

# The Worship of God

GINTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

Zoom Meeting ID: 804 359 2475 • 6100 Chamberlayne Road, Richmond VA • 804-359-2475  
Second Sunday of Advent • December 8th, 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

Lisa Horn

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

One: God raised up a mighty savior for us,  
**Many: As God spoke through the prophets,**  
One: God showed mercy promised to our ancestors;  
**Many: God remembered the holy covenant.**  
One: By the tender mercy of our God,  
**Many: the dawn from on high will break upon us,**  
One: To give light to those in the shadow of death,  
**Many: to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

## INVOCATION PRAYER

## HYMN

“Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord”

Schultz

## HYMN No. 119

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

VENI EMMANUEL

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

## LIGHTING THE SECOND CANDLE: PEACE

*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 “Peace.”*

One: Today we light the second candle of Advent.

**Many: We seek your comfort. Both mighty and tender, you come. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you.**

One: Isaiah announced God’s coming to a people exiled in a broken and parched wilderness.

**Many: He declared that God’s redemption would make a highway in the desert and change the rough places into plain.**

One: God would come as a shepherd—feeding, leading, and cradling the weary flock.

**Many: This Advent, we seek such a God.**

One: Saving God, look upon your world and heal your land and your people. Prepare us to be changed.

**Many: This Advent, teach us to be tender and just, as you are. Amen.**

## 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

Lisa Horn

\*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. 160

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

ES IST EIN ROS

## SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:68-79

Anita Laffoon

## SERMON

“More Than A Feeling”

Anita Laffoon

**TIME OF REFLECTION & RESPONSE** “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus’ with ‘More Than A Feeling’” Arr. Horn

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

## HYMN No. 184

“Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly”

PLEADING SAVIOR

## 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 Alliance of Baptists seek to cultivate beloved community, claiming our identity within the body of Christ in the world and our solidarity with all creation. They welcome and affirm all persons with full respect to gender, sexual, racial, and ethnic identities and hold space for all persons with varying abilities, social standing, or economic status. Their core values are to create a theological Home, pursuit of God's Justice, and partnership in Mission.

## **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 8 - Peace
- 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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### **Come, O Long-Expected Jesus**

Come, O long-expected Jesus, born to set your people free.  
From our fears and sins release us; Christ, in whom our rest shall be.  
You, our strength and consolation, come salvation to impart;  
dear desire of every nation, joy of many a longing heart.

Born your people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king,  
born to reign in us for ever, born your gracious realm to bring.  
By your own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
by your all-sufficient merit raise us to your glorious throne.

### **Lo, How a Rose, E'er Blooming**

Lo, how a rose, e'er blooming, from tender stem hath sprung,  
of Jesse's lineage coming by faithful prophets sung;  
it came, a flow'ret bright, amid the cold of winter when half-spent was the night.

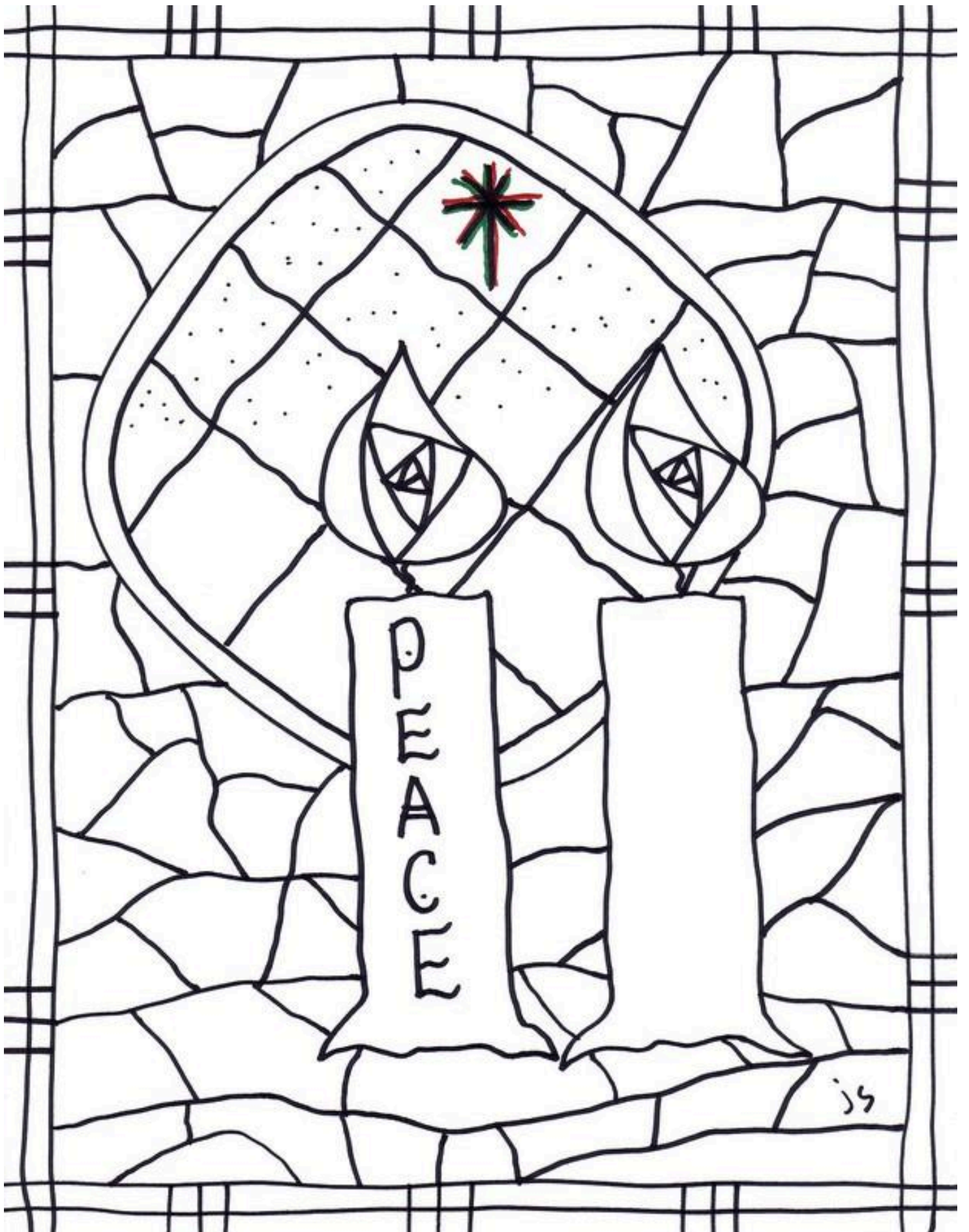
Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind;  
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright she bore to us a Savior when half-spent was the night.

### **Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly**

Sing of Mary, pure and lowly, maiden mother, wise and mild.  
sing of God's own Son most holy, who became her little child.  
Fairest child of fairest mother, God incarnate come to earth,  
Word made flesh, our very brother, takes our nature by his birth.

Sing of Jesus, son of Mary, in the home at Nazareth.  
Toil and labor cannot weary love enduring unto death.  
Constant was the love he gave her, though it drove him from her side,  
forth to preach, and heal, and suffer, till on Calvary he died.

Joyful mother, full of gladness, in your arms your Lord was borne.  
Mournful mother, full of sadness, all your heart with pain was torn.  
Glorious mother, now rewarded with a crown at Jesus' hand,  
age, to age your name recorded shall be blest in every land.



MIRACLES