

The Worship of God

GINTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

Zoom Meeting ID: 834 854 376 Password: GPBC • 6100 Chamberlayne Road, Richmond VA
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany • February 20, 2022 • 10:30 AM

GATHERING & REFLECTING IN SILENCE (10:20 AM)

Fred Horn

“Sometimes tradition and habit are just that, comfortable excuses to leave things be, even when they are unjust and unworthy.” ~ Matthew Scully, *Dominion*

CHIMING THE TRINITY & LIGHTING THE CANDLES (10:30 AM)

As the candles on the altar are lit, you are each invited to light a candle on the table in front of you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Tracy Cady

One: Come and learn the ways of life.

Many: We have come to follow Jesus.

One: We come, those who seek to trust in God.

Many: We commit ourselves to do as Jesus would do for those around us.

One: We come, delighting in all the wonders God provides for us.

Many: We would not worry, but open ourselves to God’s heart.

One: We come, waiting patiently for God to speak.

Many: We will be still, listening for God’s words of hope, of peace.

One: Come and learn the ways of life.

Many: We have come to follow Jesus.

OPENING PRAYER

OPENING HYMN #668 (st. 1&2)

“For the Healing of the Nations”

CWM RHONDDA

For the healing of the nations,
Lord, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords;
to a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word,
help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us forward into freedom;
from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase,
fear will die and hope increase.

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SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS

Eric Johnson

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.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 6:27-38

SERMON

“Quid pro Quo isn’t the Means”

Mark Biddle

CELEBRATION OF RENEWAL & COMMITMENT

HYMN OF REFLECTION (*see insert*) “To Live as Christ’s Disciples”

ST. THEODULPH

RULE OF LIFE AFFIRMATION

Sheryl Johnson

One: As disciples of Jesus, we seek to live in such a way that our individual lives and our shared life together reflect the life of Christ in the world. With the help of the Holy Spirit, each of us thus commits to:

All: **Practice radical acceptance and welcome of all persons, affirming them as created in the image of God and as beloved of God.**

Build relationships among ourselves and throughout our community in a commitment to shared mission and a common life.

Serve our Richmond neighbors and the wider world, working towards the dismantling of oppressive systems and serving with those whose lives seek transformation.

Engage in learning as a lifelong pursuit, acknowledging complexity and embracing mystery while seeking, giving, and receiving truths in humility.

Operate with a culture of generosity, trusting in the abundance of God and refusing to operate with a scarcity mentality.

Be accountable to one another, speaking out when necessary and asking awkward questions that may upset the status quo.

Live our lives as a conversation with God in a commitment to personal spiritual practices.

Extend grace to ourselves, to one another, and to all those whose paths we cross whenever we fall short of our pursuit to love God with our whole selves and our neighbor as ourselves.

TIME OF REFLECTION & RESPONSE

To take seriously our commitment to our Rule of Life, we must identify ways in which it asks us as individuals to navigate life differently than how the world teaches. Where are you feeling challenged or inspired as you reflect on how to put the Rule into practice in your own life or in the collective work of this congregation? Take a moment to identify a word or phrase from our Rule that resonates with you and that you will carry forward into the places God is calling you. You are invited to add that word or phrase to our word cloud.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CALLED BUSINESS

Sandra Hack Polaski

CLOSING HYMN #518 (*ST. 1, 2, 3*) “This Is a Day of New Beginnings”

BEGINNINGS

**This is a day of new beginnings,
time to remember and move on,
time to believe what love is bringing,
laying to rest the pain that's gone.**

**For by the life and death of Jesus,
God's mighty Spirit, now as then,
can make for us a world of difference,
as faith and hope are born again.**

**Then let us, with the Spirit's daring,
step from the past and leave behind
our disappointment, guilt and grieving,
seeking new paths, and sure to find.**

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BENEDICTION

PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ is with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

To Live as Christ's Disciples

Sandra Polaski

The Ginter Park Hymn

Melchior Teschner, 1615

ST. THEODULPH

1. To live as Christ's dis - ci - ples, re - flect - ing Je - sus' way, The
2. In league with one an - o - ther, we pledge our u - ni - ty; Our
3. May learn - ing be our pas - sion, em - brac - ing mys - ter - y; While
4. We will be bold to ques - tion, an un - just stat - us quo, Nor
5. And when we fail each o - ther, miss goals for which we strive. The

