

Welcome to Worship

Ginter Park Baptist Church

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

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost • August 16, 2026 • 10:30 AM

*You never take advice
Someday you'll pay the price, I know
I've seen it before, it happens all the time
You're closing the door, you leave the world behind
You're digging for gold, you're throwing away
A fortune in feelings, but someday you'll pay
- Foreigner, "Cold as Ice"*

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

Connie Bak

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

Leader: Sometimes the world can be cold as ice.

People: But we have come seeking the warmth of God's mercy.

Leader: Sometimes silence feels like rejection, and closed doors convince us to turn away.

People: But faith keeps knocking. Faith keeps calling. Faith refuses to surrender hope.

Leader: A woman cried out to Jesus, and when there seemed to be no answer, she cried out again.

People: Lord, have mercy on us!

Leader: She crossed boundaries of nationality, religion, gender, and expectation.

People: And she trusted that God's mercy was greater than every boundary.

Leader: Christ calls us from hearts grown cold to lives made warm by compassion.

People: Melt what is frozen within us, O God.

Leader: Christ calls us from exclusion to welcome, from indifference to mercy, from fear to faith.

People: Open our hearts until there is room for every child of God.

Leader: People of God, come and worship the One whose mercy is wider than we imagine.

People: We come with persistent faith, trusting in the boundless love of God!

INVOCATION PRAYER

HYMN NO. 73

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

WELLESLEY

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

Connie Bak

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

“She Came to Jesus”

SLANE

She came to Jesus from outside the fold, Canaanite woman! Persistent and bold!
Looking to Jesus, she wanted to see one who would help her and set her child free.
Claiming a blessing, a touch of God's grace, she knew God's love was not bounded by place.
Jesus, you listened, debated — then healed — for in her asking, her faith was revealed.
God, you still bless those who seek you in prayer. You welcome dreamers who faithfully dare.
In Christ, now risen, your mercy extends: those on the outside are welcomed as friends.

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SCRIPTURE

[Matthew 15:21-28](#)

Anita Laffoon

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

SERMON

“Cold as Ice”

Anita Laffoon

TIME OF REFLECTION & RESPONSE

“‘I Need Thee Every Hour’ with ‘Cold as Ice’”

Arr. Horn

ANNOUNCEMENTS & THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

HYMN NO. 487

“Help Us Accept Each Other”

AURELIA

CLOSING COMMISSION

Leader: We came remembering a world that can be cold as ice.

People: We leave carrying the warmth of God's mercy.

Leader: When someone cries out and others remain silent—

People: We will listen.

Leader: When someone is pushed aside and told they do not belong—

People: We will make room.

Leader: When fear builds walls between God's children—

People: We will choose love.

Leader: When our own hearts begin to harden—

People: Christ, melt what has grown cold within us.

Leader: Go with the persistence of the Canaanite woman.

People: We will keep believing that mercy is possible.

Leader: Go with the compassion of Christ.

People: We will cross boundaries and widen the table.

Leader: Go knowing that the grace of God is never exhausted, the table of Christ is never too small, and the Spirit is still warming hearts grown cold.

People: We go in faith, we go in hope, and we go in love.

Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. 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 August 16, we pray for the workplaces and businesses of Metropolitan Richmond: For financial institutions, sustainable and just investment policies, and effective development efforts to benefit the entire community.

Pray for our Ministry Partners

RPS Foundation - The mission of Richmond Public Schools Education Foundation is to partner with Richmond Public Schools to actively develop philanthropic resources and community relationships that support the goal to improve student learning and achievement in preparation for success in college, career, and community.

VA Pridefest

Save the date - Pridefest is Sept 12th! We are joining forces with our friends at Seventh Street Christian Church and Grace Baptist Church again this year. Sign up using the link on Realm, but please only sign up for one time slot! If you can't help the day of the event, see Anita for other ways to help us prepare.

Book Club News

The Page Turners Book Club will be resuming soon! 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

Yep...IT'S THAT TIME again! See Connie's note in Realm to see the size grocery bags that are BEST for holding the backpack food (20 food items) packed weekly and delivered to 36 kids at FMES! Stay tuned for Coordinator sign up forthcoming! Thank you, Connie and Dixie!

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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There's a Wideness In God's Mercy

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.

There is welcome for the sinner, and more graces for the good!
There is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in his blood.

For the love of God is broader than the measure of our mind;
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.

If our love were but more simple, we would rest upon God's word;
and our lives would be illumined by the presence of the Lord.

Help Us Accept Each Other

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.

Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them or as they may become.

Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
in living situations to do the truth in love,
to practice your acceptance until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.

Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on;
renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!

