

The Worship of God

Ginter Park Baptist Church

Zoom Meeting ID: 804 359 2475 • 6100 Chamberlayne Road, Richmond VA • 804-359-2475 ,
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost • July 20, 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

Sandra Polaski

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

One: O come let us worship and lift our hearts, not because the world is good and last week was awesome,

Many: But because the earth is the Lord's and everything in it.

One: O come let us worship and raise our hands, not because our lives are all sweetness and light,

Many: But because even those who walk in darkness can see a great light

One: O come let us worship and bow down, not because God gives us what we want,

Many: But because God hears our prayers and is always with us.

INVOCATION PRAYER

HYMN NO. 237

"On Pentecost They Gathered"

LANCASHIRE

Some of us stand while singing, and others don't. Please join us in song in whatever way you are comfortable.

The hymn, "On Pentecost They Gathered," depicts unity, the power of the Holy Spirit, and the beginning of mission. The Lovett Link reflects the gathering of people with different voices, as celebrated in the song's embrace of the church's communal life.

SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS

Sandra 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 No. 86**“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”**

FAITHFULNESS

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness” follows the theme that God’s grace is a steady and enduring grace that journeys across the generations. The Lovett Tie-in fits a bridge between the humor of Lovett’s song text and the reason people keep coming back to church: God’s Grace and Faithfulness.

SCRIPTURE[Acts 20:7-12](#)

Anita Laffoon

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

Many: Thanks be to God

SERMON**“Church”**

Anita Laffoon

TIME OF REFLECTION & RESPONSE**““This Is the Day’ with ‘Church’”**

Arr. Horn

Lyle Lovett’s song, “Church,” centers around an extended service and fried chicken–grounded in community, laughter, and love. “This Is the Day” illustrates the simple joy in gathering which can be suitable for a humorous or lighthearted tone which mirrors the celebratory feeling of the gospel service in “Church.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS & THE WORK OF THE CHURCH**HYMN No. 655****“Community of Christ”**

LEONI

The hymn, “Community of Christ,” emphasizes the themes of justice, equality, shared ministry and living out our faith together which, in turn, captures Mr. Lovett’s affection for church as an imperfect yet beloved community—a “quirky family,” as it were.

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 July 20, we pray for the governments and governing bodies of Metropolitan Richmond: For the Boards of Supervisors of Chesterfield & Hanover County, the County Administrators, and all county employees.

Pray for our Ministry Partners

Midwives for Haiti is one of our new ministry partners! Their mission is to increase access to skilled maternity care in Haiti by training Skilled Birth Attendants, and providing compassionate, culturally congruent maternity care. They work in collaboration with Haiti's Ministry of Public Health and Population and other organizations to deliver culturally appropriate, high impact health interventions. They train skilled birth attendants from rural areas and get them to women who need them. Their programs educate and empower Haitian women and men to improve the health of their communities, creating lasting change in their lives and the lives of the mothers and children they care for.

Christmas in July

Join us on July 27th at 10:30am for a Christmas in July worship service! Bring your favorite holiday snack to share, and come enjoy a fun time of mid-year Christmas cheer!

Summer Playlist

It's here! Our Summer Playlist sermon series has begun! If you want to start listening now, you can find all of the songs that we'll be using this summer (in order) on Spotify -

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/48MMPHifkuqnetXoVfiwrJ?si=1b3c5c664f5b4cdb>

VA Pride

We have a booth at Pride again this year! Mark your calendars for Sept 27th, 12pm-6pm. Details and sign-up sheet coming soon!

Backpack Update

Our Backpack deliveries are winding down for the year. But, we'll still need bags for the fall so please continue to collect paper bags (with handles) this summer!

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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On Pentecost They Gathered

On Pentecost they gathered quite early in the day,
a band of Christ's disciples, to worship, sing, and pray.
A mighty wind came blowing, filled all the swirling air,
and tongues of fire aglowing inspired each person there.

