

# The Worship of God

## GINTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany • February 23rd, 2025 • 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

Nadene Eads

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

One: Though it may seem dark, though it may feel cold,

**Many: though death and evil may parade their influence wherever we may look,**

One: Beneath it all, invincible and undefeated,

**Many: subversive and undeniable, glows life.**

One: And wherever people clothe themselves in truth, faith, peace, justice and salvation,

**Many: wherever people live by the words of Christ, life stands in defiance of death.**

One: And so we praise you, God and we celebrate your life;

**Many: As we surround ourselves again today with all the qualities and gifts that you give  
to save us from the darkness.**

### INVOCATION PRAYER

### HYMN No. 683

“O for a World”

AZMON

\*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

Nadene Eads

\*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. 82

“His Eye Is on the Sparrow”

SPARROW

SCRIPTURE

[Genesis 45:3-11, 15](#)

Anita Laffoon

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

**Many: Thanks be to God**

SERMON

“Ain’t No Mountain High Enough”

Anita Laffoon

TIME OF REFLECTION & RESPONSE “‘Now Thank We All Our God’ with ‘Ain’t No Mountain High Enough’”

Arr. Horn

ANNOUNCEMENTS & THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

HYMN No. 86

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

FAITHFULNESS

CLOSING COMMISSION

One: Magi, braving distance and desert to find you, and bewildered shepherds, compelled by an angel’s invitation,

**Many: allowed light to be their guide.**

One: And it is still the light that calls us to you; the light of beauty that whispers its truth

**Many: in surprising ways and places;**

One: the light of compassion that kneels, and washes road-soiled, life-battered feet;

**Many: the light of joy that glows even in the darkness of grief and suffering;**

One: It’s always been about the light with you, Jesus; and it’s always about the light for us.

**Many: Please lead us, now and always, out of darkness and into your marvellous light.**

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 February 23rd, we pray for the coming of God's realm in Metropolitan Richmond: For the enhancement of our common life through the Holy Spirit, and for the resurrection of metropolitan Richmond as a modern metropolitan city of hope for the world.

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

Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy is the largest statewide advocacy voice for the faith community in Virginia. The organization focuses primarily on issues of racial, social, and economic justice. They include Virginians of all faiths including people who identify as Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Bahai, humanist, "spiritual, not religious," "religious none," and people of goodwill.

### **Ash Wednesday**

This year's Ash Wednesday service will be a community service on March 5th at 7pm at First Mennonite Church. We will be worshipping with First Mennonite Church and Anointed New Life Baptist Church, with the Rev. Tara Mosby-Jones from Anointed New Life preaching. We hope you will join us as we mark the beginning of the season of Lent.

### **Shamrock the Block**

We've been accepted to be vendors at Shamrock the Block on March 15th! More information about exact times to set up and clean up will be available when we get a little closer to the date. But for now, if you'd like to help out in the tent you can sign up using the link on Realm.

Volunteers helping in the tent can contact Sandra Polaski, who has graciously agreed to shuttle people to the event so no one has to fight for parking.

If you can't help that day, you can help in advance by purchasing Lucky Charms cereal bars! See Realm for a link to Amazon, or purchase at your local grocery store.

### **Disaster Relief**

The Christian Church in Virginia (Disciples of Christ, which includes our friends at Seventh Street) is planning a multi-generational trip for Hurricane Helene recovery work in Western NC. The dates are June 15-20, and the cost is \$320 for meals and lodging at Christmount Christian Assembly in Black Mountain, NC. Contact Rev. Hollie Woodruff for more information - revhollie@gmail.com.

### **Page Turner Book Club**

The Page Turners Book Club will next meet on Sunday May 18, 2025. Location TBA. The book for discussion will be: *The Guilty One* by Kiersten Modglin.

### **Study Opportunities**

- **Weeknight Study** topic TBA.
- **Sunday Morning Small Group** – is reading *A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23: Discovering God's Love for You* at 9am on Sunday mornings. Contact Raymond Cady for more information.
- **Thursday Morning Bible Study** - is studying Acts on Thursday from 10-11:30 a.m. Contact Don Polaski for more information.

### **Backpack Update**

We are in need of paper bags with handles for our weekly backpack food program. Please continue to bring in your bags from your shopping trips, and if you are able please purchase extras. See Dixie Leathers or Connie

Bak for more details.

**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)!

**Hymn Texts**

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**O for a World**

O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,  
where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.

O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,  
where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.

We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice  
that opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.

The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones are wise.  
Tell all who mourn; outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.

