

# The Worship of God

## GINTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

Zoom Meeting ID: 804 359 2475 • 6100 Chamberlayne Road, Richmond VA • 804-359-2475  
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost • September 29th, 2024 • 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

Lisa Horn

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

One: The Spirit is at work in the community around us;

**Many: Open our minds, O God, to experiencing Your Spirit here and now.**

One: Christ is at work in the hearts of people near us;

**Many: Open our hearts, O God, to love all our neighbors as ourselves.**

One: Our Eternal God is doing something new in our world;

**Many: Open us, O God, to new understandings and insights.**

One: Our Wondrous God is continuing to change our hearts, our minds, and our world;

**Many: Come, worship God, who leads us into eternal life.**

### INVOCATION PRAYER

#### HYMN No. 668

“For the Healing of the Nations”

CWM RHONDDA

\*Some of us stand while singing, and others don't. Please join us in song in whatever way you are comfortable.\*

### BLESSING THE BACKPACKS

One: Holy One, with you every transition and new start is a reminder of your goodness, for you are always creating fresh, amazing things in us and through us. We appreciate the opportunity to learn and grow, knowing it is one of the biggest privileges we have. With thanks and love, we now offer everything we are to you, asking for your blessing. We pray for students of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds. We pray for their hearts and all they hold—excitement and nervousness, disappointment and hope. We lift up all their joys and fears. We pray for steady self-esteem and deepening resilience.

**Many: Loving God, keep them in your care.**

One: We pray for their minds, that they will expand in wonder and celebration, learning not just from the books studied but the people beside them. Open their minds with a willingness to be changed in unexpected ways, and settle their thought loops in peaceful places.

**Many: Faithful God, we thank you for the ways you are already at work in their lives.**

One: We pray for their hands, that they will reach out to help, welcome, and care. Bless their hands with patience and dedication as they grip pencils and type on keyboards, swish paint brushes and clap in song, grip monkey bars and lunch box handles, spin wheelchair tires and basketballs.

**Many: Welcoming God, may they know and share your love.**

One: We pray for their mouths, that they will speak words bringing life and connection. Help them use their mouths to honor the dignity and belovedness of all. Remind them to open their mouths for deep belly breaths when they're feeling anxious or afraid.

**Many: Gracious God, surround them with words that build up rather than tear down.**

One: We pray for their feet, that they will move toward those different from them and help others in safe ways. Plant their feet next to those who feel alone, and bless their steps down hallways and sidewalks. We know you are with them wherever their feet go or stay.

**Many: Ever-present God, may they always know that you journey with them.**

One: We pray for their eyes, that they may see themselves and others with compassion. Point their eyes toward those who are forgotten or struggling. Grow them in flexibility to see from all kinds of angles. Bless what and how they see, whether they're looking at a screen, a whiteboard, or the beauty of a person's face. And help them see with the most important eyes—the eyes of the Spirit within them.

**Many: God who sees our true selves, may they know that all of who they are is worthy of love.**

One: We pray for their ears, that they will genuinely listen to all voices, especially those that haven't been listened to much. When things get noisy, help them listen extra carefully for your voice. Help them hear with the most important ears—the ears of the Spirit within them.

**Many: Merciful God, may all of their voices be heard and all of their needs met.**

One: We say a special prayer for parents and care-givers, as the start of a new school year is always another leap of faith. Wrap them with your reassuring love as they entrust their children and trust in you. When questions remain unanswered, and the realm of control is finite, bless them with peace and the promise that you are right there with their child, whether heading to preschool or driving to college.

**Many: Caring God, guide those who care for and nurture others.**

One: We also pray now for teachers, staff and administrators. Bless these faithful servants with courage and confidence, knowing you are in their classroom with a steady hand on their shoulder. Give them peace, patience, and balance in the pressures they face, and bravery to build structures and systems which justly serve all your children. Give them delight in the young ones before them, and recognition of the sweet ways children are also teachers.

**Many: God who leads and guides, bless those who selflessly pour into others.**

One: We pray for health and wholeness, fun and growth, surprise and amazement, for this school year ahead, knowing you will hold them all the way through.

**Many: We thank you, God, and love you. Amen.**

#### SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS

Lisa Horn

\*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

##### 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. 254

“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

TRENTHAM

#### SCRIPTURE

[Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29](#)

Anita Laffoon

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

**Many: Thanks be to God**

#### SERMON

“Why Can't We Be Friends?”

Anita Laffoon

TIME OF REFLECTION & RESPONSE “‘No, Not One’ with ‘Why Can't We Be Friends?’”

Arr. Horn

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS & THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

#### HYMN NO. 585

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

CONVERSE

#### CLOSING COMMISSION

One: We have sung, we have prayed, we have worshiped together.

**Many: Now we go back out into the world.**

One: We came together to build relationships,

**Many: Relationships with each other, and our relationship with Jesus.**

One: We go out as people who are strengthened by our connections

**Many: Ready to love and to serve. Ready to carry God's love to the world.**

One: As you journey through the ups and the downs of the coming week,

**Many: Let us remember that God, who has invited us into relationship, is always with us.**

One: Go with God, as the people of God.

**Many: So be it! 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 29th, we pray for the schools and educational institutions of Metropolitan Richmond: For curriculum that is grounded in truth and meaning. For space to nourish the creative seed in both teachers and students.

#### **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.

#### **Church Picnic**

Save the date for our church picnic and Blessing of the Animals service NEXT SUNDAY October 6th at 11am! We will be at Three Lakes Park, Shelter #2. Bring a dish or dessert to share, a lawn chair, and your pet! All are welcome!

