Children's Choirs, 6:00 p.m., Choir Room
Chancel Bell Choir, 6:30 p.m., Bell Room
Wednesday Night Program, 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Member Engagement Committee, 7:30 p.m., Parlor
- Thursday, December 1 **FIXERS**, 8:00 a.m., Reception Room
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m., Choir Room
- Friday, December 2 **Church Christmas Decorating**, 9:00 a.m., Sanctuary
- Saturday, December 3 **Middle Schoolers to Christmas Stores**, 8:00 a.m., Offsite
Leaf Collection Day, 9:00 a.m., Church Plaza
- Sunday, December 4 **Family Handbell Choir**, 9:00 a.m., Bell Room
Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., Various Rooms
Worship, 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary

~ 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! You may also visit www.rrcb.org/christmas for more information about Advent and 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 at 11:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Join us to worship together as Christmas arrives. We will celebrate with beautiful choral, handbell, and flute music, candlelight, and Holy Communion. All are welcome.

Wednesday Night Dinner & Program ~ November 30 Q&A with Daniel Glaze, facilitated by Dan Bagby

Dinner Menu: Chicken Divan, Broccoli over Rice, Yeast Rolls, Salad Bar, 2 types of Pudding, and Assorted Cookies

Dinner reservations are required each week. Please make your reservation by tomorrow, Monday, **November 28** at 11:00 a.m. You may make your reservation by calling the church office 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

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 available in the Upper Commons, Lower Commons, Narthex, and Sunday School classrooms.

Behold! Cultivating Attentiveness in the Season of Advent
by Pamela C. Hawkins,
published by the *UpperRoom*

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday, November 27, 2016
9:45 a.m., Sunday School
11:00 a.m., Worship in the Sanctuary
Sermon by Daniel Glaze
Childcare provided

ADVENTURE LUNCH FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Sunday, November 27, 2016
12:15 p.m., Fellowship Hall

CHRISTMAS STORES DONATIONS

Deadline: Sunday, November 27, 2016
More information about donations at www.rrcb.org/rcfnchristmas

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday, December 4, 2016
9:45 a.m., Sunday School
11:00 a.m., Worship in the Sanctuary
Sermon by Daniel Glaze
Childcare provided

CBF GLOBAL MISSIONS

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

December 4, 2016 - January 1, 2017
Offering envelopes are in pew racks, or you may contribute online.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SING-A-LONG

Wednesday, December 7, 2016
6:30 p.m., Sanctuary Chancel
Dinner at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall; Reservations required at www.rrcb.org/wednesdays
Childcare provided

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday, December 11, 2016
9:45 a.m., Sunday School
11:00 a.m., Worship in the Sanctuary
Sermon by Daniel Glaze
Childcare provided

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS CHORAL CONCERT

Sunday, December 11, 2016
7:30 p.m., Sanctuary
Chancel Choir with Orchestra
Handel's *Messiah* Part 1
Please note our new ticketing process through Eventbrite; Reserve your free tickets at www.rrcb.org/messiah
Childcare not provided

STARLIGHT SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE & HOLY COMMUNION

Wednesday, December 14, 2016
6:30 p.m., Chapel
Dinner at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall; Reservations required at www.rrcb.org/wednesdays
Childcare provided

YOUTH MYSTERY CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday, December 17, 2016
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Offsite

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday, December 18, 2016
9:45 a.m., Sunday School
11:00 a.m., Worship in the Sanctuary
Sermon by Daniel Glaze
Childcare provided

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE

Saturday, December 24, 2016
4:00 p.m., Sanctuary
Please note the earlier start time.
Missions Offering: Non-perishable food items wrapped in white paper
Childcare not provided; children participate in the service

**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT
SERVICE & HOLY COMMUNION**

Saturday, December 24, 2016
11:00 p.m., Sanctuary
Meditation by Daniel Glaze
Childcare not provided

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
12:00-6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

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
6:45 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