Welcome to Worship

Ginter Park Baptist Church

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

Twenty-fourth Sunday After Pentecost • November 8, 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.

For as long as I shall live, I will testify to love
I'll be a witness in the silences when words are not enough
with every breath I take, I will give thanks to God above
for as long as I shall live, I will testify to love.
- Avalon, "Testify to Love"

Chiming the Trinity Lisa Horn

Call to Worship Raymond Cady

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

Leader: We began beside the waters, where God hung a promise in the clouds.
People: The God of Noah still holds the whole creation in love.
Leader: We traveled with Abraham into the unknown and found God beside Joseph in a place of confinement.
People: In unfamiliar places and uncertain days, God's faithful love remained.
Leader: We crossed the sea with Moses, received a covenant, and stood with Joshua to choose whom we would serve.
People: The God who frees us calls us to lives of justice, mercy, and peace.
Leader: With David, we faced the truth about power; with Solomon, we asked for hearts wise enough to listen.
People: Teach us to hear the voices that pride and privilege overlook.
Leader: Today, a young servant points toward healing, and a mighty warrior learns to receive.
People: Grace comes through unexpected people and opens an unexpected way.
Leader: Where hope has seemed hemmed in, fresh currents stir beneath a widening blue.
People: We give thanks for every opening through which mercy can reach our neighbors.
Leader: The promise in the clouds still shelters every shade of our humanity.
People: Here we may bring our whole selves; here our love need not hide.
Leader: Come, people of God: let gratitude become welcome, and let welcome become service.
All: With our voices and our lives, we will testify to love!

Invocation Prayer

Hymn No. 637 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" Beecher

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 Raymond Cady

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. 487 "Help Us Accept Each Other" Aurelia

Scripture Reading 2 Kings 5:1–15a Anita Laffoon

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

Sermon "Testify to Love" Anita Laffoon

Time of Reflection & Response "'Though I May Speak' with'Testify to Love'" Arr. Horn

Announcements & The Work of the Church

Hymn No. 494 "They'll Know We Are Christians" St. Brendan's

Closing Commission

Leader: Go from this place with ears open to unexpected wisdom and hearts ready to receive God's grace.
People: We will listen with humility and testify to love.
Leader: Walk toward Micah's promise of peace: do justice, cherish kindness, and walk humbly with God.
People: We will make mercy visible in the choices of each day.
Leader: Walk toward Isaiah's vision, where weapons become tools for tending life.
People: We will practice peace and help our neighbors flourish.
Leader: When Habakkuk teaches us to wait, and Esther calls us to courage, may God sustain our faith and strengthen our voices.
People: We will keep watch with hope and speak when love requires it.
Leader: As the promised light reaches the nations, may the Spirit guide our steps toward those who need freedom, shelter, and belonging.
People: We will make room for the light and carry it into the world.

Leader: As Joseph learns to trust the promise of Emmanuel, may we welcome the holy in places we did not expect.

People: We will prepare our hearts and our homes for God with us.

Leader: And as the road leads to Bethlehem, may the love born among us find a home in all we say and do.

People: From this day to Christmas and beyond, our lives will testify to love.

Leader: May the God who heals, the Christ who draws near, and the Spirit who gives courage bless you and keep you.

All: We go in peace, to welcome, to serve, and to love. 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 November 8, we pray for persons in financial need in Metropolitan Richmond: For the homeless and the hungry. For the provision of safe, affordable housing and low-cost nutritious food. For the personal safety, dignity, and well-being of those who are unable to work.

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.

Business Meeting

Our November business meeting will be on Sunday the 15th immediately after worship. Please plan to attend either in person or on Zoom.

Book Club News

The Page Turner's Book Club has a new book to discuss: The Three Graces of Pearl Street by Elizabeth Wellington Rollins. We will discuss the book on Sunday November 15th at 4pm at the church.

Volunteers Needed
We are working on creating a rotation of volunteers to help with our little ones (birth through kindergarten) on Sunday mornings. Right now, we mostly need people who are willing to be available if needed, knowing that some mornings you'd be free to join us for worship. If you are interested in joining the rotation, let Anita know!

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.

Backpack Update
We are up and running! We have our 36 students on board to receive their weekend bags of food! We are grateful for the principal of Francis McClenney Elementary School, Ms. Pendleton, and Kyra Fontaine, Community Coordinator in the school. These two are partners in this mission project by selecting the students who receive these bags of food and weekly seeing to it that the kids pick up their bags of food for the weekend! It takes a village!!! So thankful for the village of GPBC AND FMES! Together we make it happen!

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

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown;
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit, let us find the promised rest;
take away the love of sinning, alpha and omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return and never, nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

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!

They'll Know We Are Christians

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
we are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
and we pray that all unity will one day be restored.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
we will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
we will work with each other, we will work side by side;
and we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
and all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son,
and all praise to the Spirit who makes us one.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love

2 Kings 5:1-14 - Naaman, a leper, washed himself seven times in the river Jordan at the command of Elisha the prophet and was cleansed of his leprosy.



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