

Welcome to Worship

Ginter Park Baptist Church

Zoom Meeting ID: 804 359 2475 • 2301 Hilliard Road, Richmond VA • 804-359-2475

Fifth Sunday of Easter • May 3, 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.

OPENING WORDS

“Morning Has Broken”

BUNESSAN

Josh Walters, Tenor

CHIMING THE TRINITY

Lisa Horn

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

Leader: Morning has dawned, and God is doing a new thing among us.

People: We open our eyes to the light of God’s grace.

Leader: The One who made a path through the sea now makes a way in the wilderness.

People: We trust the God who leads us into new life.

Leader: Fresh mercies rise like the first light of day; hope awakens within us.

People: Our hearts sing with joy for what God is creating now.

Leader: In this new space, on this new day, God calls us forward.

People: We step into God’s promise with faith and expectation.

Leader: Come, let us worship the God of new beginnings.

People: We lift our voices in praise and thanksgiving!

INVOCATION PRAYER

HYMN No. 518

“This Is a Day of New Beginnings”

BEGINNINGS

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

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. 638

“In the Bulb There Is a Flower”

PROMISE

SCRIPTURE

[Isaiah 43:16-21](#)

Anita Laffoon

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

MESSAGE IN SONG

“Ready to Sail”
The First Sunday Quartet

Lindsey & Smith

SERMON

“Any Dream Will Do”

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 ““Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah’ with’Any Dream Will Do”” Arr. Horn

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE BOARD OF MANAGERS

Josh Walters

HYMN No. 603

“Lead On, O Cloud of Presence”

LANCASHIRE

CLOSING COMMISION

Leader: Go now into the world, trusting the God who makes a way where there is no way.

People: We go with hope, following where God leads.

Leader: Do not dwell on former things, but look for the new thing God is doing.

People: We will watch, listen, and respond with faithful hearts.

Leader: As you leave this place, carry the dream God has planted within you.

People: We will live as people of promise, courage, and joy.

Leader: May the God of resurrection lead you through every wilderness into life.

People: We go in peace, to love and serve the Lord. 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 3, 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

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.

BJC Study

Particularly during a time when Christian nationalism is seen in many forms, it can be difficult to know how to show up as a Christian. The BJC believes that, in contrast to Christian nationalism, cultivating religious liberty offers a foundation to cultivate a just society that ensures dignity, pluralism, and democracy. This curriculum explores these principles and invites Christians to consider the intersections of faith, power, and politics in U.S. society. Through reflection, storytelling, case studies, and collective learning across six sessions, participants offer the gifts of their faith in solidarity and mutuality for a just society.

“Faith, Power, and Politics: Cultivating religious liberty as a Christian” will be a weeknight study, beginning May 6th at 7pm. Let Anita know if you are interested in participating!

Business Meeting

We will have a business meeting on May 17th, immediately after worship. Please plan to attend either in person or on Zoom.

Thursday Morning Bible Study

The Thursday morning Bible study will meet at 10 am at 2301 Hilliard Rd this week, but will not meet on May 7th. Contact Don Polaski for more information. All are welcome!

Page Turners Book Club

The Page Turners Book Club has a new reading assignment: *So Far Gone* by Jess Walter. This book will be discussed on Sunday May 17, 2026 at 4pm at 2301 Hilliard Rd.

Let's Celebrate!

We have much to celebrate this year. A new church home, 110 years as a church family, anniversaries, birthdays, and more. Paul and Keene have invited everyone to a day at the river to play, relax, enjoy sunshine and fellowship is a perfect way to party.

When- Saturday, June 6, 11:00 am - 5:00 pm.

Where - 540 Plantation Place, Little Plymouth, VA 23091.

RSVP to Keene or Paul, and see Realm for more details!

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

This Is a Day of New Beginnings

This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on,
time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that's gone.

For by the life and death of Jesus, God's mighty Spirit, now as then,
can make for us a world of difference, as faith and hope are born again.

Then let us, with the Spirit's daring, step from the past and leave behind
our disappointment, guilt and grieving, seeking new paths, and sure to find.

In faith we gather round the table to taste and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new.

In faith we'll gather round the table to show and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new.

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
in our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

Lead On, O Cloud of Presence

Lead on, O cloud of Presence, the exodus is come.
In wilderness and desert our tribe shall make its home.
Our slavery left behind us, new hopes within us grow.
We seek the land of promise where milk and honey flow.

Lead on, O fiery Pillar, we follow yet with fears,
but we shall come rejoicing though joy be born of tears.
We are not lost, though wandering, for by your light we come,
and we are still God's people. The journey is our home.

Lead on, O God of freedom, and guide us on our way,
and help us trust the promise through struggle and delay.
We pray our sons and daughters may journey to that land
where justice dwells with mercy, and love is law's demand.

Flowers in Worship

The flowers in our Worship Space today are in honor of all those hands and hearts who have come together with ideas, skills, talents and encouragement to get us to this new gathering place for missions and worship.

They are in memory of all those who came before us who left behind a legacy of outreach and service to their neighbors and friends.

We continue to be inspired by their dedication to spread God's love both in the community and around the globe.

The flowers chosen have particular meaning for today as they symbolize...

Daisy: new beginnings, Innocence, loyal love

Sunflower: longevity Adoration, loyalty

chrysanthemum: cheerfulness and friendship.

Baby's Breath: Innocence, pure of heart.

yellow tulips: cheerfulness

The color Yellow represents Friendship and joy.

