

The Worship of God

GINTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

Zoom Meeting ID: 804 359 2475 • 6100 Chamberlayne Road, Richmond VA • 804-359-2475

Epiphany Sunday • January 8, 2023 • 10:30 AM

GATHERING & REFLECTING (10:20 AM)

Give a little bit

Give a little bit of your love to me

I'll give a little bit

I'll give a little bit of my love to you

There's so much that we need to share

So send a smile, and show you care

I'll give a little bit

I'll give a little bit of my life for you

So give a little bit

Oh give a little bit of your time to me

See the man with the lonely eyes

Oh take his hand, you'll be surprised

Oh give a little bit of your love to me

I'll give a little bit

I'll give a little bit of my life for you

Now's the time that we need to share

So find yourself, we're on our way back home

Don't you need to feel at home?

- "Give a Little Bit"

CHIMING THE TRINITY

Ruth Caudill

CALL TO WORSHIP

Sheryl Johnson

One: We gather wondering, "Where will we find the Babe born in Bethlehem?"

Many: We will find the Babe in the laughter of children, in the wisdom of grandparents.

One: We gather asking, "Where will we find the Child of Christmas?"

Many: We will find the Child where the needy are gifted with hope, where the oppressed are set free.

One: We gather wanting to know, "Where will we find the Christ who has come for us?"

Many: We will find our Hope where fear is overwhelmed by grace, where hatred is overwhelmed by love, where all people are overwhelmed by joy

INVOCATION PRAYER

HYMN No. 151

"The First Noel"

THE FIRST NOEL

SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS

Sheryl 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.

HYMN	“To Live as Christ’s Disciples” Music and Text Below	ST. THEODULPH
SCRIPTURE	Matthew 2:1-12	Anita Laffoon
SERMON	“Give a Little Bit”	Anita Laffoon

TIME OF REFLECTION

RESPONSE AND COMMITMENT TO THE RULE OF LIFE

ANNOUNCEMENTS & THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

HYMN	“This Little Light of Mine”	LATTIMER
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BENEDICTION

PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ is with you.

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

Announcements

Metro Richmond at Prayer

During the week of January 8, we pray to overcome in Christ’s name the heritage of racism: For the elimination of discrimination in housing, policing, education, employment, transportation, and churches in Metropolitan Richmond.

Questions from Team Right Brain

Team Right Brain has been talking about some of the "big picture" aspects of what our next home might look like. After a few conversations among the team members and with your input, we would like to present you with three questions to answer. If you feel more comfortable processing your thoughts in writing, please send your responses to Anita (alaffoon@ginterparkbc.org). Or, if you'd rather discuss your ideas with a team member, feel free to reach out to Don Polaski, Kelly Schmitt, Eric Johnson, Karen Talley, or Anita. We'd love to meet with you!

Please let one of us know if you need more clarification about the questions. Remember, these are "big picture" thoughts, so the questions are intentionally open-ended. We'll work on more precise details later. **We're hoping to have as many responses as possible by Jan 8th.**

- 1) Where do you see us living out our mission?
- 2) What is essential to living out our mission? What would our space need to be equipped with?
- 3) In what ways do you see us serving others with our space? (Who are our neighbors, and how can our space serve both them and us?)

We look forward to hearing from you!

Day for all People

Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (one of our ministry partners), hosts Day for All People, their annual Advocacy Day where they bring together people of faith and goodwill from across Virginia. All are invited to join with other motivated Virginians to make your voices heard on economic, racial, and social justice issues.

Click here for more information, and to sign up: [Virginia Interfaith Center](#)

Church Business Meeting

The next church business meeting will be January 22nd, immediately after worship. Please make plans to attend either in person or via Zoom.

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)!

The Thursday morning Bible study...

...will break for the holidays. Sessions resume January 12, 2023. All are invited to join this fascinating time together as we study the Acts of the Apostles. We meet in the education wing of the building at 10 a.m. for fellowship, prayer, refreshments and study.

Back Pack Update!

Keep bringing in those grocery bags!!! We are packing 36 double bags each week! If you have questions about the process let Dixie know! Contact information can be found on REALM.

Page Turners Book Club

A new book has been chosen! The book to read and discuss in February is "Remarkably Bright Creatures" by Shelby Van Pelt. We will meet at 4pm. Location TBD.

Hymn Texts

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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.