#### **Study Opportunities**

- **Sunday Morning Small Group** - meets at 9am, and they are studying the book *Reclaiming Faith*. Contact Raymond Cady for more information.
- **Thursday Morning Bible Study** - is studying Acts on Thursdays from 10-11:30 a.m. Contact Don Polaski for more information.
- **Weeknight Small Groups** - will be reading *UnClobber: Rethinking Our Misuse of the Bible on Homosexuality*. There are two groups for this book study - one on Wednesdays at 6:30pm (beginning 10/16), and another on Thursdays at 6pm (beginning 10/17). Zoom is available! Contact Anita Laffoon for more information..

## **Book Club**

The Page Turners Book Club has a new read! The book for our next meeting will be: *What Happens Next* by Christina Suzann Nelson. The book will be discussed on Sunday November 24th at 4pm. Location TBA.

## **Backpack Update**

Our deliveries have begun! If you are interested in helping this year, let Dixie Leathers or Connie Bak know. As always, please continue to bring in your paper grocery bags (with handles!).

## **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 (alaffoon@ginterparkbc.org)!

## **Hymn Texts**

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### **For the Healing of the Nations**

For the healing of the nations, Lord, we pray with one accord;  
for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords;  
to a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word, help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us forward into freedom; from despair your world release,  
that, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace.  
Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase, fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned;  
pride of status, race, or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan.  
In our common quest for justice may we hallow life's brief span, may we hallow life's brief span.

You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind;  
for our growing in your likeness bring the life of Christ to mind,  
that by our response and service earth its destiny may find, earth its destiny may find.

### **Breathe on Me, Breath of God**

Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew,  
that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure,  
until with thee I will one will to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am wholly thine,  
until this earthly part of me glows with thy fire divine.

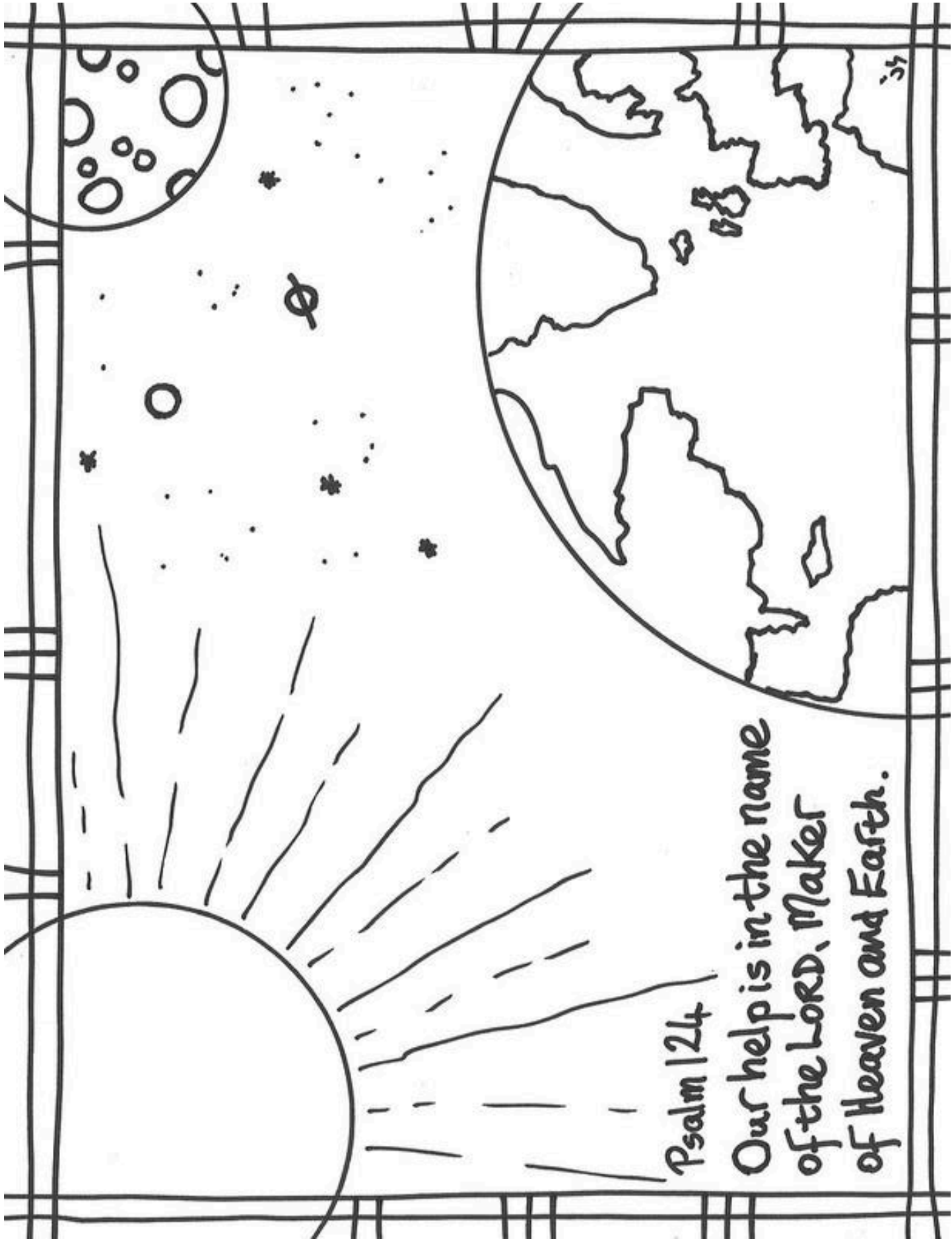
Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die,  
but live with thee the perfect life of thine eternity.

### **What a Friend We Have in Jesus**

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit, oh, what needless pain we bear,  
all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer!

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.



Psalm 124

Our help is in the name  
of the LORD, Maker  
of Heaven and Earth.