

# The Worship of God

## GINTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

Zoom Meeting ID: 804 359 2475 • 6100 Chamberlayne Road, Richmond VA • 804-359-2475  
Sixth Sunday of Easter • May 5th, 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.

*And when I took a good look  
around I see*

*My thoughts are coming back to  
me*

*So look around*

*We are in charge of our own  
dreams*

*We have more power than it  
seems*

*Come on now show me who  
you're lovin'*

*Then show me just who you hate*

*Then I can show you all your  
angels yeah*

*That guard your heaven's gate*

*Only love is real*

*Everything is love*

*Everything you feel*

*That's what your world is made  
of*

- Melissa Etheridge, *Only  
Love*

### CHIMING THE TRINITY

Lisa Horn

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Sheryl Johnson

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

One: We gather to worship the One who crafted creation out of chaos,

**Many: Our cries of joy join the anthems of the universe.**

One: We gather to lift our praise to the God who gives us voice,

**Many: We bring the songs which have echoed in our hearts all week long.**

One: We gather as the children of God, our joy unbroken in God's love.

**Many: Young and old, tone deaf and perfect-pitched, lift the new, new songs of faith.**

### INVOCATION PRAYER

### HYMN No. 72

“To God Be the Glory”

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

\*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

Sheryl 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 NO. 420

“I Come with Joy”

DOVE OF PEACE

SCRIPTURE

[John 15:9-17](#)

Anita Laffoon

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

SERMON

“Only Love”

Anita Laffoon

TIME OF REFLECTION & RESPONSE

“‘What a Friend’ with ‘Only Love’”

Arr. Horn

HOLY COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS & THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

HYMN NO. 433

“Blest Be the Tie”

DENNIS

CLOSING COMMISSION

One: We have sung, we have prayed, we have worshiped together.

**Many: Now we go back out into the world.**

One: We came together to build relationships,

**Many: Relationships with each other, and our relationship with Jesus.**

One: We go out as people who are strengthened by our connections

**Many: Ready to love and to serve. Ready to carry God's love to the world.**

One: As you journey through the ups and the downs of the coming week,

**Many: Let us remember that God, who has invited us into relationship, is always with us.**

One: Go with God, as the people of God.

**Many: So be it! Amen**

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.\*\*



Are you visiting with us today? We'd love to get to know you better!  
Scan the QR code to tell us more about you.

### **Announcements**

#### **Metro Richmond at Prayer**

During the week of May 5, we pray for health care in Metropolitan Richmond: For persons living with terminal illnesses and for their families, friends, and communities. For persons working to find cures for diseases.

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

Side by Side is dedicated to creating supportive communities where Virginia's LGBTQ+ youth can define themselves, belong, and flourish. They provide support groups and counseling for youth, housing services for young adults, and support for parents and caregivers of LGBTQ+ youth in Richmond.

#### **Business Meeting**

Please plan to stay after worship (in person and on Zoom) for a brief business meeting TODAY!

#### **Guest Speaker**

Next week we will be welcoming John Ng'ang'a as our guest speaker! John is a student from Nairobi, Kenya who is studying at Union Presbyterian Seminary. He is currently working on his Masters in Christian Education with a focus on building a curriculum that emphasizes spiritual formation for the youth and young adults.

#### **Graduate Recognition**

We'll have a special time during worship on June 2nd to celebrate our graduates! If you will be graduating high school, college, or grad school please send your info to Anita and plan to be in worship with us if you can.

#### **Study opportunities:**

- Bible Study: Book of Acts – Thursdays at 10am
- Sunday Morning – Sundays at 9am
- Ragamuffin Gospel, 2.0 – Wednesdays at 6pm.

#### **Just for kids!**

We have 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)!

#### **Backpack Update**

We are running low on grocery bags for our Backpack Ministry! Please bring in **grocery-sized paper bags with handles** (we can't use the ones without handles) for our weekly food deliveries to identified food insecure students at Frances McClenney Elementary School.

## **Page Turners**

The Page Turners Book Club will have their final meeting of the season on Sunday May 19th at 4pm. The book to be discussed is *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride. Location TBA.

## **Hymn Texts**

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### **To God Be the Glory**

To God be the glory, great things he hath done! So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,  
who yielded his life an atonement for sin, and opened the life gate that all may go in.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!

Oh, come to the Father, thru Jesus the Son, and give him the glory, great things he hath done.

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood, to every believer the promise of God;  
the vilest offender who truly believes, that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!

Oh, come to the Father, thru Jesus the Son, and give him the glory, great things he hath done.

Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done, and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
but purer, and higher, and greater will be our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!

Oh, come to the Father, thru Jesus the Son, and give him the glory, great things he hath done.

### **I Come with Joy**

I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved and free,  
the life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,  
the new community of love in Christ's communion bread, in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends.

The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends, and strangers now are friends.

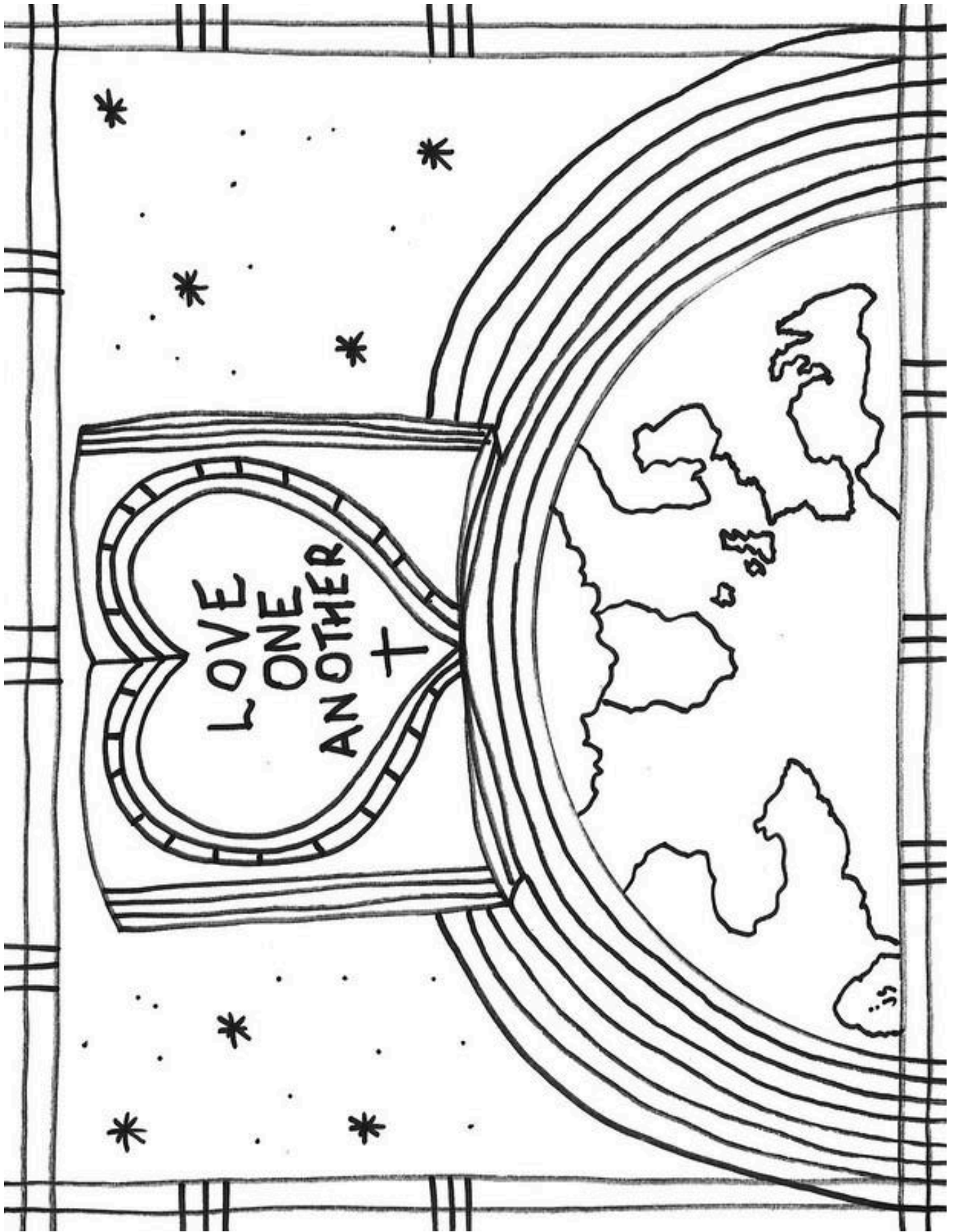
The Spirit of the risen Christ, unseen, but ever near,  
is in such friendship better known, alive among us here, alive among us here.

Together met, together bound by all that God has done,  
we'll go with joy, to give the world, the love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

### **Blest Be the Tie That Binds**

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love:  
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

When we are called to part, it gives us inward pain;  
but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.



LOVE  
ONE  
ANOTHER  
+