

The Worship of God

GINTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

Zoom Meeting ID: 834 854 376 Password: GPBC • 6100 Chamberlayne Road, Richmond VA
Second Sunday of Advent • December 5, 2021 • 10:30 AM

GATHERING & REFLECTING IN SILENCE (10:20 AM)

Last Sunday we lit the first candle—the candle of hope. Today we light the second candle, the candle of peace. We light it knowing full well that peace is elusive, and in some parts of the world, it is almost completely absent. Yet in this season of Advent, we trust that God is never absent from us. God is always preparing something new. And even where there is war and discord, whether between countries, within families, or within our own hearts, God is present, gently leading us to new possibilities.

COLLECT (10:30 AM)

One: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,

Many: **make straight in the desert a highway for our God.** (*Isaiah 40:3*)

CHIMING THE SEASON

CHRISMON TREE LIGHTING

Sheryl Johnson

HANGING THE CHRISMONS

“Let There Be Peace on Earth”

arr. Tornquist

Fred Horn, Pianist

One: Here in this place, we prepare for the coming of the Lord. Here we will remember his Advent, his birth in Bethlehem, weak and helpless as an infant. And here we rekindle our prayer, “Come, Lord Jesus” as we await his coming as the bright and morning star.

Many: **We decorate this tree with symbols and signs of Christ to remind us of Christ’s identity, God’s story, and the Holy Trinity.**

SCRIPTURE

John 1:1-5, 9-14

LITANY OF RESPONSE

One: In preparation for the coming of Jesus, the Light of the World, we light the Chrismon tree.

Many: **In this time of Advent, whenever we see a lighted tree, let it call to mind the one who brings light into our darkness, healing in our brokenness, and peace to all who will receive him.**

One: May this tree, arrayed in beauty and splendor, remind us of the life-giving Christ,

Many: **that we may always rejoice in the new life that shines in hearts.**

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Paul Irwin

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 11:1-6

One: The Word of God for the People of God.

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

“O Come, Advent”

VENI EMMANUEL

O come and bring your peace upon the earth

Rejoice, rejoice!

That even now still longs for its rebirth

Emmanuel shall come to us

We seek to live and move in your ways

And all things shall be well

Guide us to peace and justice all our days

LITANY OF PEACE

One: In this season of Advent, we celebrate God’s peace.

Many: **Jesus Christ, whose birth we await, calls our community to justice and leads us in the way of peace.**

One: Our community is forgiving. We call one another to honesty and humility and respond to each other with abundant grace.

Many: Our community values relationships. We live in harmony with one another even when we disagree, and strive to glorify God in everything we do.

One: Our community longs for unity. We work together with other churches and organizations, and live out God's reconciling love for all the world to see.

Many: Together, we are a sign of God's peace in the world.

One: Let us light this second candle of Advent, a candle of Peace.

(We light the second candle in our Advent wreaths.)

One: Let this candle of Advent Peace shine in our hearts all week and remind us to enter times of quiet and peace in order to listen, through the noise of our lives, for the call to prepare for the Holy One.

HYMN #164

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

IN DULCI JUBILO

SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS

Tracy Cady

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.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 3:7-18

SERMON

"John:Repentance::Jesus:Fire"

Mark Biddle

TIME OF REFLECTION & RESPONSE

The candle of Advent peace shines. In its light, let us think, quietly and peacefully, about what voices of true life-change and forgiveness are speaking in our world right now. You are invited to write down your thoughts to take with you or to place in the offering plate along with your financial gifts to the kingdom building work of this congregation.

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

CLOSING HYMN

"In the Bleak Mid-Winter"

CRANHAM

**In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.**

**Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
but his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
worshiped the Beloved with a kiss.**

**Heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to
reign:
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.**

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give him my heart.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

One: Take your encouragement from Christ, that your joy may be complete.

Many: We will share in the Spirit; we will find consolation in love.

One: Practice a ministry of humility and compassion for God is at work in you, empowering you.

Many: We will welcome Christ into our hearts. We will live worthy of the Gospel. We will go forth in hope and in peace.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

Many: And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT COMPLINE

Each evening at 8 pm during Advent (now through 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 by filling out one of the green forms. 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!

MONTHLY CHURCH-WIDE CHECK-IN

Our next check-in will take place Dec. 12 beginning at 9:30 am. We will continue our discernment around our 2022 Ministry Plan. Prior to our time of conversation, we will pack snack bags for Oregon Hill Baptist Center's homeless ministry at 9 am.

PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE REMINDER

We have NEW 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.

THURSDAY ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

This Thursday, the 10 am Bible Study group will continue to 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.

During December, we pray for those in financial need in Metropolitan Richmond. For the week of December 5, we pray for the unemployed and underemployed, for suitable work, living wages, and fair benefits for all workers in this metropolitan city; and for sufficient employment to make healthy family life possible.

HYMN TEXTS

CCLI License # 21155203

164 "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!