

# The Worship of God

GINTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

Zoom Meeting ID: 804 359 2475 • 6100 Chamberlayne Road, Richmond VA • 804-359-2475  
Twelfth Day of Christmas • December 29th, 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.

## CHIMING THE TRINITY

Lisa Horn

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Eric Johnson

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

One: We gather as a community of faith in God's subversive world.

**Many: We gather to celebrate that no darkness can extinguish light,**

One: We gather to remember that love will always be more powerful than death,

**Many: and to trust that peace will always be stronger than violence.**

One: We gather, people of faith in the light of God's world.

**Many: Welcome to worship.**

## INVOCATION PRAYER

### HYMN No. 149

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

REGENT SQUARE

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

## SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS

Eric Johnson

\*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. 151

"The First Noel"

THE FIRST NOEL

SCRIPTURE

[Matthew 2:1-12](#)

Anita Laffoon

One: This is the Word of God, for the people of God

**Many: Thanks be to God**

SERMON

“Crowded Table”

Anita Laffoon

HOLY COMMUNION

\*All are welcome to participate in Communion here, and you are also welcome to remain at your seat if that is more comfortable for you. Communion is received by intinction, where you are handed a piece of bread to dip in the chalice. We use non-alcoholic juice in the chalice, so that this is a safe table for all.\*

TIME OF REFLECTION & RESPONSE

“‘What Child Is This’ with ‘Crowded Table’”

Arr. Horn

ANNOUNCEMENTS & THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

HYMN No. 172

“We Three Kings”

KINGS OF ORIENT

CLOSING COMMISSION

One: Magi, braving distance and desert to find you, and bewildered shepherds, compelled by an angel’s invitation,

**Many: allowed light to be their guide.**

One: And it is still the light that calls us to you; the light of beauty that whispers its truth

**Many: in surprising ways and places;**

One: the light of compassion that kneels, and washes road-soiled, life-battered feet;

**Many: the light of joy that glows even in the darkness of grief and suffering;**

One: It’s always been about the light with you, Jesus; and it’s always about the light for us.

**Many: Please lead us, now and always, out of darkness and into your marvellous light.**

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 January 5th, we pray to overcome in Christ's name the heritage of racism: For racial reconciliation, healing, and justice in Metropolitan Richmond. For an end to all personal and structural racial prejudice and discrimination.

### **Pray for our Ministry Partners**

The Baptist World Alliance is a global movement of Baptists sharing a common confession of faith in Jesus Christ. For more than 100 years, the Baptist World Alliance has networked the Baptist family to impact the world for Christ with a commitment to strengthen worship, fellowship and unity; lead in mission and evangelism; respond to people in need through aid, relief, and community development; defend religious freedom, human rights, and justice; and advance theological reflection and leadership development.

### **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).

### **Sweet Baby Jesus Diaper Drive**

The Magi brought gold, frankincense, and myrrh - we have more practical gifts to celebrate the sweet baby Jesus: diapers and wipes! We continue our tradition of collecting diapers (sizes 4, 5 and 6 requested) and wipe. Bring your diapers and wipes to worship through January 19, or arrange to drop them off at the church office.

### **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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### **Angels, From the Realms of Glory**

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
you who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the new-born King.

Shepherds in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light:  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the new-born King.

Sages, leave your contemplations brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great Desire of nations; you have seen the natal star:  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the new-born King.

### **The First Noel**

The first Noel, the angel did say; was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star, shining in the east, beyond them far,  
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night:  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went:  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

This star drew nigh to the northwest, o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
and there it did both stop and stay right over the place where Jesus lay.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

Then entered in those wise men three, full reverently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence their gold and myrrh and frankincense:  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

### **We Three Kings**

We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar  
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.  
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again  
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.  
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Frankincense to offer have I, incense owns a Deity nigh;  
prayer and praising, gladly raising, worshiping God on high.  
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom,  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.  
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Glorious now behold him arise, Christ and God and sacrifice:  
alleluia, alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies.  
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

