

The Worship of God

GINTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

Zoom Meeting ID: 804 359 2475 • 6100 Chamberlayne Road, Richmond VA • 804-359-2475

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost • November 12, 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.

*The door is always open
Your picture's on my wall
Everyone's a little broken
And everyone belongs
Yeah, everyone belongs*

*I want a house with a crowded table
And a place by the fire for everyone
Let us take on the world while we're young and able
And bring us back together when the day is done
- The Highwomen, Crowded Table*

CHIMING THE TRINITY

Kelly Schmitt

CALL TO WORSHIP

Harry Gaines

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

One: Pray for those who are hungry.

Many: Pray harder for those who will not feed them.

One: Pray for those who struggle each week to pay their bills.

Many: Pray harder for the wealthy who do not care.

One: Pray for those who are homeless.

Many: Pray harder for those who deny them shelter.

One: Pray for the sick and lonely.

Many: Pray harder for those who will not give them comfort.

One: Pray for those who cry out for dignity.

Many: Pray harder for those who will not listen.

One: Pray for those oppressed by unjust wages.

Many: Pray harder for those who exploit them.

One: Pray for those who bear the yoke of prejudice.

Many: Pray harder for those who discriminate against them.

INVOCATION PRAYER

HYMN NO. 23

“Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven”

LAUDA ANIMA

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

SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS

Harry Gaines

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

“The Terrible Sin of the People of Nineveh”

ASH GROVE

The terrible sin of the people of Nineveh caught the attention of Jonah one day.
That city's delight in loose living and fighting was too much for Jonah, so he stayed away —
Then he heard God calling, "Their sin is appalling! So go to that city and tell them, "Repent!"
But Jonah thought, "No!" and he ran to a boat and he fled from that city to which he'd been sent.

A storm in its fury caused sailors to worry, so Jonah said, "Throw me out into the sea."

A miracle followed! A fish came and swallowed that hesitant prophet who wanted to flee.

He cried, "I'm surrounded by floods, yet I'm grounded in God who delivers! I'll give God the praise!"

The fish spit him out and soon Jonah was shouting to Nineveh's people to change all their ways.

The people repented! God saw and relented. God spared them and so Jonah should have been pleased.

Instead he felt anger and started to wonder: "God, why did you save such a people as these?"

A bush grew beside him and gave shade to hide him. It died, and he longed for its shade up above.

God said, "Will you pity a bush or a city? The thousands I saved here are those needing love!"

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SCRIPTURE

[Matthew 25:31-46](#), [Jonah 4:1-4, 11](#)

Anita Laffoon

SERMON

“Crowded Table”

Anita Laffoon

Unpacking: Our Prejudices

TIME OF REFLECTION & RESPONSE “‘Crowded Table’ with ‘Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah’”

Arr. Horn

ANNOUNCEMENTS & THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

HYMN

“Christ, When Were You a Stranger”

AURELIA

Christ, when were you a stranger who sought a welcome here —

A wage to feed a family, a workplace free from fear,

A paycheck you could count on each time a job was through? As nations do to others, O Christ, we do to you.

Christ, did we see you thirsty from working in the heat or hungry as you struggled to buy enough to eat?

Were break-times never given and paychecks overdue? As nations do to others, O Christ, we do to you.

How often were you injured, or sick, or left in pain with benefits denied you, for some investor's gain?

Were standards for your safety ignored, forgotten, too? As nations do to others, O Christ, we do to you.

Christ, when were you in prison and feeling all alone —
And knowing deportation would take you from your home?
Were loved ones left behind you — your family split in two? As nations do to others, O Christ, we do to you.

O Carpenter of Nazareth, we see you day by day in those who work around us, who struggle for their pay.

Christ, as we show compassion, may we bring changes, too —

For as we work for justice, O Christ, we welcome you.

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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 November 12, we pray for the families of Metropolitan Richmond: For persons who are lonely or have no family; for persons who are estranged from their families; for persons who are grieving the loss of a loved one; and for all who need to feel the love of God.

Pray for our Ministry Partners

The Baptist World Alliance is a global movement of Baptists sharing a common confession of faith in Jesus Christ. For more than 100 years, the Baptist World Alliance has networked the Baptist family to impact the world for Christ with a commitment to strengthen worship, fellowship and unity; lead in mission and evangelism; respond to people in need through aid, relief, and community development; defend religious freedom, human rights, and justice; and advance theological reflection and leadership development.

VICPP Day for All People

The General Assembly will be here before you know it! Now would be a great time to register for Day for All People, our annual advocacy day that lifts concerns of “all people” (especially those who have low-incomes and are marginalized) to legislators.

Here are the details:

- Date: Wednesday, January 17, 2024
- Time: 8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.
- Place: St. Paul's Episcopal Church (one block from the General Assembly)
- Fee: \$30 early bird rate (\$40 after January 1, 2024)

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 7pm - *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

We are steadily INCREASING in the number of food bags delivered each week! We are now delivering 33 bags each week. Hoping to be packing 36 bags of food weekly by Thanksgiving for identified food insecure students and Frances McClenney Elementary School. 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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Praise, my soul, the God of heaven; glad of heart your carols raise;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven who, like me, should sing God's praise?
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the Maker all our days.

Praise to God for grace and favor shown to all who are oppressed.
God shows steadfast love for ever, slow to chide, and swift to bless:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious is God's faithfulness!

Mother-like God tends and spares us; knowing well our fragile frame.
Father-like, God gently bears us, tender-hearted, slow to blame.
Alleluia! Alleluia! All within me praise God's name!

Frail as summer's flower we flourish, blows the wind, and it is gone.
But while mortals rise and perish God's compassion still lives on.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the high eternal One!

Angels, teach us adoration you who see God face to face;
sun and moon, and all creation, dwellers all in time and space:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace!

