

The Worship of God

Ginter Park Baptist Church

Zoom Meeting ID: 804 359 2475 • 6100 Chamberlayne Road, Richmond VA • 804-359-2475 ,
Christmas in July! • July 27, 2025 • 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

Shawne Soper

CALL TO WORSHIP

Eric Johnson

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

One: Arise, shine, for your light has come,

Many: and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

One: Nations shall come to your light,

Many: and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

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

Many: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

One: Let us celebrate the Light of the world,

Many: and may that light shine through us.

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.

This hymn invokes Jesus as the bright and morning star, calling Him to “dispel the shadows of the night and turn our darkness into light.” The plea echoes Luke 11:33, urging that divine light not be hidden—but manifest fully.

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. 153

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

CAROL

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” contrasts the world darkened by sin and strife with angelic light and message bringing peace into the night. The hymn aligns with Luke’s truth–light metaphor.

SCRIPTURE

[Luke 11:33-36](#)

Anita Laffoon

One: This is the Word of God, for the people of God
Many: Thanks be to God

SERMON

“Shooting Stars”

Anita Laffoon

TIME OF REFLECTION & RESPONSE “‘I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day’ with ‘Shooting Stars’” Arr. Horn

“I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day” is a hymn born in the midst of war and despair, moving from cannon–thunder darkness to a resounding declaration: “God is not dead . . . The Wrong shall fail . . . With peace on earth, good-will to men.” Both “Shooting Stars” and the hymn emphasize light breaking darkness, visibility, and guidance–be it through celestial imagery, inner spiritual light, or Christ as the Light of the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

HYMN

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

CRANHAM

This hymn is a stark contrast of wintry bleakness against the shedding of heavenly light in Christ’s birth. The hymn depicts light entering desolation–echoing Luke’s emphasis on inward illumination and “Shooting Stars” statement of moving through the world like shooting stars across the sky.

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain; heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign:
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there, cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
but His mother only, in her maiden bliss, worshiped the Beloved with a kiss.

What can I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give Him: give Him my heart.

CLOSING COMMISSION

One: We have sung, we have prayed, we have worshiped together.

Many: Now we go back out into the world.

One: We came together to build relationships,

Many: Relationships with each other, and our relationship with Jesus.

One: We go out as people who are strengthened by our connections

Many: Ready to love and to serve. Ready to carry God's love to the world.

One: As you journey through the ups and the downs of the coming week,

Many: Let us remember that God, who has invited us into relationship, is always with us.

One: Go with God, as the people of God.

Many: So be it! Amen

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.****



Are you visiting with us today? We'd love to get to know you better!
Scan the QR code to tell us more about you.

Announcements

Metro Richmond at Prayer

During the week of July 27, we pray for the governments and governing bodies of Metropolitan Richmond: For the Board of Supervisors of Henrico County, the County Administrator, and all county employees.

Pray for our Ministry Partners

The Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptist is one of our new mission partners! As the only organization solely devoted to building the Welcoming and Affirming movement within the Baptist traditions, AWAB has a unique call to be The National Voice for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Allied Baptists in the US. Since 1993 AWAB has been supporting churches in being and becoming Welcoming and Affirming of all people regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation. They work as individuals, congregations, regional groupings and as a national body to advance the Radical Welcome and Love of God in Jesus Christ through being the Ministry of Reconciliation and building up the Beloved Community where all will be one.

Summer Playlist

Our Summer Playlist sermon series continues! If you want to start listening now, you can find all of the songs that we'll be using this summer (in order) on Spotify -

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/48MMPHifkuqnetXoVfiwrJ?si=1b3c5c664f5b4cdb>

VA Pride

We have a booth at Pride again this year! Mark your calendars for Sept 27th, 12pm-6pm. Details and sign-up sheet coming soon!

Backpack Update

Our Backpack deliveries are winding down for the year. But, we'll still need bags for the fall so please continue to collect paper bags (with handles) this summer!

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)!

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.

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
"Peace on the earth, good will to all from heaven's all-gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing;
and ever o'er its Babel-sounds the blessed angels sing.

And you beneath life's crushing load whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way, with painful steps and slow,
look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years, shall come the time foretold;
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

“Shooting Stars” - Rival Sons

My love is stronger than yours
It's stronger than yours
It's stronger than yours
My love is stronger than your hate will ever be

And my faith is deeper than yours
It's deeper than yours
It's deeper than yours
My faith is deeper than your doubt will ever be

We move through the world like
Shooting stars across the sky
Splitting through the darkness
Putting a light into their eyes

My laughter is louder than yours
It's louder than yours
It's louder than yours
My laughter is louder than your shouting will ever be

And my dancing is better than yours
It's better than yours
It's better than yours
My dancing is better than your marching will ever be

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