O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,  
where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

**His Eye Is on the Sparrow**

Why should I feel discouraged, why should the shadows come,  
why should my heart be lonely, and long for heaven and home,  
when Jesus is my portion? My constant Friend is he:  
his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me;  
his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.  
I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,  
for his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.

"Let not your heart be troubled," his tender word I hear,  
and resting on his goodness, I lose my doubts and fears;  
though by the path he leadeth, but one step I may see;  
his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me;  
his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.  
I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,  
for his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.

Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise,  
when songs give place to sighing, when hope within me dies,  
I draw the closer to him, from care he sets me free;

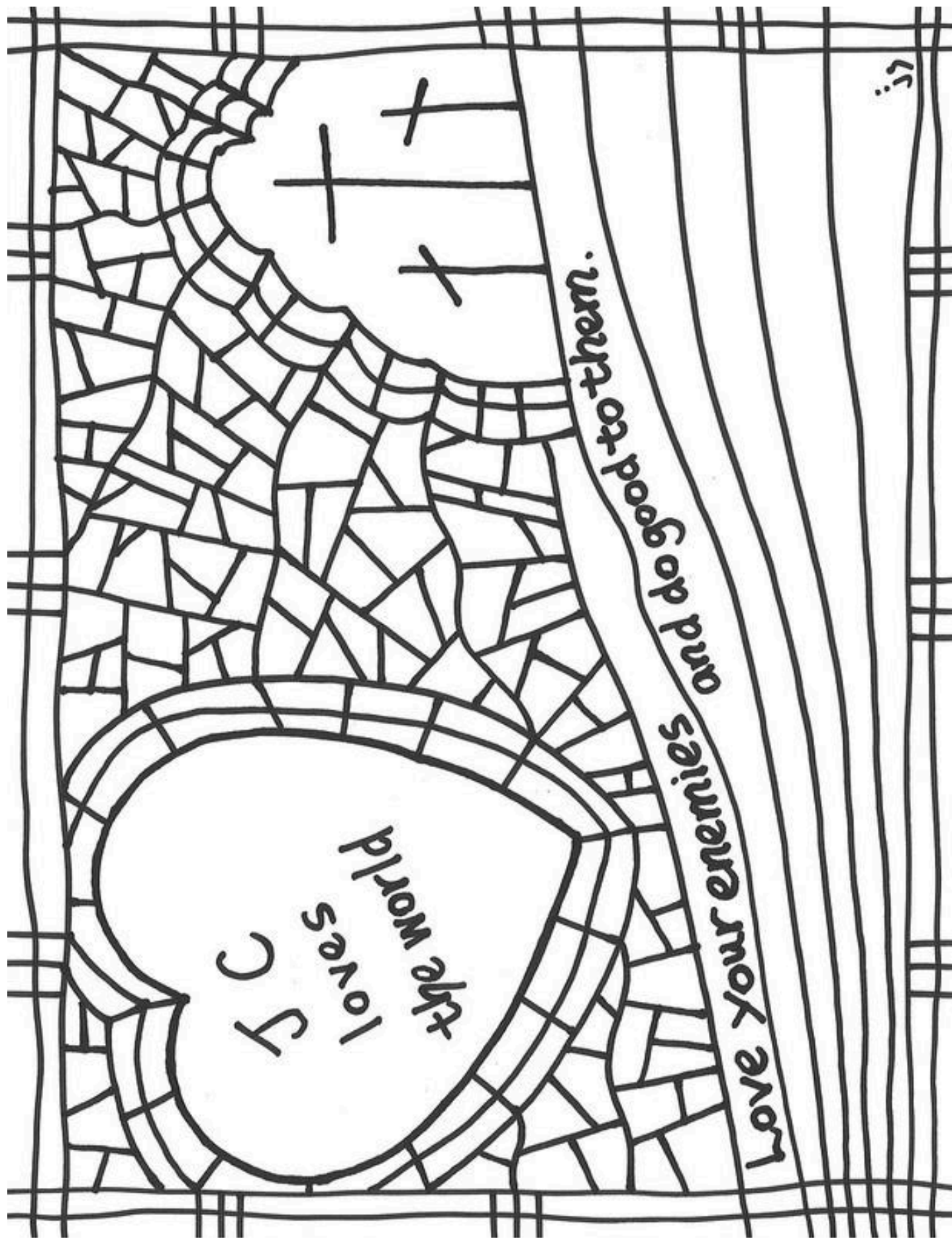
his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me;  
his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.  
I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,  
for his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.

### **Great Is Thy Faithfulness**

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father, there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not; as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.  
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.  
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!  
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!



JC  
loves  
the world

Love your enemies  
and do good to them.

jy