

Welcome to Worship

Ginter Park Baptist Church

Zoom Meeting ID: 804 359 2475 • 2301 Hilliard Road, Richmond VA • 804-359-2475
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost • July 12, 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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Sandra Polaski

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

Leader: Come, people of God! The Sower is already in the field.

People: Christ scatters grace more freely than seeds in a summer garden.

Leader: Some come searching for spectacular signs.

People: Yet Jesus teaches us to notice the quiet miracles growing all around us.

Leader: We have come to cultivate hearts that are rich soil.

People: Plant your Word within us, O God.

Leader: Remove the rocks of fear, the thorns of worry, and the hard paths of indifference.

People: Help us bear fruit with patience, compassion, justice, and joy.

Leader: Whether in gardens or in souls, faithful growth is your work.

All: Let us worship the God who still plants hope, still grows love, and still brings abundant harvests through Jesus Christ.

INVOCATION PRAYER

HYMN NO. 357

“We Call Ourselves Disciples”

LANCASHIRE

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

Sandra Polaski

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.

“Christ Taught Us of a Farmer”

AURELIA

Christ taught us of a farmer who went out sowing seeds.
A few had trouble growing among the rocks and weeds,
Yet others grew till harvest in soil that was so good.
O God, you sow the gospel: The seed is your own word.
You sowed your word of love here so many years ago.

Your message found a welcome; your word began to grow.
By grace, this church was built here by saints who followed you.
The seed took root and flourished: we hear and follow, too.
We thank you for each member who lives in loving ways:
For those who seek to serve you without expecting praise,
For hearts and songs uplifted, for work and sacrifice.

The seed you planted grows here: we grow in Jesus Christ.
In times of joy we praise you, in struggling times we search,
And always we are learning to be your faithful church.
Your Spirit gives us vision — and hearts and lives made new.
Your harvest is for sharing: sent out, we work for you.
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SCRIPTURE

[Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23](#)

Anita Laffoon

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

SERMON

“Jesus and Tomatoes”

Anita Laffoon

TIME OF REFLECTION & RESPONSE “‘Blest Be the Tie that Binds’ with ‘Jesus and Tomatoes’”

Arr. Horn

ANNOUNCEMENTS & THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

HYMN No. 610

“Living for Jesus”

LIVING FOR JESUS

CLOSING COMMISION

Leader: The Sower has planted the Word among us.

People: May our hearts remain rich soil for Christ’s love.

Leader: Go now—not searching for Jesus in tomatoes or in extraordinary signs—

People: But discovering Jesus in ordinary acts of grace, mercy, and love.

Leader: Tend the gardens God has entrusted to you.

People: Pull the weeds of fear, loosen the rocks of doubt, and water the seeds of hope.

Leader: May your faith grow as steadily as tomatoes in the summer sun—

People: Ripening with patience, nourished by God’s Spirit, and shared generously with the world.

Leader: Bear fruit that feeds the hungry, welcomes the stranger, comforts the lonely, and proclaims the good news.

People: For the greatest miracle is not what grows on a vine, but what Christ grows within us.

Leader: Go in peace to sow generously, love extravagantly, and harvest joy. Amen?

All: 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 12, we pray for the governments and governing bodies of Metropolitan Richmond: For the Boards of Supervisors, Councils, Administrators, and government employees of Charles City, Goochland, New Kent, Powhatan, Ashland, Petersburg, and Hopewell.

Pray for our Ministry Partners

Founded in 1936, The Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty brings a uniquely Baptist perspective of "soul freedom" to protecting religious liberty for all faiths and defending the separation of church and state. BJC is the only faith-based group working on the national level with this singular focus. They file briefs in pivotal Supreme Court cases, advocate for and against legislation, testify in Congress and unite with others across faiths to ensure that all Americans have, and will always have, the right to follow their spiritual beliefs.

