

The Worship of God

GINTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

Zoom Meeting ID: 804 359 2475 • 6100 Chamberlayne Road, Richmond VA • 804-359-2475
Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost • October 15, 2023 • 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, all of you is welcome in this space.

CHIMING THE TRINITY

Lisa Horn

CALL TO WORSHIP

Nancy Williams

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

BLESSING THE BACKPACKS

One: Holy One, with you every transition and new start is a reminder of your goodness, for you are always creating fresh, amazing things in us and through us. We appreciate the opportunity to learn and grow, knowing it is one of the biggest privileges we have. With thanks and love, we now offer everything we are to you, asking for your blessing. We pray for students of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds. We pray for their hearts and all they hold—excitement and nervousness, disappointment and hope. We lift up all their joys and fears. We pray for steady self-esteem and deepening resilience.

Many: Loving God, keep them in your care.

One: We pray for their minds, that they will expand in wonder and celebration, learning not just from the books studied but the people beside them. Open their minds with a willingness to be changed in unexpected ways, and settle their thought loops in peaceful places.

Many: Faithful God, we thank you for the ways you are already at work in their lives.

One: We pray for their hands, that they will reach out to help, welcome, and care. Bless their hands with patience and dedication as they grip pencils and type on keyboards, swish paint brushes and clap in song, grip monkey bars and lunch box handles, spin wheelchair tires and basketballs.

Many: Welcoming God, may they know and share your love.

One: We pray for their mouths, that they will speak words bringing life and connection. Help them use their mouths to honor the dignity and belovedness of all. Remind them to open their mouths for deep belly breaths when they're feeling anxious or afraid.

Many: Gracious God, surround them with words that build up rather than tear down.

One: We pray for their feet, that they will move toward those different from them and help others in safe ways. Plant their feet next to those who feel alone, and bless their steps down hallways and sidewalks. We know you are with them wherever their feet go or stay.

Many: Ever-present God, may they always know that you journey with them.

One: We pray for their eyes, that they may see themselves and others with compassion. Point their eyes toward those who are forgotten or struggling. Grow them in flexibility to see from all kinds of angles. Bless what and how they see, whether they're looking at a screen, a whiteboard, or the beauty of a person's face. And help them see with the most important eyes—the eyes of the Spirit within them.

Many: God who sees our true selves, may they know that all of who they are is worthy of love.

One: We pray for their ears, that they will genuinely listen to all voices, especially those that haven't been listened to much. When things get noisy, help them listen extra carefully for your voice. Help them hear with the most important ears—the ears of the Spirit within them.

Many: Merciful God, may all of their voices be heard and all of their needs met.

One: We say a special prayer for parents and care-givers, as the start of a new school year is always another leap of faith. Wrap them with your reassuring love as they entrust their children and trust in you. When questions remain unanswered, and the realm of control is finite, bless them with peace and the promise that you are right there with their child, whether heading to preschool or driving to college.

Many: Caring God, guide those who care for and nurture others.

One: We also pray now for teachers, staff and administrators. Bless these faithful servants with courage and confidence, knowing you are in their classroom with a steady hand on their shoulder. Give them peace, patience, and balance in the pressures they face, and bravery to build structures and systems which justly serve all your children. Give them delight in the young ones before them, and recognition of the sweet ways children are also teachers.

Many: God who leads and guides, bless those who selflessly pour into others.

One: We pray for health and wholeness, fun and growth, surprise and amazement, for this school year ahead, knowing you will hold them all the way through.

Many: We thank you, God, and love you. Amen.

SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS

Nancy Williams

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. 683

“O for a World”

AZMON

SCRIPTURE

[Matthew 25:31-46](#)

Anita Laffoon

SERMON

“Lean on Me”

Anita Laffoon

Packing: A Biblical Understanding of Hospitality

TIME OF REFLECTION & RESPONSE “His Eye Is on the Sparrow’ with ‘Lean on Me”

Arr. Horn

ANNOUNCEMENTS & THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

HYMN No. 475

“The Church of Christ in Every Age”

WOODWORTH

BENEDICTION

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.

Announcements

Metro Richmond at Prayer

During the week of October 15, we pray for public, non-profit, and religious social service work and ministries in Metropolitan Richmond: For all who suffer from addiction, dependency or co-dependency of any sort; for twelve-step programs, recovery programs, therapists, and addiction counselors.

Pray for our Ministry Partners

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (Global) is a Christian network of individuals and churches working together to spread the hope of Christ. Their understanding of Baptist faith and practice is expressed by their emphasis on freedom in biblical interpretation and congregational governance, the participation of women and men in all aspects of church leadership and Christian ministry, and religious liberty for all people.

VA Pridefest

Pridefest has been rescheduled for Sunday, Oct 22nd! Time slots to volunteer at our booth are available from 12pm to 8pm, and additional hands will be needed for take down after 8pm. Use this link to sign up for a time slot – [VA Pridefest](#)

Study opportunities:

- Sundays at 9am - Curveball: When Your Faith Takes Turns You Never Saw Coming by Peter Enns
- Thursdays at 10am - Acts of the Apostles
- Wednesdays at 6:30pm - *The Ragamuffin Gospel* by Brennan Manning

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)!

Page Turners Book Club

Next meeting will be November 19 @ 4pm, location TBA. We will meet to discuss *Looking for Alaska* by John Green.

BP Update

Backpack delivery has begun! We delivered 25 bags of food for 25 identified food insecure students. THANKS TO ALL, all volunteer bases are covered to make this happen again this year! PLEASE, continue to bring in those grocery bags...gotta' have those!!!

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.

O for a World

O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,
Where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.

O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,
Where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.

We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice
That opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.

The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn; outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.

O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

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.

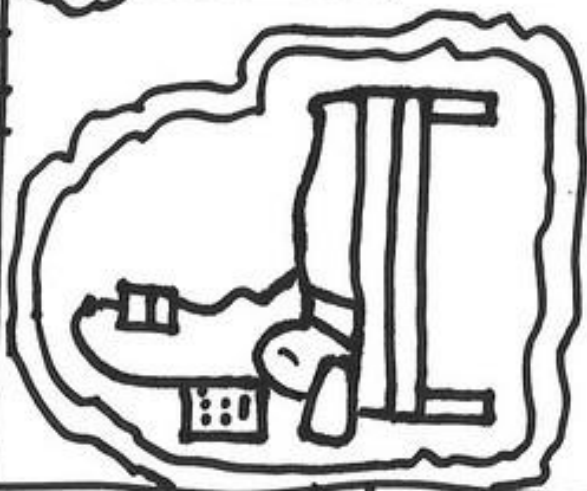
For Christ alone, whose blood was shed, can cure the fever in our blood,
and teach us how to share our bread and feed the starving multitude.

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.

When?



When?



33

When?



When?

