

The Worship of God

GINTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

Zoom Meeting ID: 804 359 2475 • 6100 Chamberlayne Road, Richmond VA • 804-359-2475
Christmas Eve • December 24, 2023 • 5:00 PM

GATHERING & REFLECTING (4:50 PM)

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.

*The shepherds came to
See the baby
Stood by his mother's side
Here laid the Savior
Inside a manger
Oh what a glorious night
Oh what a glorious night*

*I hear the angels singing hallelujah
Let the earth receive her king
I know that love has come
Sing it out
Jesus Christ is born
Jesus Christ is born
- Sidewalk Prophets, *What a Glorious Night**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Tracy Cady

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

One: God with us, the one who take us from the tent to the throne

Many: The one who prepares places for us and promises rest from our enemies

One: We open our hearts and souls to the beauty of your kin-dom. We seek to hear the precious news once again

Many: That we might be continually renewed, transformed, and awed by your abundant love, everlasting peace, miraculous hope, and quenchless joy.

One: May our praise and prayers be pleasing to you.

Many: May our lives reflect the beauty you have birthed in us.

INVOCATION PRAYER

HYMN NO. 104

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

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

LIGHTING THE FOURTH CANDLE: LOVE

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 “Love.”

One: We will sing of your steadfast love, O God; forever, with our mouths we proclaim your faithfulness.

Many: We declare your love, unending, unending. We will sing. We will sing.

One: Our never-ceasing songs shall show the mercies of God for the ages to know

Many: We declare your love, eternal, enduring. We will sing. We will sing.

One: Our song forever shall record the tender mercies of the LORD;

Many: We declare your love, immortal, sustaining. We will sing. We will sing.

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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SCRIPTURE

[Isaiah 9:2-7](#)

Anita Laffoon

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

Many: Thanks be to God

SERMON

“What a Glorious Night”

Anita Laffoon

RESPONSE No. 148

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

ADESTE FIDELES

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

On Christmas Eve we light the final candle, the Christ Candle, in celebration that Christ came into the world and lived as one of us.

One: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

Many: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

One: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

Many: We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

One: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

Many: In him was life, and the life was the light of humanity.

RESPONSE

“Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come”

Arr. Billingsly

Joy to the world! the Lord is come; let earth receive her King:
let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns; let men their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrow grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love,
and wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.

SCRIPTURE

[Luke 2:1-20](#)

Anita Laffoon

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

Many: Thanks be to God

SERMON

“What a Glorious Night”

Anita Laffoon

TIME OF REFLECTION & RESPONSE

“At This Table”
Frederick D. Horn, Baritone

Menzel & Myrin

HOLY COMMUNION

HYMN NO. 145

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

STILLE NACHT

SHARING THE LIGHT

Deacons will receive the light from the Christ Candle and pass it to the congregation as we sing “Silent Night.” Once all our candles are lit, we will process out the front doors and conclude our service outside.

****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.****

Supporting reading at Ginter Park Elementary

Books for the Weekend Backpack Ministry students were given to the glory of God and in honor of or in memory of loved ones by the following persons:

The Cadys in honor of Rev. Anita, Fred, and Dixie

Katherine Baucom and Alison Seger in memory of Tom, Katherine, Al, Gloria, and Tommy

Bob Dillon in honor of Gordon Leathers

Paul and Keene Irwin in memory of Paul and Charlotte Irwin

Paul and Keene Irwin in memory of George and Mildred Adams

Carole Bradley in memory of Nancy Bradley Williams

Gordon & Dixie Leathers in memory of Don Kelly

Gordon & Dixie Leathers in memory of Thurman Barnett

Gordon & Dixie Leathers in memory of Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Kelly

Gordon & Dixie Leathers in memory of Dr. and Mrs. W.W. Leathers

Dick Transill in memory of Bonnie Transill

Ann Keller in memory of Ed Keller

Don & Sandra Hack Polaski in honor of Pat Polaski

Annie Campbell and Bob Dillon in memory Ann Stuart and Ed Garnett

Annie Campbell and Bob Dillon in honor of April and Jeff Morin

Annie Campbell and Bob Dillon in honor of Monica and Bill Mensch

Annie Campbell and Bob Dillon in honor of Patrick Dillon and Chelsea Schmidt

Connie Bak in memory of the Very Rev. Boleslaw Bak & Marie Bak

Anonymous in honor of Tracy and Raymond Cady

Hymn Texts

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Of the Father's Love Begotten

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
Christ is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he!
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heaven, sing praises; angels and archangels sing!
And on earth let all the faithful now your joyous anthems ring,
ev'ry tongue Christ's name confessing, countless voices answering,
evermore and evermore!