Guest Preachers

Anita will be away July 13-27, so we will have two guest preachers this month! Laura Davis from CBFVA will be joining us on July 19th, and our own Bill Nieporte will be preaching on July 26th. Thanks to both of you - we look forward to hearing from you!

Summer Learning

For years the Thursday Morning Bible Study group has been asking me to talk about the Trinity. So, to placate them, we'll have a session on the subject on Thursday, July 23, from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm at church.

Everyone is invited!! Bring your own lunch, drink, and Bible. Coffee and dessert will be provided.

- Don Polaski

Christmas in July

Join us on July 26th 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! Worship will begin at 10:30am, but come a little early to enjoy snacks and fellowship before we begin.

VA Pridefest

Save the date - Pridefest is Sept 12th! We are working on a plan with our friends at Seventh Street Christian Church and Grace Baptist Church again this year. A sign-up link to help in the booth is coming soon!

Book Club News

The Page Turners Book Club is on break for the summer. Our first meeting of the 2026-2027 season will be 4pm, Sunday Sept. 20, 2026 at 2301 Hillard Road. The first meeting will be a discussion of what everyone has read over the summer. We are asking all those attending in September to bring 1, 2 or 3 titles to promote as a future pick (you do not need to have already read the book ahead of time). If you are not on our contact list and would like to be, please give your email info to Kelly Schmitt (in person, by text or email, she's in the directory). All are welcome!

Backpack Update

THANK YOU! We are a little late on getting this "out there"! Connie and Dixie certainly APPRECIATE you! We think this past year was our 11th year (at least) for our Back Pack Ministry with FMEMS! Amazing, 36 bags of food (approx 20 items/bag) weekly (during school year) for 9 months x 11 years! That's a lot of food...feeding 36 food insecure children!!! You ALL are AMAZING! PS: Keep saving those handled grocery bags...we will be BACK TO IT soon!!!

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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We Call Ourselves Disciples

We call ourselves disciples, as pilgrims on the way,
We seek the truth in wisdom, and beauty in each day.
As women, men, and children, we serve, Christ's path to clear.
In joyful expectation we see God's reign draw near.

The cup and cross before us, proclaim our hope above,
the sign of our Redeemer, the vessel of his love.
Once more the cross is lifted, the cup poured out for all.
When gathered at the table we hear our common call.

We're baptized in the Spirit, in waters God provides.
In Christ we rise to newness, for in him we have died.
Now dead to powers of evil, and free from hopeless fears,
we live with faith and purpose, creative through the years.

We join with all disciples to live the Word in deed,
to share the cup of water and bread with all in need;
to work till God's compassion and righteousness prevail,
till all this planet's people know justice without fail.

So now the vision brightens, the light of Christ burns still
in hearts of all disciples to be the church God wills.
From quiet meditation, and joyous hymns of praise,
we go to do God's mission! Christ, lead us all our day.

Living for Jesus

Living for Jesus a life that is true, striving to please him in all that I do;
yielding allegiance, glad-hearted and free, this is the pathway of blessing for me.
O Jesus, Lord and Savior, I give myself to thee;
for thou, in thy atonement, didst give thyself for me;
I own no other master, my heart shall be thy throne;
my life I give, henceforth to live, O Christ, for thee alone.

Living for Jesus who died in my place, bearing on Calvary my sin and disgrace;
such love constrains me to answer his call, follow his leading, and give him my all.
O Jesus, Lord and Savior, I give myself to thee;
for thou, in thy atonement, didst give thyself for me;
I own no other master, my heart shall be thy throne;
my life I give, henceforth to live, O Christ, for thee alone.

Living for Jesus through earth's little while, my dearest treasure--the light of his smile;
seeking the lost ones he died to redeem, bringing the weary to find rest in him.
O Jesus, Lord and Savior, I give myself to thee;
for thou, in thy atonement, didst give thyself for me;
I own no other master, my heart shall be thy throne;
my life I give, henceforth to live, O Christ, for thee alone.

A sower went
to sow....

