

Welcome to Worship

Ginter Park Baptist Church

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

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost • September 13, 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

Anita Laffoon

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

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name!

People: We will not forget the goodness and mercy of God.

Leader: God forgives our sins, heals our brokenness, and surrounds us with steadfast love.

People: The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in love.

Leader: God does not keep a record of every failure or repay us according to our sins.

People: As far as the east is from the west, so far has God removed our sins from us.

Leader: Having received such extraordinary mercy, let us open our hearts to one another.

People: Forgiven by God, we will learn to forgive.

Leader: Come, let us worship the God whose grace is more than sufficient—

People: Whose mercy is better than excellent! Let us worship God!

INVOCATION PRAYER

HYMN NO. 5

“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

AZMON

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

Anita Laffoon

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.

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

Many: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

“My Soul Repeat God’s Praise”

ST. THOMAS

My soul repeat God’s praise, whose mercies are so great,
whose anger is so slow to rise, so ready to abate.

High as the heav’ns are raised above the ground we tread,
so far the riches of God’s grace our highest thoughts exceed.

The mercy of the Lord to all made in God’s name
is such that tender parents feel. God knows our feeble frame.

For Thy compassions, Lord, to endless years endure,
and children’s children ever find Thy words of promise sure.

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew 18:21-35

Don Polaski

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

Many: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Better Than Excellent”

Don Polaski

TIME OF REFLECTION & RESPONSE “‘Amazing Grace’ with ‘What the World Needs Now’”

Arr. Horn

ANNOUNCEMENTS & THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

HYMN NO. 23

“Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven”

LAUDA ANIMA

CLOSING COMMISSION

Leader: Go now as people who have received mercy beyond measure.

People: We will remember the grace of God.

Leader: When the world tells you to keep score—

People: We will remember the debt that love has canceled.

Leader: When anger tempts you to seek revenge—

People: We will seek the courage of forgiveness and the wisdom of justice.

Leader: When forgiveness is difficult—

People: We will trust the Spirit to continue working within us.

Leader: As Christ has forgiven you, forgive one another.

People: As Christ has welcomed us, we will make room for others.

Leader: Go in the blessing of the God who is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

People: We go to practice a grace that is better than excellent. 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 September 13, we pray for the schools and educational institutions of Metropolitan Richmond: For all public, private, and religious schools. For students, teachers, and support personnel, including cafeteria workers, building and grounds staff, and school bus drivers. For all preschools and daycare centers and for children in home schools.

Pray for our Ministry Partners

Baptist Women in Ministry (National) supports women who pursue ministry and leadership with sustaining resources and community, and advocates for the full affirmation of women in ministry and leadership in Baptist life. BWIM's vision is for women to thrive as they minister and lead within Baptist communities.

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Thursday morning Bible Study begins this Thursday! All are invited to join the lively, deep conversations that happen on Thursdays as Don Polaski leads and teaches from holy scripture. The group meets at church from 10am to 11:30 am for fellowship, prayer and study. Bring your Bibles and join in! Don will spend the first session reviewing and getting everyone - newcomers and "regulars" - ready to go forward in the Acts of the Apostles.

Book Club News

The Page Turners Book Club will be resuming next week at 4pm (Sunday Sept. 20) 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!

Business Meeting

Our quarterly business meeting will be on Sept 27th, immediately after worship. Please plan to attend either in person or via Zoom.

BJC Study - Round 2

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. 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 the week of Sept 27th. Let Anita know if you are interested in participating!

Coming up in October...

- **October 4th - Church Picnic at Dunncroft Park**
 - Mark your calendars for our church picnic and Blessing of the Animals on October 4th! We will be in the picnic shelter at Dunncroft Park (4901 Francistown Rd, Glen Allen, VA 23060). Bring a dish to share, and your (leashed) animal friends!
- **October 24th - Blue Circle #3**
 - Get ready for our third Blue Circle conversation! Mark your calendars for October 24th, 10am-2pm. ReEstablish Richmond and the Health Brigade will be teaching us more about our immigrant/migrant neighbors and how we can help welcome and support them. Lunch will be provided!

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! If you are available to fill in by shopping or packing when needed, let Connie and Dixie know!

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

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and king, the triumphs of God's grace!

Jesus, the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.

My loving Savior and my God, assist me to proclaim
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.

Glory to God and praise and love be ever, ever given
by saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heaven.

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

Praise, my soul, the God of heaven; glad of heart your carols raise;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven who, like me, should sing God's praise?
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the Maker all our days.

Praise to God for grace and favor shown to all who are oppressed.
God shows steadfast love for ever, slow to chide, and swift to bless:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious is God's faithfulness!

Mother-like God tends and spares us; knowing well our fragile frame.
Father-like, God gently bears us, tender-hearted, slow to blame.
Alleluia! Alleluia! All within me praise God's name!

Frail as summer's flower we flourish, blows the wind, and it is gone.
But while mortals rise and perish God's compassion still lives on.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the high eternal One!

Angels, teach us adoration you who see God face to face;
sun and moon, and all creation, dwellers all in time and space:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace!

***The Parable of the
Unforgiving Servant
Matthew 18:21-35***

