

The Worship of God

GINTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Reign of Christ Sunday • November 26, 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.

*To dream the impossible dream
To fight the unbeatable foe
To bear with unbearable sorrow
And to run where the brave dare
not go*

*To right the unrightable wrong
And to love pure and chaste
from afar*

*To try when your arms are too
weary*

To reach the unreachable star

*This is my quest
To follow that star
No matter how hopeless
No matter how far*

*To fight for the right
Without question or pause
To be willing to march, march
into Hell*

For that Heavenly cause

*And I know if I'll only be true
To this glorious quest*

*That my heart will lie peaceful
and calm
When I'm laid to my rest*

*And the world will be better for
this*

*That one man, scorned and
covered with scars
Still strove with his last ounce
of courage*

To reach the unreachable star.

- *The Impossible Dream*

CHIMING THE TRINITY

Kelly Schmitt

CALL TO WORSHIP

Nancy Williams

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

One: Lord, in you we are transformed, and transformed still again.

Many: When the discouraged cry for hope, make us hope.

One: When the hungry cry for bread, make us bread.

Many: When the thirsty cry for water, make us water.

One: When the suffering cry for help, make us help.

Many: When the sick cry for healing, make us healing.

One: When the bound cry for freedom, make us freedom.

Many: When the outcasts cry for love, make us love.

One: Lord who is hope, who is bread and water, who is help and healing, who is freedom, and who is love,

Many: Transform us anew, and so keep us close to you, as you transform the world. Amen.

INVOCATION PRAYER

HYMN No. 718

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

ST. GEORGE’S WINDSOR

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

Nancy Williams

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 No. 714

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 25:31-46

Anita Laffoon

SERMON

“The Impossible Dream”
Upacking: Our Need to be First

Anita Laffoon

TIME OF REFLECTION & RESPONSE

“The Impossible Dream”
Marc Lawson

Leigh

ANNOUNCEMENTS & THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

HYMN No. 622

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

CWM RHONDDA

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 26, we pray for families of Metropolitan Richmond: For families going through divorce; and for all in the midst of life transitions; for peace, reconciliation, and forgiveness among family members, whatever the distance, and however old the hurt or grievance.

Pray for our Ministry Partners

River City Faith Network is a network of churches that work together to serve the city of Richmond through a variety of ministry opportunities. Ministry Centers include Camp Alkulana, The Church Hill Christian Wellness Center, Oregon Hill Baptist Center, South Richmond Baptist Center, Central Virginia Raceway Ministry, and the WMU.

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 8:45am - The Uncluttered Heart: Making Room for God During Advent and Christmas by Beth A. Richardson
- 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 February 18th at 4pm, location TBA. We will be reading and discussing *Go As A River* by Shelley Read.

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

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Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home;
all is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin;
God, our Maker, does provide for our wants to be supplied;
come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

All the blessings of the field, all the stores the gardens yield,
all the fruits in full supply, ripened 'neath the summer sky,
all that spring with bounteous hand scatters o'er the smiling land,
all that liberal autumn pours from its rich o'erflowing stores,

These to thee, my God, we owe, source whence all our blessings flow;
and for these my soul shall raise grateful vows and solemn praise.
Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home;
come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

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.

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand.
bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
bear me through the swelling current; land me safe on Canaan's side.
songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to thee; I will ever give to thee.

