

# The Worship of God

## GINTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

Zoom Meeting ID: 804 359 2475 • 6100 Chamberlayne Road, Richmond VA • 804-359-2475  
Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost • November 19, 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 are welcome in this space.

### CHIMING THE TRINITY

Lisa Horn

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Tracy Cady

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

One: God, like the Israelites in the wilderness we too have known Your love,

**Many: And experienced Your care and provision.**

One: You invite us to extend that love to the world around us

**Many: To care for others as deeply as we care for ourselves.**

One: We pray for the many who do not have enough: enough food to eat, or shelter to keep warm;

**Many: Enough employment, or money to pay their bills; enough medicine or medical care.**

One: You call us to live as citizens of heaven, working together with one heart and mind. Strengthen us to live in a manner worthy of the Good News we have received, offering our lives in service of Your kingdom,

**Many: Where the last are first, and the first are last, and there is grace enough for all.**

### INVOCATION PRAYER

### HYMN

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

Children are welcome, Christ said one day, when the disciples just urged them away.

Children are welcome at Jesus' knee: God's own examples for ministry.

Welcoming God, you open the Way; even the smallest worship and pray,

Singing with faith and serving you well, your life to know and good news to tell.

Women are welcome, as are the men; through God's own Spirit, we're partners again.

Partners as prophets, ministers, too: no more divided — made one in you.

Welcoming God, you open the way; those once divided join now to pray,

Serving at Table, preaching your Word, so that your love for all will be heard.

Outcasts are welcome; sinners are, too, eating with Jesus and being made new:

Some like Zacchaeus turned right around; wounded and poor ones felt peace profound.

God of great love, you stand at the door, welcoming people outcast and poor.

So you forgive and call us to be filled with the joy of your jubilee.

So may we welcome into our pew all who in Jesus are being made new —  
All those who seek him, wanting to know, wanting to love him, wanting to grow.  
Welcoming God, you stand at our door, as someone different, outcast or poor.  
With longing eyes, Lord Jesus, you search. May we all welcome you in your church.

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## SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS

Tracy Cady

\*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

"Lord, When Were You in Prison"

ST. CHRISTOPHER

"Lord, when were you in prison?" we'll ask of you one day;  
And when did we go visit you, and listen well, and pray?  
And when did we show mercy there (as we need mercy, too)?  
As we love those in prison, Lord, we show our love to you!

When you taught love of neighbor, had you heard in your time  
Of one who lay beside the road, a victim of a crime?  
The neighbor that you said was good brought help and wholeness, too;  
May we help those who hurt so much from crimes that others do.

What made you show compassion when others shouted, "Die!"  
And why did you reject the words: "An eye deserves an eye"?  
How could you say, "Don't cast your stones unless your life is pure"?  
Lord, show us this is righteousness — to save and to restore.

Lord, how could you still love us, a people filled with hate,  
When you had been condemned to die according to the state?  
How could you cry to God, "Forgive! They don't know what they do"?  
Lord, turn us from our vengeful ways, until we love like you!

O Lord, you still are present behind each prison gate;  
We pray that we may see you there in those that others hate.  
And Lord, when people shout for death to settle evil's scores,  
May we, your church, seek mercy and your justice that endures.

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SCRIPTURE	<a href="#">Matthew 25:31-46</a>	Anita Laffoon
SERMON	<i>Packing: An Inventory of Our Resources</i>	Anita Laffoon
TIME OF REFLECTION & RESPONSE	“In the Bleak Mid-Winter’ with ‘East Bound and Down’”	Arr. Horn
ANNOUNCEMENTS & THE WORK OF THE CHURCH		
HYMN No. 600	“Jesu, Jesu”	CHEREPONI
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 19, we pray for families of Metropolitan Richmond: For an end to child abuse; for healthy relationships between children and their caregivers; for the care and protection of infants, children, and youth; and for the intimate knowledge that each one is a beloved child of God.

### **Pray for our Ministry Partners**

JourneyPartners is an ecumenical and interfaith not-for-profit ministry working nationally and internationally to develop networks and partnerships for mutual learning and spiritual growth, through cross-cultural immersion experiences, educational endeavors, construction and renovation projects, and service-learning opportunities. Their work primarily focuses on education, clean water, and health in Zimbabwe.

### **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)

### **Four-week Advent study**

A 4-week study of *The Uncluttered Heart: Making Room for God During Advent and Christmas* by Beth A. Richardson. The book includes readings for each day - quotes, scripture, reflections, prayers - and goes through Advent to Epiphany. All who are interested are invited to come and join the conversation each week. We'll meet

at church from 8:45 - 9:45 a.m. on Thursdays: November 30 and December 7 and 14. We will each order our own book. Contact Keene Irwin for more details. 804-513-3310 keeneirwin@gmail.com

### **THE SILVER BELLES at Virginia Repertory Theatre**

"Tis the season! "The Silver Belles" is a musical about a small-town Christmas pageant and is described as a "heartfelt holiday hoedown with humor and a heaping helping of well-known Christmas songs." We have a group rate for a block of premium seats for the 2 p.m. matinee on Wednesday, November 29 at the November Theatre, 114 West Broad Street. Tickets are \$64 each. Those interested will meet at church at noon for a "bring your own lunch" gathering and then carpool to the play. Those interested in just carpooling can meet by 1 p.m. Nancy Williams is taking reservations and ticket money. November 19 is the deadline for turning in money to Nancy. 804-512-3130

### **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, at Melissa Blazek's home. 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 35 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**

CCLI License # 21155203

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet, Master who acts as a slave to them.

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

Neighbors are rich and poor, varied in color and race, neighbors are near and far away.

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should love; all these are neighbors to us and you.

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

Loving puts us on our knees, serving as though we are slaves, this is the way we should live with you.

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

Kneel at the feet of our friends, silently washing their feet, this is the way we should live with you.

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.



All good gifts come from GOD above,  
We serve GOD'S SON and share His love

