

Welcome to Worship

Ginter Park Baptist Church

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

Second Sunday of Advent • December 7, 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.

All this pain

I wonder if I'll ever find my way

I wonder if my life could really change at all

All this earth

Could all that is lost ever be found

Could a garden come up from this ground at all?

You make beautiful things

You make beautiful things out of the dust

You make beautiful things

You make beautiful things out of us

- Gungor, "Beautiful Things"

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**.*

Leader: On this second Sunday of Advent, we gather with longing—longing for peace, longing for renewal, longing for God to make all things new.

People: We come seeking the One who brings life from a stump and beauty from the dust.

Leader: Isaiah tells us that a shoot will grow from the stump of Jesse—new life where none was expected, hope rising out of what once seemed finished.

People: We believe God still brings surprising life from places we have given up on.

Leader: And as the song reminds us, "God makes beautiful things out of the dust...beautiful things out of us."

People: We come as we are—imperfect, worn, maybe even a little dusty—trusting that God is shaping us into something beautiful.

Leader: Even Pigpen, surrounded by a cloud of dust, shines with a goodness that others sometimes fail to see. Advent invites us to see ourselves and one another with God's eyes—eyes that notice beauty where the world sees blemishes.

People: We open our hearts to the peaceable kingdom, where wolves and lambs live together, and where every person is cherished and made new.

Leader: Come, people of God. Let us walk toward the Light that leads to peace. Let us worship the One who makes all things beautiful.

All: Amen.

INVOCATION PRAYER

HYMN No. 125**“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”**

HYFRYDOL

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

LIGHTING THE SECOND CANDLE - PEACE

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 “Peace.”

One: God speaks of a time when the world will be led by one on whom the Holy Spirit rests.

Many: Wisdom and understanding, planning and strength, knowledge and fear of the Lord—these will guide him.

One: The world he leads won't look the same: wolf and lamb living together, leopard and goat napping together, calf and lion cub eating together.

Many: And a little child will lead it all.

One: Today we light the candle of peace, for the world God envisions is one free of harm and destruction.

Many: In peace, we wait for our coming Lord.

RESPONSE No. 128**“One Candle Is Lit”**

CRADLE SONG

Come quickly, shalom, teach us how to prepare for a gift that compels us with justice to care.

Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease. One candle is lit for the reign of God's peace.

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. 160**“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”**

ES IST EIN ROS

SCRIPTURE[Isaiah 11:1-10](#)

Anita Laffoon

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

Many: Thanks be to God

SERMON**“Beautiful Things”**

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 “‘Christmas Time Is Here’ with ‘Beautiful Things’”

Arr. Horn

ANNOUNCEMENTS & THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

HYMN No. 526

“The Gift of Love”

GIFT OF LOVE

CLOSING COMMISION

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 7, we pray for the families of Metropolitan Richmond: For single-parent families, adoptive families, foster families, and for households that are communities of friends. For elderly persons living in their own homes, in retirement communities, and in nursing institutions.

Pray for our Ministry Partners

Founded in 1936, The Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty brings a uniquely Baptist perspective of “soul freedom” to protecting religious liberty for all faiths and defending the separation of church and state. BJC is the only faith-based group working on the national level with this singular focus. They file briefs in pivotal Supreme Court cases, advocate for and against legislation, testify in Congress and unite with others across faiths to ensure that all Americans have, and will always have, the right to follow their spiritual beliefs.

Advent Calendar

- Dec 7th – Peace
- Dec 14th – Joy – also our potluck brunch day - bring a dish to share at 9am!
- Dec 21st – Love
- Dec 24th – 5pm Christmas Eve service

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

We continue the study of the Book of Acts, which is full of fascinating stories of the early church and flawed people we now revere as saints. Join in! 10am - 11:30am on Thursday mornings at 10981 Richardson Road, Ashland. Don Polaski is the teacher, contact him if you have questions.

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

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Come, O long-expected Jesus, born to set your people free.
From our fears and sins release us; Christ, in whom our rest shall be.
You, our strength and consolation, come salvation to impart;
dear desire of every nation, joy of many a longing heart.

Born your people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, born your gracious realm to bring.
By your own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by your all-sufficient merit raise us to your glorious throne.

Lo, How a Rose, E'er Blooming

Lo, how a rose, e'er blooming, from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming by faithful prophets sung;
it came, a flow'ret bright, amid the cold of winter
when half-spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright she bore to us a Savior
when half-spent was the night.

The Gift of Love

Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain; as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed.

