

Welcome to Worship

Ginter Park Baptist Church

Zoom Meeting ID: 804 359 2475 • 2301 Hilliard Road, Richmond VA • 804-359-2475
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost • September 20, 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

Brandon Kelly

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

Leader: Long ago, God spoke to Abram: "Go from your country, your kindred, and your father's house to the land that I will show you."

People: God called Abram to step beyond what he knew and trust the road ahead.

Leader: God promised, "I will bless you."

People: But the blessing was never meant for Abram alone.

Leader: "In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

People: From one life, God began unfolding a blessing for the world.

Leader: Through generations and journeys, through wilderness and homecoming, through prophets and promises, God continued writing the story.

People: And still the promise traveled on.

Leader: Until, generations later, from Abraham's family would come a child—

People: Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us.

Leader: And through Christ, the ancient promise would open its arms to the world.

People: The story of blessing continues among us.

Leader: So come, people of God. Bring the story of where you have been and the hope of where God may yet lead you.

People: We will worship the God who calls us, journeys with us, blesses us, and sends us to be a blessing.

INVOCATION PRAYER

HYMN NO. 24

"The God of Abraham Praise"

LEONI

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

Brandon Kelly

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

“Abraham Journeyed to a New Country”

BUNESSAN

Abraham journeyed to a new country; Sarah went with him, journeying too.
Slaves down in Egypt fled Pharaoh's army; Ruth left the home and people she knew.

Mary and Joseph feared Herod's order; soldiers were coming! They had to flee.
Taking young Jesus, they crossed the border; so was our Lord a young refugee.

Some heard the promise — God's hand would bless them! Some fled from hunger, famine and pain.
Some left a place where others oppressed them; all trusted God and started again.

Did they know hardship? Did they know danger? Who shared a home or gave them some bread?
Who reached a hand to welcome the stranger? Who saw their fear and gave hope instead?

God, our own families came here from far lands; we have been strangers, "aliens" too.
May we reach out and offer a welcome as we have all been welcomed by you.

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SCRIPTURE READING

[Genesis 12:1–9](#)

Anita Laffoon

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

SERMON

“The Story”

Anita Laffoon

TIME OF REFLECTION & RESPONSE “‘Lead On, oh King Eternal’ with ‘The Story’”

AZMON

ANNOUNCEMENTS & THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

HYMN No. 602

“O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee”

MARYTON

CLOSING COMMISSION

Leader: God said to Abram, “Go,” and Abram stepped into a story whose ending he could not yet see.

People: We will go in faith, trusting the God who travels with us.

Leader: God said, “I will bless you, so that you will be a blessing.”

People: We will carry God’s blessing beyond ourselves.

Leader: Through Abraham and Sarah, through generations of God’s people, the promise traveled across centuries.

People: We will remember that we are part of a story larger than ourselves.

Leader: Prophets dreamed of what God was preparing. A people waited. A promise remained alive.

People: We will watch for the light God is bringing into the world.

Leader: And in the fullness of time, on another journey, a young woman and her beloved would travel toward Bethlehem—

People: And God's ancient promise would come among us in Jesus Christ.

Leader: The child of Bethlehem would grow to call disciples of his own and finally say to them, "Go."

People: So the story continues through us.

Leader: Go, then, into whatever road lies before you. Go with the blessing of the God of Abraham and Sarah, the love of Jesus Christ, and the presence of the Holy Spirit.

People: We go blessed to be a blessing, called to continue God's story in the world. 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 20, we pray for the schools and educational institutions of Metropolitan Richmond: For all universities, colleges, seminaries, trade, technical, graduate, and professional schools; for the students, faculty, and staff of these institutions.

Pray for our Ministry Partners

BPFNA~Bautistas por la Paz (Baptist Peace Fellowship) is the largest Baptist network of peacemakers in the United States inclusive of other denominational faiths, non-confessional groups and individuals. They are a progressive, intercultural organization of peacemakers and are gender-diverse, inclusive, and affirming. They seek to empower the poor, liberate the oppressed, free the captive, and pronounce a new day of grace for all of creation.

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Thursday morning Bible Study meets at 10am, and all are invited to join the lively, deep conversations that happen as Don Polaski leads and teaches from holy scripture. Bring your Bibles and join in as we study the Acts of the Apostles.

Book Club News

The Page Turners Book Club will meet today at 4pm! 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 next Sunday, 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 September 28th at 6:30pm. Let Anita know if you are interested in participating!

Church Picnic at Duncroft Park

Mark your calendars for our church picnic and Blessing of the Animals on October 4th! We will be in the picnic shelter at Duncroft Park (4901 Francistown Rd, Glen Allen, VA 23060). Bring a dish to share, and your (leashed) animal friends!

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

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The God of Abraham Praise

The God of Abraham praise. All praised be the Name,
who was and is and is to be, is still the same;
the one eternal God, ere all that now appears;
the First, the Last, beyond all thought through timeless years!

God's Spirit flowing free, high surging where it will--
in prophet's word it spoke of old--is speaking still.
Established is God's law, and changeless it shall stand,
deep writ upon the human heart, on sea, or land.

God has eternal life implanted in the soul.
God's love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll.
Praise to the living God! All praised be the Name,
who was, and is, and is to be, is still the same!

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

O Master, let me walk with thee in lowly paths of service free;
tell me thy secret; help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.

Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay, and guide them in the homeward way.

Teach me thy patience; still with thee in closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that triumphs over wrong.

In hope that sends a shining ray far down the future's broadening way,
in peace that only thou canst give, with thee, O Master, let me live.

The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country,
your people and your father's household and go to
the land I will show you."
Genesis 12:1 (NIV)

