

The Worship of God

GINTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

Zoom Meeting ID: 834 854 376 Password: GPBC • 6100 Chamberlayne Road, Richmond VA
Fourth Sunday of Advent • December 19, 2021 • 10:30 AM

GATHERING & REFLECTING IN SILENCE (10:20 AM)

We have lit three candles—for hope, for peace, and for joy. Today we light the fourth candle—the candle of love. With this flame we signify the love of God that surrounds and fills us at all times, but that we recognize in a special way in the Christmas story. There is no greater power than love. It is stronger than rulers and empires, stronger than grief or despair, stronger even than death. We love, because God loves us. May the blessing of Christmas make us a blessing to others.

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

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Kelly Schmitt

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 49:1-6

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

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

“O Come, Advent”

VENI EMMANUEL

O come you source of Love unto us all

Rejoice, rejoice!

Enlighten us and help us hear your call

Emmanuel shall come to us

To bear your Love out into the wild

And all things shall be well

And celebrate God’s wondrous holy child!

LITANY OF LOVE

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

Many: **Soon we will welcome the beautiful and radical love of God as Jesus Christ comes to live among us.**

One: We embrace our identity as beloved children and let this truth guide our decisions and relationships.

Many: **In our homes and in our church, we offer warm hospitality by welcoming those we don’t know, those who are in need, and those who are different from us.**

One: We demonstrate our care for creation in real and tangible ways through the products we buy, the food we eat, and the way we live every day.

Many: **Together, we are a sign of God’s love for the world.**

One: Let us light this fourth candle of Advent, a candle of Love.

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

One: Let this candle of Advent Love shine in our hearts all week and remind us to be midwives to Christ’s birth in our work for justice, our practice of peace, our offering of forgiveness.

HYMN #165

“Once in Royal David’s City”

IRBY

SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS

Nancy Williams

PRAYER LITANY

One: Most holy Creator of all life and love, we present our gifts this morning and ask that they be acceptable in your sight.

Many: **For unto us a child is born! Our Savior, our brother, our Lord came to us as a baby.**

One: Human babies have needs! They need to be clean and covered, as well as fed, loved and cared for in every way.

Many: **We thank you, God, for all children, born in all places and in all circumstances.**

One: We thank you, too, for all parents who strive to care for and tend to their children, often in compromised and difficult situations.

Many: And we thank you yet again, Lord, for generous hearts that obey your mandate to clothe the naked and lovingly give to those who need.

One: Our prayers today include the babies and children who will use these diapers and wipes, the parents who will be able to keep their children clean and comfortable, the families who live at Housing Families First, and the staff there who support, encourage and empower these families to thrive and lead lives full of hope, joy, peace and stability.

Many: In our giving, generous One, do not let pride invade our hearts. Our giving is a response to your love moving in our lives.

One: Remind us over and again that it is your glory that shines through when we give.

Many: We are here on earth to be the hands and feet of your love to a hurting world.

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.

CONGREGATIONAL ANTHEM

**O sing a song of Bethlehem,
of shepherds watching there,
and of the news that came to them
from angels in the air.
The light that shone on Bethlehem
fills all the world today;
of Jesus' birth and peace on earth
the angels sing always.**

"O Sing a Song of Bethlehem"

**O sing a song of Nazareth,
of sunny days of joy,
O sing of fragrant flowers' breath,
and of the sinless Boy;
for now the flowers of Nazareth
in every heart may grow;
now spreads the fame of His dear name
on all the winds that blow.**

KINGSFOLD

**O sing a song of Galilee,
of lake and woods and hill,
of Him who walked upon the sea
and made its waves be still;
for though, like waves on Galilee,
dark seas of trouble roll,
when faith has heard the Master's
word, falls peace upon the soul.**

**O sing a song of Calvary, its glory and dismay;
of Him who hung upon the tree and took our sins away.
For He who died on Calvary is risen from the grave,
and Christ, our Lord, by heaven adored, is mighty now to save.**

SCRIPTURE

Colossians 3:12-17

SERMON

"Everything in Jesus' Name"

Mark Biddle

TIME OF REFLECTION & RESPONSE

"O Holy Night"

arr. Horn

The candle of Advent love shines. In its light, let us think about our world, about wherever our God is longing to be born in peace, in joy, in freedom, and in wholeness. 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.

HYMN #150

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

MENDELSSOHN

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

One: Depart in peace, and take with you the certain knowledge that God is always coming into the world.

Many: We will seek God, not in a long ago stable or ancient manger, but in the people we meet and the depths of our own hearts.

One: May the blessing of Christmas make you a blessing to others. May the peace of the season pervade all that you do.

**Many: We will welcome the challenge of discipleship. We will offer ourselves as God's ministers.
We will go forth in hope, peace, joy, and love.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT COMPLINE

Each evening at 8 pm during Advent (through Dec. 23) we have a brief (~15 min.) [Zoom](#) compline service. The service includes 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

SWEET BABY JESUS DIAPER & WIPE DRIVE

For the fifth year in a row, we have been collecting diapers and wipes to offer to families in need. Today, Sunday, December 19, following worship we will deliver our donations to Housing Families First. We will have the opportunity to speak with one of their overnight house supervisors about how our donation will be used and other ways individuals might choose to get involved in the work of HFF.

END OF YEAR GIVING

Fulfill – to bring to completion or reality; achieve or realize (something desired, promised, or predicted).

-Oxford English Dictionary

We all continue to be called upon, as we can, to fulfill our financial support to the church for 2021. As we approach the end of the year, please remember that donations must be received or post-marked by Friday, December 31 in order to count for your 2021 charitable giving for tax purposes. If you are planning a year-end stock gift, please contact the church office at your earliest convenience to make the transfer arrangements.

Thanks be to God for all the contributions given - our time, talent, and treasure. All together, they add up to support the life, ministry, and well-being of this church allowing us to continue to be the hands and feet of Jesus in this world.

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.

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY

The Thursday morning Bible study has met for the last time in 2021. They will resume their weekly gatherings on January 13, 2022.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE

Join us on December 24 at 5 pm for a Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols. The service will be child welcoming and all ages are warmly invited to attend and participate. Communion will be celebrated and the service will close in candle light. We will use the same Zoom link as we do on Sunday morning.

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JOINT WORSHIP SERVICE DECEMBER 26

We have been warmly invited to join with Chamberlayne Heights UMC for worship the Sunday after Christmas. It will be a service of lessons and carols beginning at 10:00 AM in the Sanctuary. A recorded service will also be available to stream from their Facebook page and church website beginning at 11:00 AM.

NEW YEAR BRUNCH & WORSHIP

On January 2, our Sunday morning will consist of a pot-luck brunch and worship around the table. Everyone is invited to bring a dish to share and beginning at 10:30 AM we will eat, sing, pray, and listen as we fellowship and worship together at the start of the new year.

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 persons in financial need in Metropolitan Richmond. For the week of December 19, we pray for healthy relationships; for constructive, safe, and caring households for the bringing up and nurturing of children and caring for the elderly.

HYMN TEXTS

CCLI License # 21155203

165 “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.

And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that child who seemed so helpless,
lives and reigns in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

150 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Hark! the herald-angels sing,
“Glory to the new-born King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem.”
Hark, the herald-angels sing,
“Glory to the new-born King!”

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come,
offspring of a Virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark, the herald-angels sing,
“Glory to the new-born King!”

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings,
mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark, the herald-angels sing,
“Glory to the new-born King!”