

The Worship of God

GINTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Third Sunday after Epiphany • January 21, 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.

*Ooh, your love is a symphony,
All around me, running through me.
Ooh, your love is a melody,
Underneath me, running to me.
Oh, your love is a song.*

- Switchfoot, *Your Love is a Song*

CHIMING THE TRINITY

Lisa Horn

CALL TO WORSHIP

Don Polaski

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

One: The invitation is given to every person by Jesus Christ: "Come to me! Follow me! Be my disciples!"

Many: We come to this place, to this time, at the invitation of Jesus Christ.

One: In the name of Christ, we accept the invitation to discipleship.

Many: In the name of Christ, as his disciples, we worship and praise God.

One: In the midst of a world where cruelty abounds, we proclaim the God of Compassion.

Many: In the midst of despair that threatens to swallow up whole lives, whole peoples, we proclaim the God of Hope.

One: In the midst of indifference and apathy, we proclaim the God of Love.

Many: Come, let us worship together and share our witness of God's living presence in the world.

INVOCATION PRAYER

HYMN No. 134

"Blessed Be the God of Israel"

MERLE'S TUNE

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

Don Polaski

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 337

“Jesus Calls Us O’er the Tumult”

GALILEE

SCRIPTURE

[Mark 1:14-20](#)

Anita Laffoon

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

SERMON

“Your Love is a Song”

Anita Laffoon

TIME OF REFLECTION & RESPONSE “‘Softly and Tenderly’ with ‘Your Love Is a Song’”

Arr. Horn

ANNOUNCEMENTS & THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

HYMN No. 344

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

ASSAM

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 21, we pray to overcome in Christ's name the heritage of racism: To experience the healing power of Jesus's resurrection over all personal and institutional results of racism and racial inequality in this metropolitan city.

Pray for our Ministry Partners

Baptist Peace Fellowship is the largest Baptist network of peacemakers in the United States inclusive of other denominational faiths, non-confessional groups and individuals. They are a progressive, intercultural organization of peacemakers and are gender-diverse, inclusive, and affirming. They seek to empower the poor, liberate the oppressed, free the captive, and pronounce a new day of grace for all of creation.

Chili Cook-off and Bingo

Save the date - Chili Cook-off and Bingo night will be THIS FRIDAY 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!

How to Be an Ally to LGBTQ+ Youth

Hosted by the Richmond Youth Development Network and in partnership with Side by Side, this training workshop is designed to

- Recall prior knowledge and understanding of identities, terminology, and pronoun inclusivity in the LGBTQ+ community
- Reflect upon individual biases and unintentional discrimination toward the LGBTQ+ community
- Recognize key celebration/remembrance opportunities as well as important figures in LGBTQ+ history
- Discover how to be an ally if you identify in the LGBTQ+ community
- Explore how to be an ally if you do not identify in the LGBTQ+ community
- Identify resources for future support and education

Free and open to the public! Friday, January 26th from 10:00am - 12:00pm, Mary and Frances Youth Center (120 S Linden St, Richmond, VA 23284). Contact garlandvw@vcu.edu for more information and to register.

Ash Wednesday Service

Ash Wednesday is February 14th! Keep an eye on Realm for more information about an evening service.

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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Blessed the God of Israel

Blessed the God of Israel, who comes to set us free,
who visits and redeems us and grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill the promise to bring our people peace.

Now from the house of David a child of grace has come,
a Savior who will lead us to our eternal home.
Before him goes the herald, forerunner in the way,
the prophet of salvation, the harbinger of day.

On all by death imprisoned the sun begins to rise,
the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes,
to guide the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace;
O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!

Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult

Jesus calls us o'er the tumult of our life's wild restless sea,
day by day his sweet voice soundeth, saying, "Christian, follow me";

Long ago apostles heard it by the Galilean lake,
turned from home, and toil, and kindred, leaving all for his dear sake.

Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store;
from each idol that would keep us, saying, "Christian, love me more."

In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures, "Christian, love me more than these."

Jesus calls us! By thy mercies, Savior, may we hear thy call,
give our hearts to thine obedience, serve and love thee best of all.

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

I have decided to follow Jesus, I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus--no turning back, no turning back.

The world behind me, the cross before me, the world behind me, the cross before me,
the world behind me, the cross before me--no turning back, no turning back.

Though none go with me, I still will follow, though none go with me, I still will follow,
though none go with me, I still will follow, no turning back, no turning back.

Will you decide now to follow Jesus? Will you decide now to follow Jesus?
Will you decide now to follow Jesus? No turning back, no turning back.

