

The Worship of God

GINTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

Zoom Meeting ID: 804 359 2475 • 6100 Chamberlayne Road, Richmond VA • 804-359-2475
Third Sunday in Lent • March 12, 2023 • 10:30 AM

GATHERING & REFLECTING (10:20 AM)

“...the hardest spiritual work in the world is to love the neighbor as the self—to encounter another human being not as someone you can use, change, fix, help, save, enroll, convince or control, but simply as someone who can spring you from the prison of yourself, if you will allow it.”

- Barbara Brown Taylor, *An Altar in the World*

CHIMING THE TRINITY

Ruth Caudill

CALL TO WORSHIP

Harry Gaines

One: We come, for God gathers us here, with that community called faith:

Many: Where the hungry are served first, where the thirsty drink life's water.

One: We come, for God welcomes us here into that home called grace:

Many: Where the naked are clothed in robes of hope; where the stranger is embraced as the long-lost prodigal.

One: We come, for God reunites us here, sisters and brothers in that family called love:

Many: Where the imprisoned model justice, where the sick are cradled in God's peace.

INVOCATION PRAYER

HYMN No. 461

“Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service”

BEACH SPRING

SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS

Harry Gaines

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.

LENTEN CHORUS No. 211

“Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley”

LONESOME VALLEY

Jesus walked this lonesome valley, he had to walk it by himself;
O, nobody else could walk it for him, he had to walk it by himself.

CONFESSION

**God of the people,
you have called us to walk humbly before you
and to share in the struggle with the least of these,
yet we have failed to live up to this call.
Today, we come before you
asking your Spirit to empower us
to be agents of transformation for the world.
Make us a chalice from which all the oppressed
can find the living waters of God,
who calls us to live a life of service, of humility,
and of reconciliation with you, with creation,
and with the world.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

One: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Many: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.

EXTINGUISH THE CANDLE

HYMN No. 475

“The Church of Christ in Every Age”

GERMANY

SCRIPTURE

[Matthew 25:31-46](#)

Anita Laffoon

SERMON

“Come Together”
Community

Anita Laffoon

TIME OF REFLECTION & RESPONSE

ANNOUNCEMENTS & THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

HYMN No. 714

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

AR HYD Y NOS

BENEDICTION

PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ is with you.

Many: And also with you...

Announcements

Metro Richmond at Prayer

During the week of March 12, we pray for health care in Metropolitan Richmond: For all the sick and their caregivers, doctors, nurses, hospice workers, home healthcare workers, and all who minister to the health of others. For clinics, medical personnel, and all institutions that serve persons who are uninsured or underinsured.

Pray for our Ministry Partners

RPS Foundation - The mission of Richmond Public Schools Education Foundation is to partner with Richmond Public Schools to actively develop philanthropic resources and community relationships that support the goal to improve student learning and achievement in preparation for success in college, career, and community.

Guest Speaker

Drew Perdue (they/them) will be our guest speaker on March 26th!

Drew is a last semester senior at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, VA, originally from Salem, VA. They are double majoring in Religious Studies and Sociology, they have a minor in Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies, and are on the Pre-Ministerial track. After their graduation in May, Drew plans to continue their education in seminary beginning in fall of 2023 with the goal of eventually becoming ordained in the Presbyterian Church (PCUSA). When not in classes, you can find Drew involved in various clubs and organizations on campus, at their church (Westminster Presbyterian Church), working at Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy as the Administrative Assistant, or FaceTiming their twin brother!

Team Right Brain

Team Right Brain will be presenting their report during the Church Check-in AFTER worship today!

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)!

Study Opportunities

- Thursday mornings at 10am - the book of Acts
- Sunday mornings at 9am - *Do I Stay Christian?* By Brian McLaren
- Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm - *Wholehearted Faith* by Rachel Held Evans

Page Turners Book Club

A new book has been chosen! The book to read and discuss in May is *The Reading List* by Sarah Nisha Adams. We will meet on May 21st at 4pm.

