

# Welcome to Worship

Ginter Park Baptist Church

Zoom Meeting ID: 804 359 2475 • 3401 Brook Road, Richmond VA • 804-359-2475

Second Sunday in Lent • March 1, 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

Tracy Cady

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

Leader: In the quiet before the music begins, when the piano lid is lifted and the bench is pulled close—

**People: We listen for the true Leader of the Band.**

Leader: God called Abram: “Go from your country ... to a land I will show you.”

**People: And though he did not know the melody, he trusted the Conductor.**

Leader: Like Schroeder bent faithfully over the keys, focused and unwavering —

**People: We fix our hearts on the One who writes our song.**

Leader: In this Lenten season, we practice listening.

**People: We tune our hearts to God's direction.**

Leader: Come — let us follow where God leads.

**All: For the Leader of the Band is faithful, and the music has already begun.**

## INVOCATION PRAYER

### HYMN No. 595

“Be Thou My Vision”

SLANE

\*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

Tracy Cady

\*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.

LENTEN CHORUS

“Give Me Jesus”

GIVE ME JESUS

Dark midnight was my cry, dark midnight was my cry,  
dark midnight was my cry, give me Jesus.  
Give me Jesus, give me Jesus,  
you may have all this world, give me Jesus.

CONFESSION

Leader: Let us confess together, remembering that even the most devoted musician must pause to retune.

*All: Holy Conductor, You call us to leave comfort and familiarity, yet we cling to what we know. You said to Abram, “Go,” and he trusted You. You say to us, “Follow,” and we hesitate. Like Schroeder at the piano, we long to be faithful and focused—yet our attention drifts, and we begin to play our own melody instead of Yours. We confess that we resist the journey. We fear the unknown measure. We prefer predictable harmonies over daring obedience.*

*Forgive us when we trust our own rhythm more than Your steady beat. Retune our hearts. Re-center our focus. Teach us again to follow where You lead.*

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Hear the good news: The God who called Abram is the same God who calls us—and God’s promises do not fail. When we lose the melody, God does not silence us. When we fall behind the rhythm, God does not dismiss us from the band. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and invited back into the music of grace. The Leader of the Band keeps steady time with mercy and conducts us with love.

**People: Thanks be to God! We are forgiven. We will follow in faith.**

*All: Amen.*

EXTINGUISH CANDLE

HYMN No. 344

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

ASSAM

SCRIPTURE

[Genesis 12:1-4a](#)

Anita Laffoon

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

**Many: Thanks be to God**

SERMON

“Leader of the Band”

Anita Laffoon

HOLY COMMUNION

\*All are welcome to participate in Communion here, and you are also welcome to remain at your seat if that is more comfortable for you. Communion is received by intinction, where you are handed a piece of bread to dip in the chalice. We use non-alcoholic juice in the chalice, so that this is a safe table for all. Gluten-free bread and individual cups are also available.\*

TIME OF REFLECTION & RESPONSE “‘Take My Life’ with ‘Leader of the Band’”

Arr. Horn

ANNOUNCEMENTS & THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

## CLOSING COMMISSION

Leader: As you leave this place, remember Abram—who stepped into a promise he could not yet see.

**People: We will walk in faith, trusting the One who calls us.**

Leader: And remember Schroeder—faithful at the piano, steady in his devotion.

**People: We will keep our focus on the true Leader of the Band.**

Leader: When the path feels uncertain—

**People: We will trust the Conductor.**

Leader: When the rhythm feels unfamiliar—

**People: We will follow the melody of grace.**

Leader: Go now, listening carefully, walking boldly, and playing your part with courage.

**All: For the Leader of the Band goes before us. 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 March 1, we pray for the churches and religious institutions of Metropolitan Richmond: For the Church to remain faithful to Christ above all, rejecting the entanglement of faith with political power, and embracing love, justice, and humility as true witnesses of God's realm.

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

JourneyPartners is an ecumenical and interfaith not-for-profit ministry working nationally and internationally to develop networks and partnerships for mutual learning and spiritual growth, through cross-cultural immersion experiences, educational endeavors, construction and renovation projects, and service-learning opportunities. Their work primarily focuses on education, clean water, and health in Zimbabwe.

### **Diaper Drive**

Our Christmas diapers and wipes drive has gotten a little bit postponed this year, but we all know that babies keep needing diapers and wipes long after the excitement of birth is over! Please bring diapers and wipes (larger sizes of diapers are especially welcome) from now until Sunday, March 8. (That's also when Daylight Savings Time begins, so spring forward and bring diapers!) Our donations will go to help families working toward permanent shelter. Thank you for your generosity!

### **Page Turners Book Club**

The next book assignment is *The Husbands* by Holly Gramazio. The book will be discussed Sunday March 22, 2026 at 4pm. Location TBA.

### **Thursday Morning Bible Study**

The Thursday morning Bible study meets at 10 am at the Ashland location, 10981 Richardson Road. Contact Don Polaski for more information. All are welcome!

### **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**

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### **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.

### **I Have Decided to Follow Jesus**

I have decided to follow Jesus, I have decided to follow Jesus,  
I have decided to follow Jesus-- no turning back, no turning back.

The world behind me, the cross before me, the world behind me, the cross before me,  
the world behind me, the cross before me-- no turning back, no turning back.

Though none go with me, I still will follow, though none go with me, I still will follow,  
though none go with me, I still will follow, no turning back, no turning back.

Will you decide now to follow Jesus? Will you decide now to follow Jesus?  
Will you decide now to follow Jesus? No turning back, no turning back.

### **My Faith Looks Up to Thee**

My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine!  
Now hear me while I pray; take all my guilt away;  
oh, let me from this day be wholly thine.

May thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire;  
as thou hast died for me, oh, may my love to thee  
pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire.

While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs around me spread, be thou my guide;  
bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow's tears away,  
nor let me ever stray from thee aside.

Abraham went, as the Lord told him.

Genesis 12:4

