

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 7, 2024 • 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, your whole self is welcome in this space.

CHIMING THE TRINITY

Lisa Horn

CALL TO WORSHIP

Lisa Horn

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

One: Eternal God, You sent Mary on a journey to Egypt and led Hagar through the desert.

Many: You lit the wilderness way for Moses and produced manna for his family.

One: Send us into this new year with fire to see by, bread to live by,

Many: And family to travel with, as we follow your voice in the world.

One: Where you go, O Lord, we will go; and where we lodge, you will lodge,

Many: for we are your people, and you are our God. Amen.

INVOCATION PRAYER

HYMN No. 151

“The First Noel”

THE FIRST NOEL

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

Lisa Horn

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. 162

“What Child Is This”

GREENSLEEVES

SCRIPTURE

[Matthew 2:1-12](#)

Anita Laffoon

One: This is the Word of God, for the people of God

Many: Thanks be to God

SERMON

“Wherever You Will Go”

Anita Laffoon

TIME OF REFLECTION & RESPONSE “‘Wherever You Will Go’ with ‘We Three Kings’”

Arr. Horn

HOLY COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS & THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

HYMN No. 173

“As with Gladness”

DIX

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 January 7, we pray to overcome in Christ's name the heritage of racism: For racial reconciliation, healing, and justice in Metropolitan Richmond; for an end to all personal and structural racial prejudice and discrimination, beginning with what is in our own hearts.

Pray for our Ministry Partners

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (Global) is a Christian network of individuals and churches working together to spread the hope of Christ. Their understanding of Baptist faith and practice is expressed by their emphasis on freedom in biblical interpretation and congregational governance, the participation of women and men in all aspects of church leadership and Christian ministry, and religious liberty for all people.

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!

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)

Quarterly Business Meeting

Our next business meeting will be Sunday, January 21st immediately after worship. Please plan to attend either in person or via Zoom.

Chili Cook-off and Bingo

Save the date - Chili Cook-off and Bingo night will be January 26th at 6pm! Look for a link on Realm to sign-up to bring chili, sides, or desserts. And don’t forget to bring a white elephant gift for bingo prizes!

Study opportunities:

- Advent Study – Final meeting is January 11 at 8:45am
- Bible Study: Book of Acts – Begins January 11 at 10am
- Sunday Morning – Begins January 14 at 9am
- Ragamuffin Gospel, 2.0 – TBA. Let Anita know if you are interested!

Just for kids!

We now offer lessons and activities for kids during worship! Thanks to all who have volunteered to make this possible!

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!!!

Thank You

A BIG Thank You, GPBC, for your thoughtful Christmas gift to each of us! Your staff: Anita, Fred, Karen, and Dixie.

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.

What Child Is This

What child is this, who, laid to rest on Mary's lap is sleeping?
whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
haste, haste to bring him laud the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here the silent Word is pleading:
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
haste, haste to bring him laud the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh, come, rich and poor, to own him,
the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
haste, haste to bring him laud the babe, the son of Mary.

As with Gladness

As with gladness sages bold did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright,
so, true Morning Star, may we evermore your splendor see.

As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly manger bed,
there to bend the knee before One whom heaven and earth adore,
so, may we with willing feet ever seek your mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at that manger plain and bare,
so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you from whom they spring.

Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way;
and when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed lives at last
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.

