

The Worship of God

GINTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

Zoom Meeting ID: 804 359 2475 • 6100 Chamberlayne Road, Richmond VA • 804-359-2475
Seventh day of Christmas • December 31, 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.

CHIMING THE TRINITY

Lisa Horn

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jeana Murray-Nieporte

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

One: Long ago a vineyard was planted. The ground was prepared, and all was made ready.

Many: But the vines grew wild, the ground was unable to support the wild grapes.

One: What happened in that place of promise?

Many: People forgot the One who planted the vineyard. They chose their own ways and failed.

One: Let us again turn to the Lord, who will again plant, prune, and cause us to grow in faithfulness.

Many: Let us open our hearts to God, trusting in God's ways and God's word. Amen.

INVOCATION PRAYER

HYMN No. 165

“Once in Royal David’s City”

IRBY

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

SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS

Jeana Murray-Nieporte

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. 150

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

MENDELSSOHN

SCRIPTURE

[Isaiah 5:1-7, 11:1-5](#)

Braxton Wade

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

Many: Thanks be to God

SERMON

Braxton Wade

TIME OF REFLECTION & RESPONSE

Arr. Horn

“‘Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming’ with ‘Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas’”

ANNOUNCEMENTS & THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

HYMN No. 155

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

GLORIA

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.

Our guest speaker today is Braxton Wade. Braxton (he/him) is a native of Richmond, VA, a craft beer and cocktail lover, and an enneagram fanatic (he's a 3, iykyk). Braxton received his MDiv from Chicago Theological Seminary and has served in multiple pastoral roles before accepting the call to plant The Table, a Baptist Faith Community. He is passionate about racial recognition, fighting injustices, and seeing a more diverse church and community.

Announcements

Metro Richmond at Prayer

During the week of December 31, we pray for persons in financial need in Metropolitan Richmond: For effective, affordable, regional public transportation to support job access; and for sufficient employment to make healthy family life possible.

Pray for our Ministry Partners

Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy is the largest statewide advocacy voice for the faith community in Virginia. The organization focuses primarily on issues of racial, social, and economic justice. They include Virginians of all faiths including people who identify as Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Bahai, humanist, “spiritual, not religious,” “religious none,” and people of goodwill.

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)

Diaper Drive

We will continue collecting diapers, wipes, and pull-ups until January 14th. As a reminder, the diaper sizes needed are 4, 5, 6 and/ or pull-ups, but any donations are welcome!

Study opportunities:

- Sundays at 9am - Curveball: When Your Faith Takes Turns You Never Saw Coming by Peter Enns
- Thursdays at 10am - Acts of the Apostles
- Wednesdays at 7pm - *The Ragamuffin Gospel* by Brennan Manning

Chili Cook-off and Bingo

Save the date - Chili Cook-off and Bingo night will be January 26th!

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 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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Once in Royal David's City

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that Mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

Christ came down to earth from heaven love incarnate for us all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor, the scorned, the lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

Jesus is our childhood's pattern; day by day like us he grew,
he was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew;
Thus he feels for our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
for that child who seemed so helpless, lives and reigns in heaven above;
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

Hark! The Herald-Angels Sing

Hark! the herald-angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem."
Hark, the herald-angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, offspring of a Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark, the herald-angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings,
mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark, the herald-angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be, which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see Christ, who comes in lowly birth.
Come, adore on bended knee Jesus, joy of heav'n and earth.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

See within a manger laid, Christ, whom choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