Christ, to thee with God Creator, and O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be:
Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore!

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the King of angels:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,
we would embrace thee, with love and awe;
who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born for our salvation,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

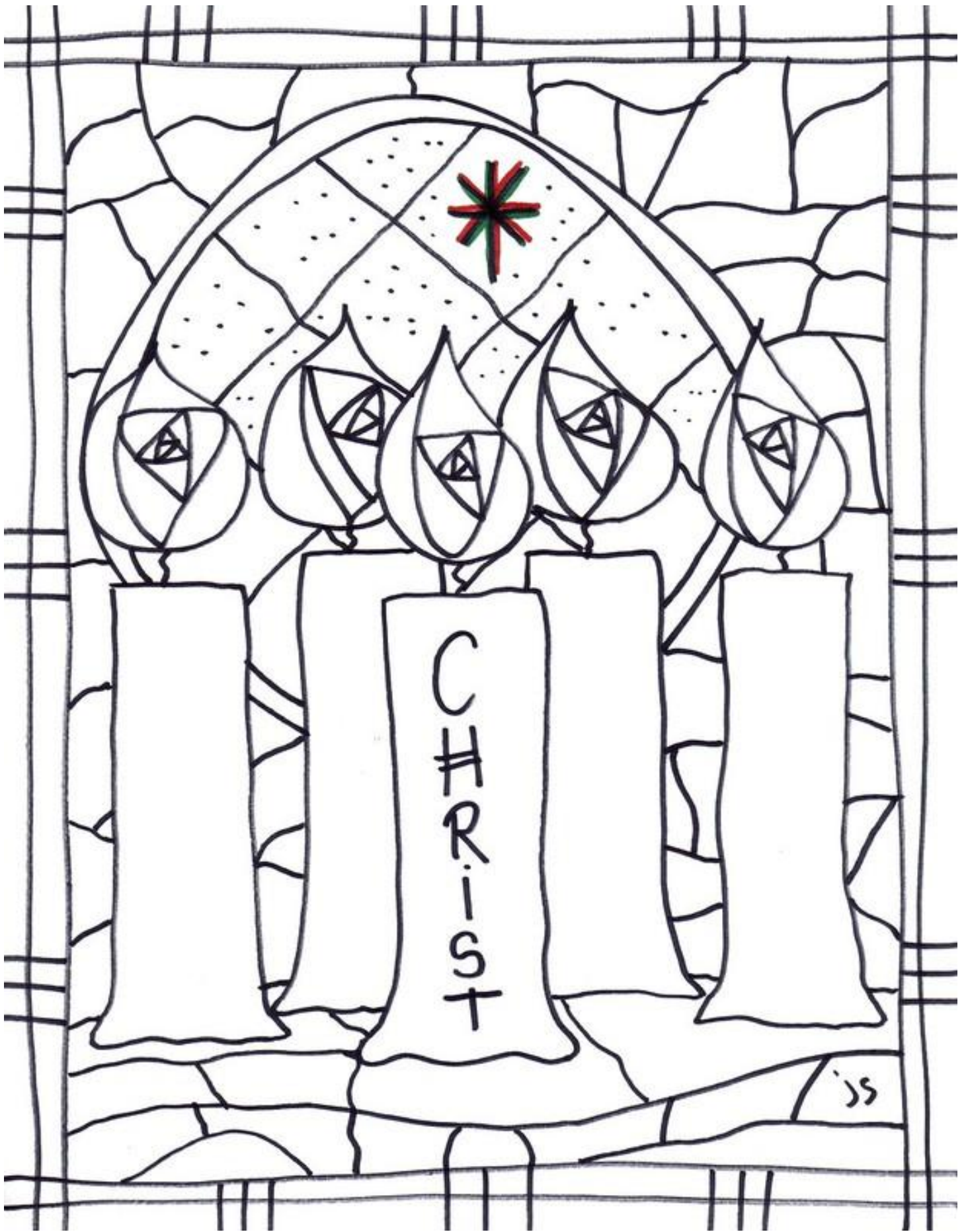
Silent Night, Holy Night

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright,
round yon virgin mother and child, holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night. shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior is born, Christ, the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night. Son of God, love's pure light,
radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace:
Jesus, Lord at thy birth, Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing, alleluia to our King;
Christ, the Savior, is born, Christ, the Savior, is born.



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