

# The Worship of God

## GINTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

Zoom Meeting ID: 804 359 2475 • 6100 Chamberlayne Road, Richmond VA • 804-359-2475  
Second Sunday of Advent • December 10, 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

Eric Johnson

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

One: A voice cries out declaring God's presence. "Comfort, O Comfort my people," says God.

**Many: We come preparing the way of the Lord. Together, we actively wait for God's peace.**

One: A voice cries out declaring God's equity. Valleys shall be lifted and hills be made low.

**Many: We come to make straight in the desert a highway. Together, we're pressing toward God's peace.**

One: A voice cries out declaring steadfastness. Grass withers, flowers fade, but God's word stands forever.

**Many: We lift up our voices with strength and good tidings. Together, we carry out God's peace.**

### INVOCATION PRAYER

#### HYMN No. 119

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

VENI EMMANUEL

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

### LIGHTING THE SECOND CANDLE: PEACE

*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 “Peace.”*

One: Today we light the second candle of Advent.

**Many: We seek your comfort. Both mighty and tender, you come. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you.**

One: Isaiah announced God’s coming to a people exiled in a broken and parched wilderness.

**Many: He declared that God’s redemption would make a highway in the desert and change the rough places into plain.**

One: God would come as a shepherd—feeding, leading, and cradling the weary flock.

**Many: This Advent, we seek such a God.**

One: Saving God, look upon your world and heal your land and your people. Prepare us to be changed.

**Many: This Advent, teach us to be tender and just, as you are. Amen.**

**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!

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**SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS**

Eric Johnson

\*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 NO. 160**

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

ES IST EIN ROS

**SCRIPTURE**

[Isaiah 40:1-11](#)

Anita Laffoon

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

**Many: Thanks be to God**

**SERMON**

“Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord”

Anita Laffoon

**TIME OF REFLECTION & RESPONSE** “Prepare Ye the Way’ with ‘Emmanuel, Emmanuel”

Arr. Horn

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & THE WORK OF THE CHURCH**

**HYMN No. 149**

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

REGENT SQUARE

**No. 134**

*Fourth Stanza Only*  
“Emmanuel, Emmanuel”

MCGEE

## **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 10, we pray for persons in financial need in Metropolitan Richmond: For the homeless and the hungry, for the provision of safe, affordable housing and low cost nutritious food, for the personal safety, dignity, and well being of those who are unable to work.

### **Pray for our Ministry Partners**

RPS Foundation - The mission of Richmond Public Schools Education Foundation is to partner with Richmond Public Schools to actively develop philanthropic resources and community relationships that support the goal to improve student learning and achievement in preparation for success in college, career, and community.

### **Potluck**

Let's celebrate JOY on the third Sunday of Advent with a potluck lunch! Bring a dish (or dessert) to share after worship on Sunday, Dec 17 and join us for a church family meal. Hope to see you there!

### **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 24<sup>th</sup>!

### **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!

## **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 36 bags of food weekly to identified food insecure students at 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**

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### **O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things, far and nigh;  
to us the path of knowledge of show, and cause us in her ways to go.  
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;  
bid envy, strife and quarrels cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

### **Lo, How a Rose, E'er Blooming**

Lo, how a rose, e'er blooming, from tender stem hath sprung,  
of Jesse's lineage coming by faithful prophets sung;  
it came, a flow'ret bright, amid the cold of winter  
when half-spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind;  
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright she bore to us a Savior  
when half-spent was the night.

### **Angels from the Realms of Glory**

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.

### **Emmanuel, Emmanuel**

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel.  
God with us, revealed in us, His name is called Emmanuel.