

The Worship of God

GINTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

Zoom Meeting ID: 804 359 2475 • 6100 Chamberlayne Road, Richmond VA • 804-359-2475
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany • January 28, 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

Nancy Williams

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

One: God comes into a world filled with uncertainties and darkness.

Many: God seeks out the voids of belief and conviction.

One: God embraces the wounded and broken.

Many: God knocks down the walls of division and strife.

One: God is the candle shining in the darkness of our days.

Many: God is the light of our lives.

One: God is the one who makes all things new.

Many: Praise be to God, now and forevermore!

INVOCATION PRAYER

HYMN No. 22

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

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. 595

“Be Thou My Vision”

SLANE

SCRIPTURE

[1 Corinthians 8:1-13](#)

Anita Laffoon

One: This is the Word of God, for the people of God

Many: **Thanks be to God**

SERMON

“Closer to Free”

Anita Laffoon

TIME OF REFLECTION & RESPONSE “‘Be Thou My Vision’ with ‘Closer to Free’ & Cheeseburger in Paradise”

Arr. Horn

ANNOUNCEMENTS & THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

HYMN NO. 500

“God Made from One Blood”

ST. DENIO

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 28, we pray to overcome in Christ's name the heritage of racism: To overcome ignorance, indifference, resentment, and bitterness with regard to race in both private and public life; and to proclaim in word and deed the establishment of a beloved community in Metropolitan Richmond.

Pray for our Ministry Partners

Sophia Theological Seminary grew from a recognition that, in a changing environment, theological education requires a wise and creative re-imagining. Supported by the work of Sophia Farms, the seminary seeks to be an inclusive community where life together will be marked by daily rhythms of study, worship, fellowship, and work.

Ash Wednesday Service

This year's Ash Wednesday service will be on February 14th at 7pm, and will be a joint service with First Mennonite Church (hosted by us in the CHUMC Fellowship Hall). We hope you will join us as we mark the beginning of the season of Lent.

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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All Creatures of Our God and King

All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing Alleluia, Alleluia!

O burning sun with golden beam, O silver moon with softer gleam:

O praise God, O praise God, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

O rushing wind with voice so strong, you clouds that sail in heav'n along, O praise God, Alleluia!

O rising morn, in praise rejoice, you lights of evening find a voice:

O praise God, O praise God, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

O flowing water, pure and clear, make music for your God to hear, Alleluia, Alleluia!

O blazing fire who lights the night, providing warmth, enhancing sight,

O praise God, O praise God, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

And all forgiven tender hearts, forgiving others, take your part, sing praises, alleluia!

You who long pain and sorrow bear, praise God, who knows your ev'ry care.

O praise God, O praise God, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Be Thou My Vision

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art
thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my redeemer, my love thou hast won, thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise, thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, first in my heart, Great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Great God of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

God Made from One Blood

God made from one blood all the families of Earth. The circles of nurture that raised us from birth.

Companions who join us to walk through each stage, of childhood and youth, adulthood and age.

We turn to you, God, with our thanks and our tears. For all of the families we've known through the years.
The intimate networks on whom we depend, of parents and partner and roommate and friend.

We learn through our families how closeness and trust, increase when our actions are loving and just.
Yet, families have also distorted their roles, mistreating their members and bruising their souls.

So, give, Lord, each family in conflict and storm, a sense of Your wisdom and grace that transform.
Sharp anger to insight which strengthens the heart and makes clear the place where rebuilding can start.

Then, widen that wisdom and grace to include, the races and viewpoints our families exclude.

'Til peace in each home bears and nurtures the bud, of peace shared by all you have made from one blood.

