

The Worship of God

GINTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

Zoom Meeting ID: 804 359 2475 • 6100 Chamberlayne Road, Richmond VA • 804-359-2475
Fourth Sunday of Advent • December 22nd, 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

Tracy Cady

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

One: My soul magnifies the Lord,
Many: and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.
One: God has looked with favor on us,
Many: For we are the servants of God.
One: The Mighty One has done great things,
Many: And holy is God's name.
One: We await the birth of the Christ-child,
Many: And God is about to do a new thing.

INVOCATION PRAYER

HYMN No. 148

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”
Stanzas 1-3 Only

ADESTE FIDELES

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

LIGHTING THE FOURTH CANDLE: LOVE

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 "Love."

One: Love deeply, creating the wells of kinship,

Many: For in the Body of Christ we belong.

One: Love boldly, like the spirited colors of a rainbow,

Many: For in the Body of Christ we find peace.

One: Love joyfully, like the blissful songs in the wind,

Many: For in the Body of Christ we claim our connections.

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

Tracy Cady

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. 130

"My Soul Gives Glory to My God"

MORNING SONG

SCRIPTURE

[Luke 1:39-55](#)

Anita Laffoon

SERMON

"Love You Anyway"

Anita Laffoon

TIME OF REFLECTION & RESPONSE "Breath of Heaven' with 'Love You Anyway'"

Arr. Horn

ANNOUNCEMENTS & THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

HYMN No. 165

"Once in Royal David's City"

IRBY

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 22nd, we pray for the families of Metropolitan Richmond: For an end to child abuse. For healthy relationships between children and their caregivers. For families going through divorce; for all in the midst of life transitions.

Pray for our Ministry Partners

Baptist Women in Ministry seeks to be a catalyst in Baptist life, drawing together women and men, in partnership with God, to illuminate, advocate, and nurture the gifts and graces of women. Their newest documentary, *Midwives of a Movement*, is now available for free on YouTube.

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 22 - Love
- Dec 24 - Christmas Eve service at **5:30pm**

Guest Speaker

Grace Maguire is a final year seminarian at Union Presbyterian Seminary, she is working towards her dual Master degree - Divinity and Public Theology. Grace grew up in the Bon Air area and graduated from Randolph-Macon College in Ashland in 2019. Grace is passionate about making time to be with God in nature spaces, so you can often find them on one of Richmond's many beautiful nature trails with their two Boykin Spaniels or a group of friends. Feel free to come by the office to say hello, if you hear music coming from the office then Grace is in!

Business Meeting

We will have a very brief business meeting on January 12th BEFORE worship at 10:15am. Please plan to attend via Zoom or in person as we vote on our 2025 cast of characters (a.k.a. committee members).

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** - will resume studying Acts in February, on Thursdays from 10-11:30 a.m. Contact Don Polaski for more information.

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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O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the King of angels:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,
we would embrace thee, with love and awe;
who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

My Soul Gives Glory to My God

My soul gives glory to my God. My heart pours out its praise.
God lifted up my lowliness in many marvelous ways.

My God has done great things for me; yes, holy is her name.
All people will declare me blessed, and blessings they shall claim.

From age to age, to all who fear, such mercy love imparts,
dispensing justice far and near, dismissing selfish hearts.

Love casts the mighty from their thrones, promotes the insecure,
leaves hungry spirits satisfied, the rich seem suddenly poor.

Praise God, whose loving covenant supports those in distress,
remembering past promises with present faithfulness.

Once in Royal David's City

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that Mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

Christ came down to earth from heaven love incarnate for us all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor, the scorned, the lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

Jesus is our childhood's pattern; day by day like us he grew,
he was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew;
Thus he feels for our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.

