

The Worship of God

GINTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Rule of Life Sunday • January 14, 2024 • 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, your whole self is welcome in this space.

CHIMING THE TRINITY

Lisa Horn

CALL TO WORSHIP

Eric Johnson

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

One: Come into worship, and see what God has in store for us today.

Many: We have busy lives, but still, we're curious.

One: Come into God's presence, and see the difference love makes.

Many: We've been burned by love before, but still, we're needy.

One: Come into the light and see the glory of God!

Many: Our eyes have been closed for so long, but still, we yearn for the light.

One: Come and see!

Many: Come and see!

INVOCATION PRAYER

HYMN NO. 453

"Called as Partners in Christ's Service"

BEECHER

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

Eric Johnson

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**

“To Live as Christ’s Disciples”

ST. THEODULPH

To live as Christ’s disciples, reflecting Jesus’ way,
The Holy Spirit guides us to be the church today.
All people are created and loved by God, so we
Accept and welcome each one as God shapes them to be.

In league with one another we pledge our unity;
our mission to live humbly and build community.
Disarming unjust systems and freeing the oppressed
we find our purpose serving with those whom God calls blessed.

May learning be our passion, embracing mystery
while seeking, sharing, hearing truths in humility.
We trust in God’s abundance, sufficient for our needs,
and seek to spread God’s bounty, through both our words and deeds.

We will be bold to question an unjust status quo,
nor fear to speak the truth when we find ourselves alone.
Through prayer and contemplation, we will attune our hearts
for life in conversation with God who is our source.

And when we fail each other, miss goals for which we strive.
The grace that God has given will guide our common life.
So loving God supremely, our neighbors as ourselves
we seek to find our purpose and in God’s realm to dwell.

SCRIPTURE

[John 1:43-51](#)

Anita Laffoon

One: This is the Word of God, for the people of God
Many: Thanks be to God

SERMON

“At This Table”

Anita Laffoon

RULE OF LIFE

TIME OF REFLECTION & RESPONSE

“At This Table”

Menzel & Myrin

Frederick D. Horn, Baritone

At this table, everyone is welcome, at this table, everyone is seen.
At this table, everybody matters, no one falls between
At this table, you can say whatever, at this table, you can speak your mind.
At this table, everything's forgiven, there's enough for everyone.

So come as you are, remember that the door is always open.
Yes, come as you are, the perfect gift that you could bring is your heart.
So come, come as you are.

At this table, there will be no judgements, at this table, mercy has a seat.
At this table, we're all sons and daughters, there's no place I'd rather be.

So come as you are, remember that the door is always open.
Yes, come as you are, the perfect gift that you could bring is your heart.
So come, come as you are, come, come as you are.

At this table, everyone is welcome, at this table, everybody cares.
At this table, everybody matters, so come, pull up a chair.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

HYMN NO. 452

“Here I Am, Lord”

HERE I AM, LORD

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 January 14, we pray to overcome in Christ's name the heritage of racism: For the elimination of discrimination in housing, policing, education, employment, transportation, and churches in Metropolitan Richmond.

Pray for our Ministry Partners

Baptist Women in Ministry seeks to be a catalyst in Baptist life, drawing together women and men, in partnership with God, to illuminate, advocate, and nurture the gifts and graces of women. Their newest documentary, *Midwives of a Movement*, will be released this summer and features the foremothers telling the story of how BWIM began.

Quarterly Business Meeting

Our next business meeting will be Sunday, January 21st immediately after worship. Please plan to attend either in person or via Zoom.

Chili Cook-off and Bingo

Save the date - Chili Cook-off and Bingo night will be January 26th at 6pm! Look for a link on Realm to sign-up to bring chili, sides, or desserts. And don't forget to bring a white elephant gift for bingo prizes!

Study opportunities:

- Bible Study: Book of Acts – Thursdays at 10am
- Sunday Morning – Sundays at 9am
- Ragamuffin Gospel, 2.0 – TBA. Let Anita know if you are interested!

Alliance of Baptists Annual Gathering

The Annual Gathering of the Alliance of Baptists will be in Charlotte, NC the weekend of April 12th-14th. If you're interested in going, early registration (with a 30% discount) is open until February 1st, and regular registration will be open until March 29th. [Click here for more information and to register!](#)

Just for kids!

We now offer lessons and activities for kids during worship! Thanks to all who have volunteered to make this possible!

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 now delivering 36 bags of food weekly to identified food insecure students at 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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Called as Partners in Christ's Service

Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace,
we respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.

Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth.
let us follow never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer, all God's people, young and old,
blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus new patterns for Christ's mission. in a small or global sense,
help us bear each other's burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge said with care,
bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fair.

So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life
that surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,
Messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.

Here I Am, Lord

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry,
all who dwell in dark and sin, my hand will save.

I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright,
who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain,
I have wept for love of them, they turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.

I will speak my words to them. Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,

I will set a feast for them, my hand will save

Finest bread I will provide 'til their hearts be satisfied,

I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart

