

The Worship of God

GINTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

Zoom Meeting ID: 804 359 2475 • 6100 Chamberlayne Road, Richmond VA • 804-359-2475

Third Sunday of Advent • December 15th, 2024 • 10:30 AM

GATHERING & REFLECTING (10:20 AM)

During this time of reflection, we invite you to take a few moments to prepare yourself for worship. Take a few deep breaths and settle into the quiet. Center yourself through art by coloring the attached picture. Slip off your shoes and remember that you are on holy ground. No matter what this time looks like for you, your whole self is welcome in this space.

*It doesn't matter whether or not
you can have faith;
whether or not you are cynical
or despairing,
hope-filled or hope-less:
what matters to God is simply
that you are here.*

*We are entering the time of
Advent,
in preparation for Christmas.
Advent reminds us that if God is
to be born again
in the most ordinary parts of
our world and our lives
that we need to prepare for it.
We need to make the space in
our lives
where love might be born.*

*Welcome to this tiny corner of a
harsh and dark world.
Together, let us practice being
ready
in the faith that Christ will
come.
(written by Cheryl Lawrie)*

CHIMING THE TRINITY

Lisa Horn

CALL TO WORSHIP

Harry Gaines

*Responsive readings like this one are a part of worship. The congregation's part is in **bold**.*

One: Give thanks to God, and call upon God's name!

Many: For God is great, and God is here!

One: Spread the news of what God has done throughout the world.

Many: For God is great, and God is here!

One: Sing praise, and shout for joy:

Many: For God is great, and God is here!

One: Let's worship God together

INVOCATION PRAYER

HYMN NO.

"Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

SHEFFIELD

Some of us stand while singing, and others don't. Please join us in song in whatever way you are comfortable.

LIGHTING THE THIRD CANDLE: JOY

The word "Advent" comes from an ancient Latin phrase meaning "until the coming." It is a period of spiritual preparation in which many Christians make themselves ready for the coming of the Christ-child. In this time for reflection, we take each Sunday leading up to the celebration of the birth of Jesus to reflect on some themes that center us as we wait with eager expectation for the glory of God to be revealed. This Sunday, many across the globe center on "Joy."

One: One: Rejoice, my friends, rejoice!

Many: We seek time to embrace the joy.

One: Rejoice, my friends, rejoice!

Many: We create opportunities to embody joy.

One: Rejoice, my friends, rejoice!

Many: Singing songs that announce joy.

RESPONSE

“Advent Doxology”

IRBY

Praise to God, the One who made us. Praise to Christ, the soon-born Son.

Praise the Spirit, ever with us. Praise the Godhead, Three in One.

Clear a path! Prepare the way! Advent leads to Christmas Day!

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SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS

Harry Gaines

Prayer requests are shared out loud with the gathered community. If you have a joy or a concern to share, please raise your hand to request the microphone

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER (ALL)

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.

Amen.

HYMN No. 135

“Blessed Be the God of Israel”

MERLE’S TUNE

SCRIPTURE

[Zephaniah 3:14-20](#)

Anita Laffoon

SERMON

“Here Comes the Sun”

Anita Laffoon

TIME OF REFLECTION & RESPONSE “‘In the Bleak Midwinter’ with ‘Here Comes the Sun’”

ANNOUNCEMENTS & THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

HYMN No. 164

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

IN DULCI JUBILO

CLOSING COMMISSION

One: Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming. We wait filled with hope,

Many: Knowing your light will shine in the darkness.

One: We wait anticipating your peace,

Many: Believing that one day it will fill our world.

One: We wait with joy,

Many: Bubbling up in expectation of your birth.

One: : We wait embracing your love,
Many: May we reach out to share it with our neighbors.
One.: Lord we wait,
Many: Come soon and fill us with your life.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ is with you.
Many: And also with you.

****Our services are hybrid, meaning there are cameras in the worship space to allow those joining us via Zoom to fully participate. If you would rather not be on camera, we have marked the areas where our cameras can't see you.****



Are you visiting with us today? We'd love to get to know you better!
Scan the QR code to tell us more about you.