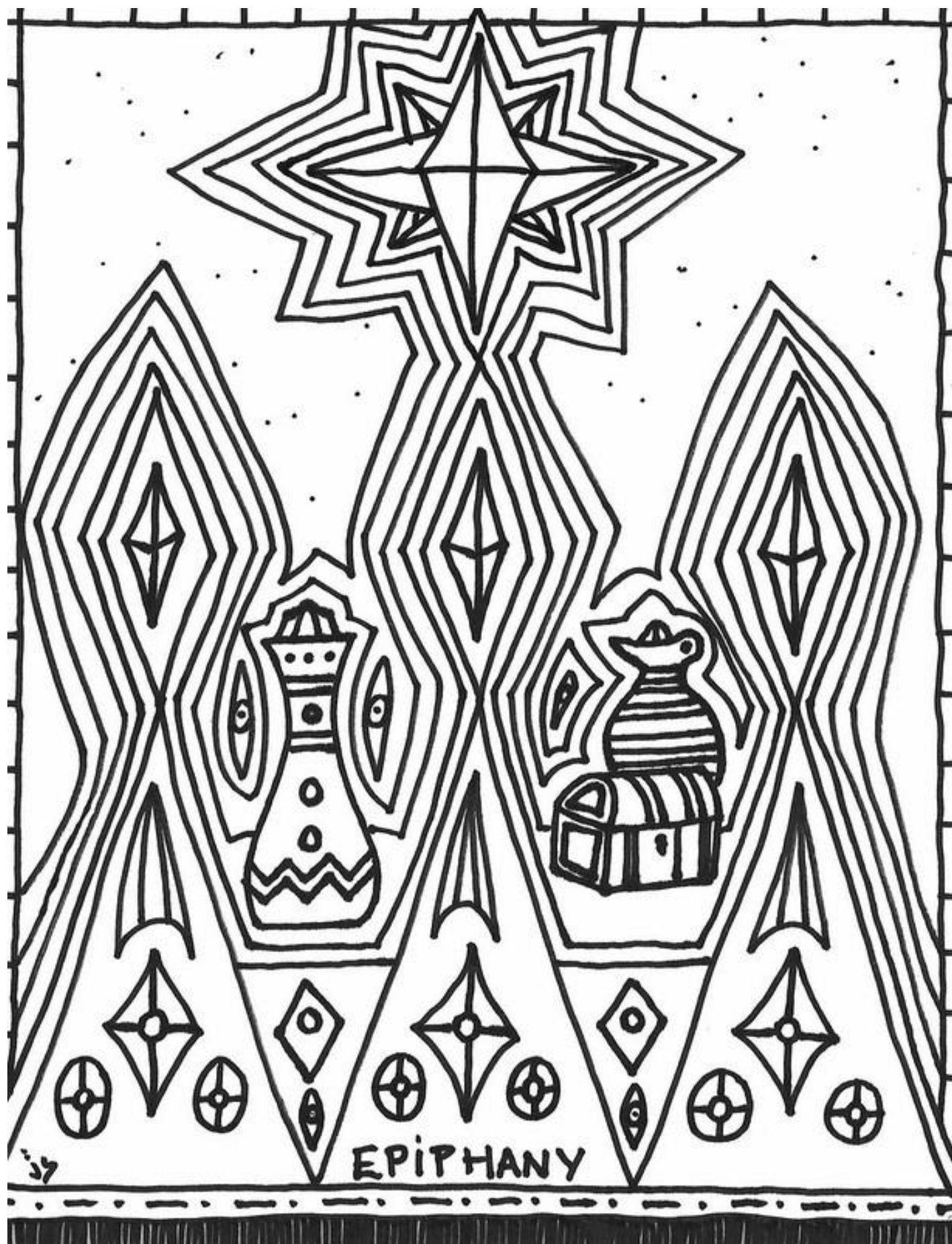
And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went:
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

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.

This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine! This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine!
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine! Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!



EPIPHANY

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In the 6th century, Benedict of Nursia created the *Rule of St. Benedict*, a document to help monastic communities structure communal elements so that they may live a healthy life together. Today, a Rule of Life may be used by a faith community to describe the values and character traits that reflect how they seek to live as followers of Jesus, along with the life-shaping practices that are central to the hopes and dreams of their shared life together.

A Rule of Life is not a list of rules a person must obey or a list of doctrines a person must believe. Rather, it seeks to be a way to guide our lives as followers of Jesus, a lens through which we view our decisions, order our actions, and reflect on the outcomes.

Ginter Park Baptist Church's history is one of responding to a call we believe to be from God, and we have adopted our own Rule of Life. Developed in part out of the life already being lived together, but also in response to how we see the Spirit calling us forward to be the church for a new millennium, we ask each person who wishes to identify with this community of faith to commit to this Rule of Life as we seek together to live as the body of Christ in this time and place.

RULE OF LIFE

As disciples of Jesus, we seek to live in such a way that our individual lives and our shared life together reflect the life of Christ in the world. With the help of the Holy Spirit, each of us thus commits to:

- Practice radical acceptance and welcome of all persons, affirming them as created in the image of God and as beloved of God
- Build relationships among ourselves and throughout our community in a commitment to shared mission and a common life
- Serve our Richmond neighbors and the wider world, working towards the dismantling of oppressive systems and serving with those whose lives seek transformation
- Engage in learning as a lifelong pursuit, acknowledging complexity and embracing mystery while seeking, giving, and receiving truths in humility
- Operate with a culture of generosity, trusting in the abundance of God and refusing to operate with a scarcity mentality
- Be accountable to one another, speaking out when necessary and asking awkward questions that may upset the status quo
- Live our lives as a conversation with God in a commitment to personal spiritual practices
- Extend grace to ourselves, to one another, and to all those whose paths we cross whenever we fall short of our pursuit to love God with our whole selves and our neighbor as ourselves.