As you look around and participate in worship today, you may notice a few special elements woven into our space. Each one carries a story—of people, memories, creativity, and care—and reflects the ways we honor the past while shaping this new place together.

Chalice & Pitcher

The silver chalice and pitcher in our worship space were once used by Dr. Hedley, connecting us to the faithful leadership and community that came before us. While their exact origin story is not fully known, they were part of sacred moments of communion in years past.

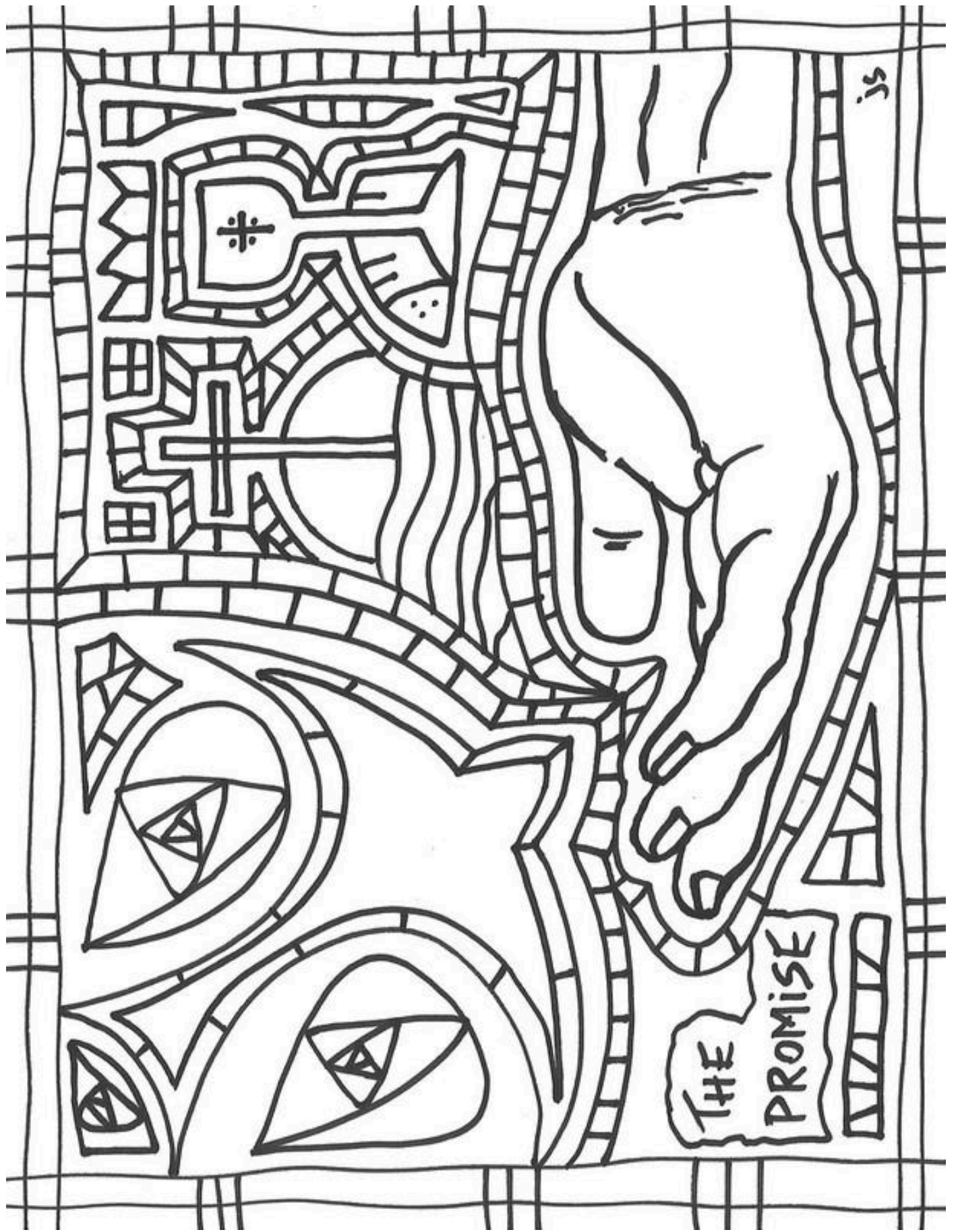
After careful cleaning and evaluation, we determined that their condition no longer allows them to be used safely for communion. They will now be displayed on the bookcase as meaningful reminders of our shared history—honoring the role they once played, even as we continue the tradition of gathering at the table in new ways.

The Birdhouse

The small green birdhouse in our worship space was hand-carved by Annie's uncle, Lawrence "Bubba" Garnett, a gifted wood miniature artist known for creating detailed replicas of historic landmarks and the antique furnishings in his home—some of which are displayed at the Glen Allen Cultural Arts Center.

Later in life, as his eyesight began to fail, he turned his focus to carving birdhouses, combining his craftsmanship with his lifelong love of birds. Each one became a treasured gift. This particular birdhouse, made for Annie, has never been outside or housed birds—until now.

When the need arose to replace the "cardboard Ronald McDonald House" used for collecting pop tabs, Annie recognized that this birdhouse could be repurposed for a greater purpose. With the eventual addition of a small "address" plaque by Eric, it now serves as a beautiful and meaningful home for our tab collection—supporting Ronald McDonald House with care, creativity, and a touch of artistry.



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THE
PROMISE