

# The Worship of God

GINTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

Zoom Meeting ID: 834 854 376 Password: GPBC • 6100 Chamberlayne Road, Richmond VA  
First Sunday of Advent • November 28, 2021 • 10:30 AM

## GATHERING & REFLECTING IN SILENCE (10:20 AM)

*The Gospel of John speaks of Christ as the true light coming into the world. In commemoration of that coming, we light candles for the four weeks of Advent and reflect on the coming of Christ. It is significant that the church has always used that language—the coming of Christ—because it speaks to a deep truth. Christ is coming. Christ is always coming, always entering a troubled world, a wounded heart. And so today we will light the first candle, 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.*

## COLLECT (10:30 AM)

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
**make straight in the desert a highway for our God.** (*Isaiah 40:3*)

## CHIMING THE SEASON

### PRELUDE

“My Lord, What a Morning”  
Fred Horn, Pianist

*arr. Chilcote*

### ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Sandy Rogers

### SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 33:14-16

One: The Word of God for the People of God.  
Many: **Thanks be to God.**

### HYMN

“O Come, Advent”

VENI EMMANUEL

<b>O come and be the hope in all our lives</b>	<b>Rejoice, rejoice!</b>
<b>Though chaos and confusion still survive</b>	<b>Emmanuel shall come to us</b>
<b>We know the path of hate all too well</b>	<b>And all things shall be well</b>
<b>We need our God with us, Emmanuel!</b>	

### LITANY OF HOPE

One: These are fearful days: Words of hate. Acts of terror. Welcomes withheld. Truths denied.

Many: **Anxiety is a constant companion; hope feels like a stranger.**

One: We call out in our anxiety:

Many: **Show us how you work, God; school us in your ways. Take us by the hand; lead us down the path of well-being. You are our Savior, aren't you? Mark the milestones of your mercy and love, God.**

One: We remind ourselves of God's ancient promises:

Many: **Justice is coming! Love is on the way! Lift up your heads and watch for the signs!**

One: Let us light this first candle of Advent, a candle of Hope.

*(We light the first candle in our Advent wreaths.)*

One: Let this candle of Advent Hope shine in our hearts all week and remind us to lift up our heads and open our eyes to watch all around us for signs of the Holy One.

### HYMN (STANZAS 1, 3 & 4)

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

TRURO

### SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS

Eric Johnson

## 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.**

### SPECIAL MUSIC

“Lead Me, Lord”  
Lorenz Choral Ensemble

*arr. Rouse*

### SCRIPTURE

Psalm 25:1-10

### SERMON

“Waiting”

Mark Biddle

### TIME OF REFLECTION & RESPONSE

“In the Bleak Mid-Winter”

*Holst*

*The candle of Advent hope shines. In its light, let us think about what signs we are seeing of God at work in our lives and in our world right now. Let us think about where we may contribute to that work. You are invited to write down your response to take with you or to place in the offering plate along with your financial gifts to the kingdom building work of this congregation.*

### HYMN #618 (STANZAS 1, 2, 4, & 5)

“How Firm a Foundation”

FOUNDATION

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BENEDICTION

**One:** Take time, in the busyness of this season, for quiet reflection—for the light of God’s love is discernible everywhere.

**Many:** **We will let ourselves be surprised by wonder, and set aside time to offer quiet thanks.**

**One:** The good news of Advent is this: Christ is coming. Christ is always coming.

**Many:** **We will welcome Christ into our hearts. We will let ourselves be guided by his ministry. We will go forth from this place in hope.**

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

**One:** The peace of Christ be with you.

**Many:** **And also with you.**

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### HYMN TEXTS

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### # 129 “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

Lift up your heads, O mighty gates;  
Behold the glorious Ruler waits!  
The Sovereign One is drawing near;  
the Savior of the world is here.

Redeemer, come! We open wide  
our hearts to You; here, Lord, abide!  
Let us your inner presence feel;  
your grace and love in us reveal.

So come, our Sovereign; enter in!  
Let new and nobler life begin;  
Your Holy Spirit guide us on,  
Until the glorious crown be won.