Announcements

Metro Richmond at Prayer

During the week of December 8th, we pray for the families of Metropolitan Richmond: For persons who are lonely or have no family. For persons who are estranged from their families. For persons who are grieving the loss of a loved one. For all who need to feel the love of God.

Pray for our Ministry Partners

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Virginia is one of two Baptist associations that Ginter Park Baptist is aligned with (CBF and the Alliance of Baptists). CBFVA is committed to walking alongside congregations as they live out their unique call through Advocacy, Partnerships, and Theological Education. This year's General Assembly will be on September 17th at First Baptist Church in Newport News.

Concerned Northside Churches

Thanks, church family! Your contributions of socks added up to 123 pairs! What a blessing to the adult group home residents to receive warm clean socks in their goodie bags at the CNC party.

Battery Park Christian Church is hosting two events for the community, and we are invited to attend. There will be a breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 21 and a Community Breakfast on Christmas morning. Fliers are on the table in the back of the worship space. Feel free to take one and spread the word. All are welcome!

Advent Calendar

This Advent, we're asking you to participate in a small homework assignment each week. Bring an object with you to worship that represents a memory of Hope, Peace, Joy, or Love. The four Sundays of Advent are:

- Dec 15 - Joy (also our potluck brunch day - bring a dish to share at 9am!)
- Dec 22 - Love
- Dec 24 - Christmas Eve service at 5pm

Day for All People

Registration is now open for the Day for All People 2025. This is the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy's annual lobby day and an incredible opportunity to join with other people of faith and goodwill as we advocate for others at the General Assembly session. Hope you can join us on Wednesday, January 15, 2025 from 7:30am to 3:15pm at Centenary United Methodist Church! Visit their website to register -

<https://virginiainterfaithcenter.org/>

Study Opportunities

- **Sunday Morning Small Group** - meets at 9am, and they are studying the book *Our Greatest Gift - a Meditation on Dying & Caring*, by Henri Nouwen. Contact Raymond Cady for more information.
- **Thursday Morning Bible Study** - is studying Acts on Thursdays from 10-11:30 a.m. Contact Don Polaski for more information. Last day of Bible study for 2024 is Thursday, December 12th. Our study of Acts will resume in February.

Backpack Update

We are in need of paper bags with handles for our weekly backpack food program. The business that was donating bags is no longer able to do so, and we are running low! Please continue to bring in your bags from your shopping trips, and if you are able please purchase extras. See Dixie Leathers or Connie Bak for more details.

Page Turner Book Club

Our next read is *The Southern Book Club's Guide to Slaying Vampires* by Grady Hendrix! The book will be discussed in February. Date and location TBA.

Worship isn't the same without you...

...and we'd love to have your help! We need volunteers to help on Sunday mornings by leading the Call to Worship and the Prayers of the People, and to facilitate the Zoom room. Contact Anita to sign up (alaffoon@ginterparkbc.org)!

Hymn Texts

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Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son!

Hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!

He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free,
to take away transgressions, and rule in equity.

He comes with justice speedy to those who suffer wrong,
to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong,
to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in his sight.

He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth;
love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth.
Before him, on the mountains, shall peace, the herald, go,
and righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.

To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend,
his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove.
His name shall stand for ever; that name to us is Love.

Blessed the God of Israel

Blessed the God of Israel, who comes to set us free,
who visits and redeems us and grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill the promise to bring our people peace.

Now from the house of David a child of grace has come,
a Savior who will lead us to our eternal home.
Before him goes the herald, forerunner in the way,
the prophet of salvation, the harbinger of day.

On all by death imprisoned the sun begins to rise,
the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes,
to guide the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace;
O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!
Listen now to what we say: News! News!
Jesus Christ is born today. Ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!
Now you hear of endless bliss; Joy! Joy!
Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven's door,
and we are blest for evermore. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!
Now you need not fear the grave: Peace! Peace!
Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all
to gain the everlasting hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

