

Welcome to Worship

Ginter Park Baptist Church

Zoom Meeting ID: 804 359 2475 • 3401 Brook Road, Richmond VA • 804-359-2475
Rule of Life Sunday • January 11, 2026 • 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

Kelly Schmitt

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

Leader: God says, "Here is my servant—my chosen, in whom my soul delights." Not one who shouts to dominate, but one who lifts the weary and does not break the bruised.

People: **We come as people called into that same light—to welcome, to listen, and to learn.**

Leader: God calls us to be a light to the nations, to open eyes, loosen chains, and speak truth when silence is easier.

People: **We commit ourselves to justice with gentleness, to courage with humility, and to love that refuses to look away.**

Leader: In a world longing for direction, God's light still shines—steady, faithful, and bold.

All: ***Let us worship the God who calls us, forms us, and sends us forth as light for the world.***
Amen.

INVOCATION PRAYER

HYMN

"To Live as Christ's Disciples"

ST. THEODULPH

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

To live as Christ's disciples, reflecting Jesus' way, the Holy Spirit guides us to be the church today.
All people are created and loved by God, so we accept and welcome each one as God shapes them to be.

In league with one another we pledge our unity; our mission to live humbly and build community.

Disarming unjust systems and freeing the oppressed
we find our purpose serving with those whom God calls blessed.

May learning be our passion, embracing mystery while seeking, sharing, hearing truths in humility.

We trust in God's abundance, sufficient for our needs,
and seek to spread God's bounty, through both our words and deeds.

We will be bold to question an unjust status quo, nor fear to speak the truth when we find ourselves alone.

Through prayer and contemplation, we will attune our hearts
for life in conversation with God who is our source.

And when we fail each other, miss goals for which we strive.
The grace that God has given will guide our common life.
So loving God supremely, our neighbors as ourselves
we seek to find our purpose and in God's realm to dwell.

SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS

Kelly Schmitt

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. 452

“Here I Am, Lord”

HERE I AM, LORD

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 42:1-9

Anita Laffoon

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

SERMON

“The Lighthouse”

Anita Laffoon

COMMITMENT TO THE RULE OF LIFE

Commitment to the Rule of Life is the official membership process for Ginter Park Baptist Church. By adding your name to the poster you are joining others who are re-committing, or committing for the first time, to being a part of this community. This is completely optional, and no one is expected to participate if they do not want to. You are welcome at Ginter Park Baptist regardless of your membership status.

TIME OF REFLECTION & RESPONSE “‘God of Grace and God of Glory’ with ‘The Lighthouse’”

Arr. Horn

ANNOUNCEMENTS & THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

HYMN

“This Little Light of Mine”

THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine, Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine,
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine,
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine, Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

All around the world, I'm gonna let it shine,
All around the world, I'm gonna let it shine,
All around the world, I'm gonna let it shine, Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel, NO! I'm gonna let it shine,
Hide it under a bushel, NO! I'm gonna let it shine,
Hide it under a bushel, NO! I'm gonna let it shine, Let is shine, let it shine, let it shine.

CLOSING COMMISSION

Leader: Go now, honoring every person you meet as created in the image of God and deeply beloved.

People: We go, practicing radical welcome and extending dignity to all.

Leader: Go, building relationships of trust, sharing a common life and a shared mission.

People: We go, committed to one another and to the work God places before us.

Leader: Go, to serve our neighbors and the wider world, standing with those seeking transformation and working to dismantle injustice.

People: We go, choosing justice with gentleness and courage with humility.

Leader: Go, as learners all your days, embracing mystery and complexity while seeking and speaking truth.

People: We go, ready to learn, unlearn, and grow in wisdom and grace.

Leader: Go, trusting in the abundance of God, refusing fear and scarcity.

People: We go, practicing generosity, sharing freely what God has given.

Leader: Go, accountable to one another, speaking when silence harms and asking questions that unsettle.

People: We go, bold in love, honest in community, faithful in truth.

Leader: Go, living your lives as a conversation with God, rooted in prayer and holy practice.

People: We go, attentive to God's presence in every moment.

Leader: And when you fall short, when the light feels dim or the way unclear—

People: We go, trusting grace to meet us, for ourselves, for one another, and for all we encounter.

Leader: Go now, as light for the world.

People: We go in peace, to love, to serve, and to shine. 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 January 11, we pray to overcome in Christ's name the heritage of racism: For the elimination of discrimination in housing, policing, education, employment, transportation, and churches in Metropolitan Richmond.

Pray for our Ministry Partners

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Virginia is one of two Baptist associations that Ginter Park Baptist is aligned with (CBF and the Alliance of Baptists). CBFVA is committed to walking alongside congregations as they live out their unique call through Advocacy, Partnerships, and Theological Education.

Page Turners' Book Club

The book club is reading "The Correspondent" by Virginia Evans, and they will gather for discussion on January 18 at 4pm at the home of Dixie Leathers.

Day for All People

Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy's annual Advocacy Day in partnership with Virginia Interfaith Power and Light is coming up! They bring hundreds of people of faith and goodwill from across Virginia to Richmond to engage in the legislative process. Join them in- person for inspirational presentations, informative workshops, and effective advocacy on **January 21, 2026**. Register on their website - www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org

Thursday Morning Bible Study

The Thursday morning Bible study will resume on January 22nd. All are invited to join us at 10 am at the Ashland location, 10981 Richardson Road. Contact Don Poalski for more information.

Save the Date!

Our annual Chili Cook-off and Bingo night will be January 31st at 6pm! Sign up on Realm to bring chili, sides, or dessert (chili add-ons like cheese and sour cream will be provided). And don't forget to bring a white elephant gift for the Bingo prize table!

Backpack Update

Our backpacks are being prepared at 10981 Richardson Rd, Ashland 23005. Dixie and Connie will continue as co-facilitators of the program. Contact one of them to volunteer. Don't forget to bring in your paper bags!

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!

Hymn Texts

CCLI License # 21155203

Here I Am, Lord

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