### # 618 “How Firm a Foundation”

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in God's excellent word!  
What more can be said than to you God has said,  
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,  
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply.  
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design  
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

Fear not, I am with thee, oh, be not dismayed,  
for I am thy God and will still give thee aid;  
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand  
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;  
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no never, no never forsake!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ADVENT COMPLINE

Each evening at 8 pm during Advent (Nov. 28 – Dec. 23) we will have a brief (~15 min.) [Zoom](#) compline service. The service will include lighting the candles of the Advent Wreath, scripture, silence, and prayer. We hope this will be a refreshing pause each evening in what is often a hectic time of the year. Join any evening as often as you are able.

Zoom Meeting ID: 850 4704 4351 Passcode: advent

### ADVENT WREATHS

The church once again is providing Advent candles (and brass wreaths) for you to use at home during the Advent season. Lighting the candles of the Advent Wreath might be a practice you take up at dinner each evening. You may pick up a candle set along with a liturgy guide on any Sunday at worship or contact Dixie to pick up from the church office. Additionally, lighting the candles of the Advent wreath will be part of each compline service on Zoom.

### SWEET BABY JESUS DIAPER & WIPE DRIVE

For the fifth year in a row, we will be collecting diapers and wipes to offer to families in need. Gifts of diapers and wipes will be collected from Sunday, Nov. 28 through Sunday, Dec. 19. Our donations will go to Housing Families First. They have two large community programs that would greatly benefit from donation of diaper **sizes 4, 5 & 6**. Items can be placed on the side tables in the worship space.

### SNACK BAGS FOR OREGON HILL BAPTIST CENTER

Oregon Hill Baptist Center distributes at least 50 snack bags a week to the adults who come to the Center for food and services. We will be collecting items (boxed tuna or chicken salad kits with easy tab top opening; fruit or applesauce cups) and purchasing items for the bags, and will assemble bags from 9:00 am to 9:30 am on Dec. 12 (followed by our Monthly Church Check-In at 9:30 am).

### BOOKS FOR BACKPACKS

You are invited to make a donation towards the purchase of books for children in our Weekend Backpack Program. Donations may be made generally or in memory/honor of a loved one. A list of tributes will be included in our Christmas Eve worship guide. All donors will receive a special Christmas ornament as an acknowledgement. Money will be collected through Dec. 15 and the books will be added in the Weekend Backpack food bags that will be delivered Dec. 17. Help support the love of reading in our young people!

### PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE REMINDER

We have questions for you and we need ALL GPBC folks' input! You may respond either online (<https://bit.ly/gpbcpastorsearch>) or in-person by using the sticky notes located near the Pastor Search Team question boards displayed in the Fellowship Hall. Nov. 28 is the last day to respond to the first two questions as we have more to come.

### SOPHIA'S FINAL VOLUNTEER WORKDAY OF 2021

Sophia is planning a final workday on the farm for the year on Saturday, December 4, from 9am until about 2pm. The work will be to remove spent plants and pull up the plastic mulch cover to prepare the land for its rest. If you are able to join or need more info, please email Melissa Jackson at [mjackson@sophiasem.org](mailto:mjackson@sophiasem.org). Thank you sincerely for your congregational and individual support of Sophia during this year of our growing!

### THURSDAY ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

For the first two Thursdays during Advent, Dec. 2 and 9, the 10 am Bible Study group will examine and compare the birth narratives of Jesus found in the gospels of Luke and Matthew. Each gospel writer had his own perspective, message, and audience. What can we learn from the similarities and differences? How do those writers help us add understanding to our faith? All are welcome to join the discussion led by Don Polaski in the Fellowship Hall. If you would prefer to join via Zoom, please let Don know by 9 am that morning so he will have his laptop with him and can provide you with the link.

### COLLECT THOSE TAB TOPS!

Save your tab tops from drink cans as well as from vegetable and meat cans to support Ronald McDonald House. Ronald McDonald House is able to pay its utility bills by recycling tab tops from several churches for cash! Collection bins can be found in the Fellowship Hall each Sunday morning.

### METRO RICHMOND AT PRAYER

Since March 2006, more than 470 churches in Metropolitan Richmond have joined in covenant to pray together weekly for the 1.2 million people who live in metro Richmond. GPBC has joined in this Covenant of Prayer, which began its fifteenth year on March 1, 2021. You can learn more and read the weekly prayers at [www.metroprayrva.org](http://www.metroprayrva.org).

During November, we pray for the families of Metropolitan Richmond. For the week of November 28, we pray for families going through divorce; and for all in the midst of life transitions; for peace, reconciliation, and forgiveness among family members, whatever the distance, and however old the hurt or grievance.