The people all around them were startled and amazed
to understand their language, as Jesus Christ they praised.
What universal message, what great good news was here?
That Christ, once dead, is risen to vanquish all our fear.

God pours the Holy Spirit on all who would believe,
on women, men, and children who would God's grace receive.
That Spirit knows no limit, bestowing life and power.
The church, formed and reforming, responds in every hour.

O Spirit, sent from heaven on that day long ago,
rekindle faith among us in all life's ebb and flow.
O give us ears to listen and tongues aflame with praise,
so people of all nations glad songs of joy shall raise.

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!

Community of Christ

Community of Christ, who make the cross your own,
live out your creed and risk your life for God alone:
the God who wears your face, to whom all worlds belong,
whose children are of every race and every song.

Community of Christ, look past the church's door
and see the refugee, the hungry, and the poor.

Take hands with the oppressed, the jobless in your street,
take towel and water, that you wash your neighbor's feet.

Community of Christ, through whom the word must sound --
cry out for justice and for peace the whole world round:
disarm the powers that war and all that can destroy,
turn bombs to bread, and tears of anguish into joy.

When menace melts away, so shall God's will be done,
the climate of the world be peace and Christ its sun;
our currency be love and kindness our law,
our food and faith be shared as one for evermore.

"Church" - Lyle Lovett

I went to church last Sunday
So I could sing and pray
But something quite unusual
It happened on that day
Church, it started right on time
Just like it does without a doubt
And everything was all just fine
Except when it came time to let us out
You know, the preacher, he kept preaching
He told us, "I have one more thing to say
Children, before you think of leaving
You'd better think about the Judgment Day"

Now everyone got nervous
Because everyone was hungry too
And everyone was wondering
What was the next thing he would do
And the preacher, he kept preaching
He said, "Now I'll remind you, if I may
You all better pay attention
Or I might decide to preach all day"

And now everyone was getting so hungry
And the old ones started feeling ill
And the weak ones started passing out
And the young ones, they could not sit still
And the preacher's voice rose higher
I snuck up to the balcony
And I crept into the choir

And I begged them, "Brothers, sisters, help me
please"

I said when I give you a signal
I said when I raise up my hands
Won't you please join with me together?
And praise the Lord, I have a plan
And the preacher he kept preaching
Long is the struggle, hard the fight
And I prayed, "Father, please forgive me"
And then I stood up and with all my might
I sang

"To the Lord let praises be
It's time for dinner now, let's go eat
We've got some beans and some good cornbread
And I listened to what the preacher said
Now it's to the Lord let praises be
It's time for dinner now, let's go eat"

Yes and I did give a signal
Yes and I raised up my hands
And then joined with me the choir
Yes and every woman, child, and man
They sang

"To the Lord let praises be
It's time for dinner now, let's go eat
We've got some beans and some good cornbread
And I've listened to what the preacher said
Now it's to the Lord let praises be
It's time for dinner now, let's go eat"

And the preacher, he stopped preaching
And a hush, the church did fill
And then a great white dove from up above
Landed on the windowsill
And the dove flew down beside him
A fork appeared right in his hand
And with everybody watching
The preacher ate that bird right there and then

And now everyone got really nervous
And the preacher, he did start to glow
And as we watched on in disbelief
These were the words he spoke
It's time for dinner now, let's go eat"

And the moral of this story
Children, it is plain but true
God knows if a preacher preaches long enough
Even he'll get hungry too
And he'll sing

"To the Lord let praises be
It's time for dinner now, let's go eat
We've got some beans and some good cornbread
Now listen to what the preacher said
He said to the Lord let praises be
It's time for dinner now, let's go eat
We've got some beans and some good cornbread..."

He said, "Mama's in the kitchen
And she's been there all day
I know she's cooking something good
So let's bow our heads and pray"
And he sang

"To the Lord let praises be
It's time for dinner now, let's go eat
We've got some beans and some good cornbread
Now listen to what the preacher said
He said to the Lord let praises be