5
Ho - ly Spir - it guides us to be the church to - day. All
mis - sion to live hum - bly and build com - mu - ni - ty. Dis -
seek - ing, shar - ing, hear - ing truths in hu - mil - i - ty. We
fear to speak the truth when we will find our - selves a lone. Through
grace that God has giv - en we will guide our com - mon life. So

9
peo - ple are cre - a - ted and loved by God, so we Ac -
arm - ing un - just a - sy - stems and free - ing the op - pressed
trust in God's a - bun - dance, suf - fic - ient for our needs, We
prayer and con - tem - pla - tion, we will at - tune our hearts And
lov - ing God su - preme - ly, our neigh - bors as our - selves For
We

13
cept and wel - come each one as God shapes them to be.
find our pur - pose serv - ing with those whom God calls blessed.
seek to spread God's boun - ty, through both our words and deeds.
life seek in con - ver - sa - tion, with God who is our source.
seek to find our pur - pose and in God's realm to dwell

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALLED BUSINESS MEETING FEBRUARY 20

Today near the close of worship there will be a special called business meeting to consider the following two motions:

- The Board of Deacons recommends that the church call the Rev. Chris Crowley to serve as our interim associate pastor with duties commiserate with the position as currently performed. This interim position will conclude upon the calling and installation of a senior pastor.
- The Board of Managers, in consultation with the Board of Deacons, recommends that Chris Crowley be given an annual salary of \$20,250 (\$1687.50/month) paid bi-monthly, and that per Rev. Crowley's request, the entire amount be designated as housing allowance for tax purposes.

We are grateful for the work of our Boards in identifying an interim to "mind the gap" as we work towards calling a pastor, and we appreciate the thoughtful consideration everyone in the congregation will give towards these recommendations.

BAPTIST WOMEN IN MINISTRY'S MONTH OF PREACHING

February is Baptist Women in Ministry's Month of Preaching, an opportunity for Ginter Park to publicly voice our support of women in ministry and to be counted with other Baptist churches in celebrating the calling and gifts of women. We are pleased to welcome Sandra Scott to the pulpit next Sunday, February 27. Originally from eastern North Carolina, Sandra is a first level M.Div. student at Union Presbyterian Seminary. She has led small group ministry to women for the Healing Place Center for Counseling and Spiritual Formation, Mechanicsville VA, and enjoys facilitating women's retreats. Her main hobby is gardening, tending to landscape flowers and indoor houseplants. She is the proud mother of two and even prouder grandmother of five. She currently resides in Highland Springs with her beloved husband, Sir Walter Jr., a retired US Army chaplain.

ASH WEDNESDAY

March 2 is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. We will hold a contemplative worship service that evening at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall as well as on Zoom (Meeting ID: 834 854 376 Password: GPBC). It will include the celebration of Communion and the imposition of ashes. Ashes have been used in Christian churches to mark the beginning of Lent since at least the 10th Century. We offer the imposition of ashes as a physical reminder of our mortality and our connection to creation. Please mark your calendars and make plans to join us.

CONSIDER YOUR 2022 PLEDGE

Many thanks to all who have made their 2022 pledge. Nearly \$46,000 has been promised! Besides our goal of \$70,000, we hope to increase the number of households who make pledges. If you have never made a pledge before, we hope this might be the year you start! You can submit a pledge online (www.onrealm.org/GinterParkBC/AddPledge/ministryplan); by email to our financial secretary, Karen (finance@ginterparkbc.org); or by placing a pledge card in the offering plate. We hope to receive these by today, February 20, but will gratefully receive them at any time. As we embark on this new "unconventional" budget journey, your pledge – no matter what size – is in part a statement of trust that God is still ready to use Ginter Park Baptist and we are ready to respond!

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY

Seeking to learn both about and from the stories of the Bible, this group gathers each Thursday morning from 10-11:30am in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to join anytime! If you would like to participate via Zoom on any given week, please contact Don Polaski (804-938-1789 or dcpolaski@gmail.com) before 9am that Thursday.

METRO RICHMOND AT PRAYER

Since March 2006, more than 470 churches in Metropolitan Richmond have joined in covenant to pray together weekly for the 1.2 million people who live in metro Richmond. GPBC has joined in this Covenant of Prayer, which began its fifteenth year on March 1, 2021. You can learn more and read the weekly prayers at www.metroprayva.org.

During February, we pray for the coming of God's realm in Metropolitan Richmond. For the week of February 20, **we pray for redemption of the divisions, prejudices, pettiness, despair, and discrimination of the past.**