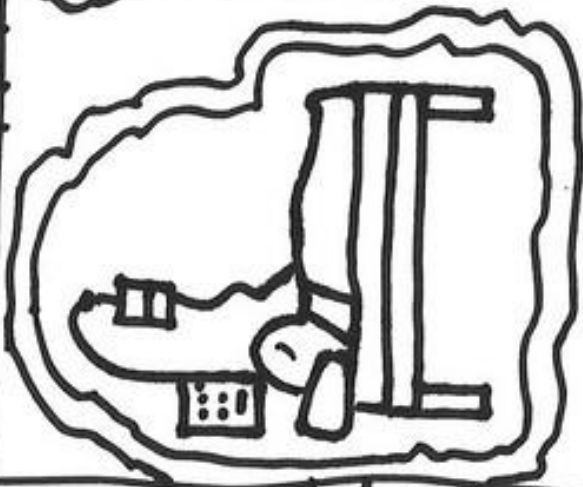
Back Pack Update!

Keep bringing in those grocery bags!!! We are packing 36 double bags each week! If you have questions about the process let Dixie know! Contact information can be found on REALM.

When?



When?

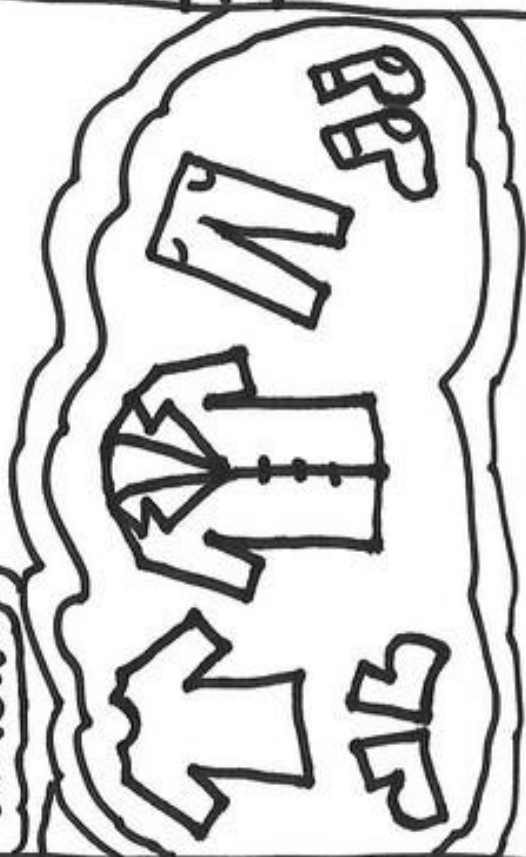


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When?



When?



Hymn Texts

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Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight
of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken, worked your mercy's
perfect deed:

we, your servants, bring the worship not of voice
alone, but heart;
consecrating to your purpose ev'ry gift which you
impart.

Still your children wander homeless; still the
hungry cry for bread;
still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we
mourn our dead.

As you, Lord, in deep compassion healed the sick
and freed the soul,
by your Spirit send your power to our world to
make it whole.

As we worship, grant us vision, till your love's
revealing light
in its height and depth and greatness dawns upon
our quickened sight,
making known the needs and burdens your
compassion bids us bear,
stirring us to ardent service, your abundant life to
share.

Called by worship to your service, forth in your
dear name we go,
to the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds
to show;
hope and health, good will and comfort, counsel,
aid and peace we give,
that your servants, Lord, in freedom may your
mercy know and live.

The Church of Christ, In Every Age

The church of Christ, in every age, beset by change
but Spirit-led,
must claim and test its heritage and keep on rising
from the dead.

Across the world, across the street, the victims of
injustice cry
for shelter and for bread to eat, and never live until
they die.

Then let the servant church arise, a caring church
that longs to be
a partner in Christ's sacrifice, and clothed in Christ's
humanity.

For Christ alone, whose blood was shed, can cure
the fever in our blood,
and teach us how to share our bread and feed the
starving multitude.

We have no mission but to serve in full obedience to
our Lord:
to care for all, without reserve, and spread Christ's
liberating word.

For the Fruit of All Creation

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God;
for the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God;
for the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth
while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to
God.

In the just reward of labor, God's will is done;
in the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done;
in our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and
despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God;
for the good we all inherit, thanks be to God;
for the wonders that astound us, for the truths that
still confound us,
most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.