

The Worship of God

GINTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

First Sunday of Advent • December 3, 2023 • 10:30 AM

GATHERING & REFLECTING (10:20 AM)

During this time of reflection, we invite you to take a few moments to prepare yourself for worship. Take a few deep breaths and settle into the quiet. Center yourself through art by coloring the attached picture. Slip off your shoes and remember that you are on holy ground. No matter what this time looks like for you, all of you are welcome in this space.

*It doesn't matter whether or not
you can have faith;
whether or not you are cynical
or despairing,
hope-filled or hope-less:
what matters to God is simply
that you are here.*

*We are entering the time of
Advent,
in preparation for Christmas.
Advent reminds us that if God is
to be born again
in the most ordinary parts of
our world and our lives
that we need to prepare for it.
We need to make the space in
our lives
where love might be born.*

*Welcome to this tiny corner of a
harsh and dark world.
Together, let us practice being
ready
in the faith that Christ will
come.*

~ written by Cheryl Lawrie

CHIMING THE TRINITY

Lisa Horn

CALL TO WORSHIP

Raymond Cady

*Responsive readings like this one are a part of worship. The congregation's part is in **bold**.*

One: Tear open the heavens and bring forth your presence. We watch and we wait for the glory to come.

Many: We gather with hope, remembering your mercy. Lead us in love; shine from above.

One: Awaken the earth, inflame and enliven. We watch and we wait for what's birthing ahead.

Many: We gather with hope, remembering your justice. Revive us, restore us; shine from above.

One: Make us your love wave to broaden your reach. We watch and we wait for your deeds to appear.

Many: We gather with hope, remembering your handiwork. Make us, mold us; shine from above.

INVOCATION PRAYER

HYMN NO. 125

"Come, O Long-Expected Jesus"

HYFRYDOL

Some of us stand while singing, and others don't. Please join us in song in whatever way you are comfortable.

LIGHTING THE FIRST CANDLE: HOPE

The word "Advent" comes from an ancient Latin phrase meaning "until the coming." It is a period of spiritual preparation in which many Christians make themselves ready for the coming of the Christ-child.

In this time for reflection, we take each Sunday leading up to the celebration of the birth of Jesus to reflect on some themes that center us as we wait with eager expectation for the glory of God to be revealed. This Sunday, many across the globe center on "Hope."

One: When the world is frightening and we desire to escape from the ongoing suffering,

Many: The Womb of Creation invites us to remember a hope within.

One: It is the hope within us that leads us to transform the conditions around us.

Many: We cling to hope in a world full of despair. We search for it;

One: We dare to discover hope in the small, yet magnificent moments of our days.

Many: Let us light this candle of hope as we remember the God-with-us and the hope within us.

RESPONSE

“Advent Doxology”

IRBY

Praise to God, the One who made us. Praise to Christ, the soon-born Son.

Praise the Spirit, ever with us. Praise the Godhead, Three in One.

Clear a path! Prepare the way! Advent leads to Christmas Day!

© 2022 Worship Rx

Used by Permission

SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS

Raymond Cady

Prayer requests are shared out loud with the gathered community. If you have a joy or a concern to share, please raise your hand to request the microphone

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 339

“Just As I Am”

WOODSWORTH

SCRIPTURE

[Isaiah 64:1-9](#)

Anita Laffoon

One: This is the word of God for the people of God

Many: Thanks be to God

SERMON

“She Talks to Angels”

Anita Laffoon

TIME OF REFLECTION & RESPONSE “‘Have Thine Own Way’ with ‘She Talks to Angels’”

Arr. Horn

HOLY COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS & THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

HYMN No. 708

“My Lord, What a Morning”

BURLEIGH

BENEDICTION

PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ is with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

Our services are hybrid, meaning there are cameras in the worship space to allow those joining us via Zoom to fully participate. If you would rather not be on camera, we have marked the areas where our cameras can't see you.

Announcements

Metro Richmond at Prayer

During the week of December 3, we pray for persons in financial need in Metropolitan Richmond: For the unemployed and underemployed, for suitable work, living wages, and fair benefits for all workers in this metropolitan city.

Pray for our Ministry Partners

Side by Side is dedicated to creating supportive communities where Virginia's LGBTQ+ youth can define themselves, belong, and flourish. They provide support groups and counseling for youth, housing services for young adults, and support for parents and caregivers of LGBTQ+ youth in Richmond.

VICPP Day for All People

The General Assembly will be here before you know it! Now would be a great time to register for Day for All People, our annual advocacy day that lifts concerns of "all people" (especially those who have low-incomes and are marginalized) to legislators. Mark your calendars for Wednesday, January 17, 8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church (one block from the General Assembly). Cost - \$30 early bird rate (\$40 after January 1, 2024)

Christmas Eve Service

Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year, so we will trade our morning worship service for an evening service. Hope to see you at 5pm on the 24th!

Study opportunities:

- Sundays at 9am - Curveball: When Your Faith Takes Turns You Never Saw Coming by Peter Enns
- Thursdays at 8:45am - The Uncluttered Heart: Making Room for God During Advent and Christmas by Beth A. Richardson
- Thursdays at 10am - Acts of the Apostles
- Wednesdays at 7pm - *The Ragamuffin Gospel* by Brennan Manning

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)!

Page Turners Book Club

Next meeting will be February 18th at 4pm, location TBA. We will be reading and discussing *Go As A River* by Shelley Read.

BP Update

We are now delivering 35 bags each week for identified food insecure students and Frances McClenney Elementary School. THANKS TO ALL, all volunteer bases are covered to make this happen again this year! PLEASE, continue to bring in those grocery bags...gotta' have those!!!

Hymn Texts

CCLI License # 21155203

Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

Come, O long-expected Jesus, born to set your people free.
From our fears and sins release us; Christ, in whom our rest shall be.
You, our strength and consolation, come salvation to impart;
dear desire of every nation, joy of many a longing heart.

Born your people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, born your gracious realm to bring.
By your own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by your all-sufficient merit raise us to your glorious throne.

Just As I Am

Just as I am, without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bid'st me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Just as I am, thy love unknown, hast broken ev'ry barrier down;
now, to be thine, yea, thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

My Lord, What a Morning

My Lord, what a morning; my Lord, what a morning;
oh, my Lord, what a morning, when the stars begin to fall.

You'll hear the trumpet sound, to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall.

My Lord, what a morning; my Lord, what a morning;
oh, my Lord, what a morning, when the stars begin to fall.

You'll hear the sinner moan, to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall.

My Lord, what a morning; my Lord, what a morning;
oh, my Lord, what a morning, when the stars begin to fall.

You'll hear the Christian shout, to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall.

My Lord, what a morning; my Lord, what a morning;
oh, my Lord, what a morning, when the stars begin to fall.