

Welcome to Worship

GINTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Christmas Eve • December 24th, 2025 • 5:00 PM

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.

*The whole world is waiting
The whole world cries
The whole world is waiting
For the dawn to rise
Like you sweet Jesus
Our hope is born tonight
The whole world is waiting
The whole world cries*

*The power of love is with us.
When we are afraid
Though trouble may surround us
and we can't find our way
Your love shines like a candle
We will hold it close and say
The power of love is with us.
When we are afraid.*

CHIMING THE TRINITY

Dixie Leathers

CALL TO WORSHIP

Shawne Soper

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

Leader: Tonight we come like people who have been waiting—waiting for good news strong enough to steady our hearts.

People: We come to Bethlehem, to the Child, to hope made real.

All Sing: “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

St. Louis

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

Leader: In the fields, ordinary shepherds hear heaven break the silence.

People: Glory to God in the highest and peace to all the earth.

All Sing: “Angels We Have Heard on High”

St. Louis

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!

Leader: Like Linus stepping forward with a simple, steady voice, we remember what Christmas is really about: God with us.

People: We will go and see—and then we will tell.

All Sing:

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

ADESTE FIDELES

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!

Leader: Come, let the waiting end in worship.

People: Come, let the wonder begin.

All Sing: “Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

REGENT SQUARE

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;

you who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the new-born King.

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.

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.

LIGHTING THE FINAL CANDLE: THE CHRIST CANDLE

When all of our preparation has come to an end, we light the final candle, the Christ candle, on Christmas Eve as a symbol of the light of God coming to us at last in the birth of Christ.

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 NO. 128

“One Candle Is Lit”

CRADLE SONG

Come, listen, the sounds of God-with-us ring clear, and signs of a cross in the distance appear.

The Word once made flesh, yet the Word ever near. One candle is lit for the Christ-birthday here.

HYMN NO. 153

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

CAROL

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.

SCRIPTURE

[Luke 2:8-14](#)

Anita Laffoon

HYMN No. 153

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

MENDELSSOHN

Ooo—

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!"

SERMON

“The Whole World is Waiting”

Anita Laffoon

HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome to participate in Communion here, and you are also welcome to remain at your seat if that is more comfortable for you. Communion is received by intinction, where you are handed a piece of bread to dip in the chalice. We use non-alcoholic juice in the chalice, so that this is a safe table for all. Gluten-free bread and individual cups are also available.

TIME OF REFLECTION & RESPONSE “‘Linus and Lucy’ with ‘The Whole World Is Waiting’”

Arr. Horn

SHARING THE LIGHT

As we sing Silent Night, we will move outside to the brick walkway. Some of our Deacons will be waiting there with candles for you to light and share the light with one another.

HYMN No. 145

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

STILLE NACHT

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.

****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.

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:

Don & Sandra Hack Polaski in honor of Pat Polaski
Don & Sandra Hack Polaski in memory of Dianne Polaski
Shirley & Shawne in honor of Mildred Barnes
Dick Tansill in memory of Bonnie Tansill
Dick Tansill in memory of Woody Boyd
Ann Keller in memory of Ed Keller
Ann Keller in memory of Betty Ward
Nancy Williams in honor of George Allin
Nancy Williams in honor of Della Allin
Dixie & Gordon Leathers in memory of Don Kelly
Dixie & Gordon Leathers in memory of Thurman Burnette
Dixie & Gordon Leathers in memory of Boot & Tennie Kelly
Dixie & Gordon Leathers in memory of Dr. & Mrs. W.W. Leathers
Josh Walters & Ryan Ramsey in memory of Mary Ramsey
Fred & Lisa Horn in honor of Mason Thomas Ansley
Fred & Lisa Horn in honor of Parker William Ansley
Anonymous in memory of John White
Connie in memory of Very Rev. Boleslaw & Marie Bak
Katherine & Alison in memory of Bryan Carlson
Blue Hoekstra in memory of Wade Rucker
Leslie L. Hoekstra in honor of Nita Schlott-Schraver
Paul & Keene Irwin in honor of our Grandchildren
Raymond & Tracy Cady in honor of Anita Laffoon
Raymond & Tracy Cady in honor of Fred Horn
Raymond & Tracy Cady in honor of Noah Cady
Anonymous
Judy Seger
John Royster
Ruth Caudill in honor of all my special friends at Ginter Park Baptist Church

