

The Worship of God

GINTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

Zoom Meeting ID: 834 854 376 Password: GPBC • 6100 Chamberlayne Road,
Richmond VA

The Epiphany of Our Lord • January 2, 2022 • 10:30 AM

GATHERING & REFLECTING IN SILENCE (10:20 AM)

The magi sought a child who would be a king, but the palace was not home to this child. Instead, when the magi followed the star, they found the child in lowly estate, and were overwhelmed by joy. This is a story of pilgrimage, as we search for God's presence in our lives. This is a story of listening for the voice that draws us beyond the world's image of power. It is a story of the light that guides us, as God's true power overcomes oppression. In the darkest night, a star shines. Follow this star, for it will lead to overwhelming joy.—Mary Petrina Boyd

CHIMING THE TRINITY

CALL TO WORSHIP (10:30 AM)

Leader: Arise, shine! Your light has come!

People: **Glory to God in the highest.**

Leader: Darkness covers the earth,

People: **but God's glory shines brightly.**

Leader: Lift up your eyes. Look around.

People: **The light of God's love shines radiantly.**

Leader: Arise, shine! Your light has come!

All: **Our hearts thrill and rejoice!**

HYMN NO. 149

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

REGENT SQUARE

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.

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.

Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending, here among us shall appear:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the new-born King.

A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP, COMMUNION AND THE WORD

BLESSING OF THE FOOD NO. 46

“The Doxology”

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

A TIME TO EAT

SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: Today we celebrate the joys that have been verbalized and those that have been kept silent. We would also choose to take a moment to quietly lift up the concerns that have been voiced, those on our prayer list and those that are not mentioned but on the hearts of

the people here in this room and the ones joining us on Zoom. Would you take some time lifting these concerns up in prayer? *(A moment for silent prayer)*

Leader: The presents have been opened. The cookies have been eaten. The celebrations have left us exhausted.

People: **Yet your Spirit comes again, guiding us toward true joy.**

Leader: In all of our busy celebrations, remind us that you desire righteousness and justice for a world in need of generous hearts.

All: ***May the light of Jesus Christ, the world's true light, live among us and turn our lives from oppressive power toward liberation and hope. Amen.***

SCRIPTURE Ephesians 1:3-14

MESSAGE "A Down Payment" Mark Biddle

TIME OF REFLECTION & RESPONSE "What Child Is This" Arr. Guaraldi
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.

CLOSING HYMN NO. 167 "Go Tell It on the Mountain" GO TELL IT
Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

Leader: As you follow the star on your journey, don't look for the holy in places of power and prestige.

People: **Instead, may we pay attention to the ordinary and quiet places.**

All: ***There, we may be overcome with joy, and share our gifts with creation, determined to make a difference in our world.***

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ is with you.

People: **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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.

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 January, we pray to overcome in Christ's name the heritage of racism in Metropolitan Richmond. For the week of January 2, we pray for racial reconciliation, healing, and justice in Metropolitan Richmond; for an end to all personal and structural racial prejudice and discrimination.