

Welcome to Worship

Ginter Park Baptist Church

Zoom Meeting ID: 804 359 2475 • 3401 Brook Road, Richmond VA • 804-359-2475

Third Sunday of Advent • December 14, 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.

Yeah, I don't always feel it

Yeah, but that's when I need it

the most

So, I'ma keep on singing

'Til my soul catches up with my

song

There's times when my hands go

up freely

And times that it costs,

There's days when a praise

comes out easy

Days when it takes all the

strength I got...

...'Cause God, You've been

patient

God, You've been gracious

Faithful, whatever I'm feeling

or facing

So I'll bring my hard-fought,

heartfelt, it-is-well hallelujah,

Hallelujah, hallelujah

CHIMING THE TRINITY

Lisa Horn

CALL TO WORSHIP

Annie Campbell

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

Leader: Rejoice, people of God! Our hope is not fragile, and our joy is not pretend. Blessed are those whose help is in the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth, the One who keeps faith forever.

People: **We come to worship the God who lifts the lowly, who sets the captive free, who opens blind eyes, and who loves us with steadfast joy.**

Leader: Some of us come with easy laughter, and some with a hard-fought hallelujah—joy wrestled from the struggles of the week. Even Lucy teaches us that joy can break through sharp words, busy hearts, and the pressure to be perfect.

People: **God meets us here—with a joy deeper than our questions, stronger than our burdens, and brighter than our doubts.**

All: *Let us worship the God whose joy is coming into the world again and again—and whose joy is for all people. Amen.*

INVOCATION PRAYER

HYMN No. 143

“Joy to the World”

ANTIOCH

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

LIGHTING THE THIRD CANDLE - JOY

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 “Joy.”

One: Our souls proclaim your greatness, O God.

Many: And our spirits rejoice in you.

One: We will praise you as long as we live.

Many: With every breath, we will sing praises to you.

One: We will praise the One who gives food to the hungry,

Many: the One who enacts justice for the oppressed.

One: Our souls proclaim your greatness, O God

Many: As we light these candles in hope, peace, and joy.

RESPONSE NO. 128

“One Candle Is Lit”

CRADLE SONG

Come, festively sing while awaiting the birth, join angels in dancing from heaven to earth.

Wave banners of good news, lift high thankful praise. One candle is lit for the joy of these days.

SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS

Annie Campbell

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.

HYMNS

Congregations’ Choice

SCRIPTURE

[Psalm 146:5-10](#)

Anita Laffoon

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

Many: Thanks be to God

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

“Gaudete”

Arr. Batastini

Sandra H. Polaski, Recorder

SERMON

“Hard Fought Hallelujah”

Anita Laffoon

TIME OF REFLECTION & RESPONSE “‘O Tannenbaum’ with ‘Hard Fought Hallelujah’”

AZMON

ANNOUNCEMENTS & THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

HYMN No. 5

“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

AZMON

CLOSING COMMISSION

One: Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming. We wait filled with hope,

Many: Knowing your light will shine in the darkness.

One: We wait anticipating your peace,

Many: Believing that one day it will fill our world.

One: We wait with joy,

Many: Bubbling up in expectation of your birth.

One: We wait embracing your love,

Many: May we reach out to share it with our neighbors.

One: Lord we wait,

Many: Come soon and fill us with your life.

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 December 14, we pray for the families of Metropolitan Richmond: For persons who are lonely or have no family. For persons who are estranged from their families. For persons who are grieving the loss of a loved one. For all who need to feel the love of God.

Pray for our Ministry Partners

River City Faith Network is a network of churches that work together to serve the city of Richmond through a variety of ministry opportunities. Ministry Centers include Camp Alkulana, The Church Hill Christian Wellness Center, Oregon Hill Baptist Center, South Richmond Baptist Center, Central Virginia Raceway Ministry, and the WMU.

Advent Calendar

- Dec 14th – Joy – also our potluck brunch day - bring a dish to share at 9am!
- Dec 21st – Love
- Dec 24th – 5pm Christmas Eve service
- Dec 28th - Guest Preacher - Braxton Wade

Day for All People

Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy's annual Advocacy Day in partnership with Virginia Interfaith Power and Light is coming up! They bring hundreds of people of faith and goodwill from across Virginia to Richmond to engage in the legislative process. Join them in- person for inspirational presentations, informative workshops, and effective advocacy on **January 21, 2026**. Register on their website -

www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org

Save the Date!

Our annual Chili Cook-off and Bingo night will be January 31st! Mark your calendars, and start preparing your favorite recipes!

Thursday Morning Bible Study

The Thursday morning Bible study group will not meet December 18, 25 and January 1, 8. All are invited to join when the class resumes January 15, 2026 at 10 am at the Ashland location, 10981 Richardson Road.

Page Turners' Book Club

Meeting Postponed! The book club is reading "The Correspondent" by Virginia Evans, and they will gather for discussion on January 18 at 4pm at the home of Dixie Leathers.

Backpack Update

Our backpacks are being prepared at 10981 Richardson Rd, Ashland 23005. Dixie and Connie will continue as co-facilitators of the program. Contact one of them to volunteer. Don't forget to bring in your paper bags!

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!

Hymn Texts

CCLI License # 21155203

Joy to the World

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 world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

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.

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and king, the triumphs of God's grace!

Jesus, the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.

My loving Savior and my God, assist me to proclaim
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.

Glory to God and praise and love be ever, ever given
by saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heaven.

