Welcome to Worship

Ginter Park Baptist Church

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

Reign of Christ Sunday • November 22, 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 Tracy Cady

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

Leader: Jerusalem was caught in the middle. An army stood at the gates, and a voice called out for the people to give up hope.

People: When fear presses in on every side, Christ, you are here with us.

Leader: Hezekiah went to the house of the Lord, and God spoke through Isaiah, saying, "Do not be afraid."

People: When the loudest voices tell us whom to fear, help us hear your voice.

Leader: In this week of Thanksgiving, we give thanks for bread on the table, for the hands that prepared it, and for the people who make room for us.

People: For what we have received, we give thanks. For those who are hungry or alone, help us make room at our tables.

Leader: Isaiah saw a day when nations would turn their swords into plowshares and no longer learn war.

People: Teach us to use what we have to feed our neighbors and make peace.

Leader: Come, let us worship Christ, whose reign is marked by justice and peace.

People: Christ, you are here in the middle of it all. We give you thanks, and we will walk in your ways.

Invocation Prayer

Hymn No. 715 "Now Thank We All Our God" Nun Danket

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 Tracy 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 "Here's a Promise We Can Count On!" W Zlobie Lezy

Tune of "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

Here's a promise we can count on! It's the word Isaiah saw:
One day coming, God's own mountain will be highest of them all.
All the nations will be yearning for God's teaching, and returning,
they'll find guidance in God's law. They'll find guidance in God's law.

On that day of celebration, all will listen to the Lord.
God will judge between the nations till all justice is restored.
Out of weapons made for harming they will fashion tools for farming
and they'll put aside the sword. And they'll put aside the sword.

One great day, the prophet told us, God will triumph! It is true.
Lord, we trust this word of promise as we hear your word anew.
When we're lost among the mountains of the world's ways that confound us,
show the path that leads to you. Show the path that leads to you.

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Scripture Reading Isaiah 36:1–3, 13–20; 37:1–7; 2:1–4 Anita Laffoon

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

Sermon "Stuck in the Middle with You" Anita Laffoon

Time of Reflection & Response

Announcements & The Work of the Church

Hymn No. 722 "This Is My World" Finlandia

Closing Commission

Leader: Isaiah heard the threats of war at Jerusalem's walls. He also saw a day when nations would beat their swords into plowshares and learn war no more.

People: Christ, here we are in the middle with you, between the wars we still wage and the peace you teach us to make.

Leader: At your Thanksgiving tables, give thanks for the earth that feeds us and the hands that bring food to the table. Remember those whose fields have become battlefields and those who have had to leave their homes.

People: May our gratitude become bread we share, room we make, and peace we practice.

Leader: Next Sunday, we will light the first candle of Advent. Until then, may the Christ who reigns in peace give you courage to begin making peace wherever you find yourself this week.

People: Come, Lord Jesus. Stay with us in the middle, and teach us to walk in your ways. 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.

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Special thanks to Mark Biddle for being our guest musician this week!

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Announcements

Metro Richmond at Prayer

During the week of November 22, we pray for persons in financial need in Metropolitan Richmond: For the inclusion of all (regardless of race, age, or residency) in the economic health of Metropolitan Richmond.

Pray for our Ministry Partners

The Alliance of Baptists seek to cultivate beloved community, claiming our identity within the body of Christ in the world and our solidarity with all creation. They welcome and affirm all persons with full respect to gender, sexual, racial, and ethnic identities and hold space for all persons with varying abilities, social standing, or economic status. Their core values are to create a theological Home, pursuit of God's Justice, and partnership in Mission.

Advent Calendar

- Nov 29th – Hope, First Sunday in Advent
- Dec 6th – Peace
- Dec 13th – Joy, and Brunch! Bring a dish to share!
- Dec 20th – Love
- Dec 24th – Christmas Eve service, 6pm

Business Meeting
Our next business meeting will be on December 13th immediately after worship – we will be working on our 2027 budget, as well as hearing final reports from committees for the year. Please plan to attend in person or via Zoom.

Church Check-in
Our Church Check-ins will resume on January 10th at 9:15am! MLT will be leading a brainstorming session about how we can engage with our new neighbors. Please plan to attend either in person or via Zoom.

Book Club News
The Page Turners Book Club has a new reading assignment: *The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein. This book will be discussed on Sunday January 24, 2027 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

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Now Thank We All Our God

Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom the world rejoices,
who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever-joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us full of grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God our Father and our Mother,
to Christ and to the One who binds us to each other,
the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore,
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

This Is My Song

This is my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace for lands of far and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is; here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
but other hearts in other lands are beating with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

My countries skies are bluer than the ocean, and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine;
but Other lands have sunlight, too, and clover, and skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
O Hear my song, thou God of all the nations, a song of peace for their land and for mine.

This is my prayer, O Ruler of all nations; let thy reign come; on earth thy will be done.
In peace may all earth’s people draw together, and hearts united learn to live as one.
O Hear my prayer, thou God of all the nations; myself I give thee; let thy will be done.



"People of Jacob, come. Let us live the way the Lord wants us to."

— ISAIAH 2:5 —