

The Worship of God

GINTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

Zoom Meeting ID: 804 359 2475 • 6100 Chamberlayne Road, Richmond VA • 804-359-2475
Fourth Sunday in Lent • March 30th, 2025 • 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**.*

One: We know that in God our sin is forgiven;

Many: We know that in Christ we have new life.

One: We know that when we confess where we have gone wrong,

Many: God is already waiting with open arms to welcome us back.

One: We enter this time of worship, knowing that we have made mistakes;

Many: We enter this time of worship knowing we have new life in Christ, who continues to set our feet onto the path of righteousness. Amen.

INVOCATION PRAYER

HYMN NO. 610

“Living for Jesus”

LIVING FOR JESUS

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

Anita Laffoon

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.

LENTEN CHORUS

“Where Are You, God? We Long to Know”

O WALY WALY

Still you are gracious, loving, kind. We'll turn around! Now is the time!

These Lenten days, O God, may we become your blest community.

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CONFESSION

**God of wisdom,
we confess the foolishness of our ways,
and our failure to follow you in your paths of right relationships –
with you and with others.
We have gone astray; we feel lost.
We have upheld our own interests first, to the detriment of others.
We have failed to be generous with the poor,
and abandoned our efforts to bring about justice.
We feel the weight of our mistakes, God;
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
Help us to live more faithfully as your servants.
We seek your unfailing love
and ask for your guiding hand on our lives.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

One: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Many: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.

EXTINGUISH CANDLE

HYMN No. 200

“What Wondrous Love Is This”

WONDROUS LOVE

SCRIPTURE

LUKE 15: 1-3, 11B-32

Grace Maguire

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

Many: Thanks be to God

SERMON

“Mercy!”

Grace Maguire

TIME OF REFLECTION & RESPONSE

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Arr. Horn

ANNOUNCEMENTS & THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

HYMN No. 340

“Softly and Tenderly”

THOMPSON

CLOSING COMMISSION

One: Whatever wilderness the Spirit has brought you to

Many: walk in boldness, as a beloved child of God

One: walk in peace, under the shelter of the Most High

Many: walk in faith, knowing Christ walks with you.

One: O God, who makes all things new,

Many: new stars, new dust, new life;

One: take our hearts, every hardened edge and measured beat,

Many: and create something new in us.

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 March 30, we pray for the churches and religious institutions of Metropolitan Richmond: For a spirit of unity, mutuality, cooperation, reconciliation, reform, and common ministry within the faith community.

Pray for our Ministry Partners

The Baptist World Alliance is a global movement of Baptists sharing a common confession of faith in Jesus Christ. For more than 100 years, the Baptist World Alliance has networked the Baptist family to impact the world for Christ with a commitment to strengthen worship, fellowship and unity; lead in mission and evangelism; respond to people in need through aid, relief, and community development; defend religious freedom, human rights, and justice; and advance theological reflection and leadership development.

Study Opportunities

- **Weeknight Study** - *Holy Envy*, by Barbara Brown Taylor begins Thursday, April 3rd at 6pm. Contact Anita for more information.
- **Sunday Morning Small Group** – is reading *A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23: Discovering God's Love for You* at 9am on Sunday mornings. Contact Raymond Cady for more information.
- **Thursday Morning Bible Study** - is studying Acts on Thursday from 10-11:30 a.m. Contact Don Polaski for more information.

Guest Preachers!

March is Baptist Women in Ministry's Month of Advocacy! This month we will celebrate with two guest preachers - Rev. Dr. Sandra Hack Polaski on March 23rd, and our seminary student (and office manager) Grace

Maguire on March 30. Visit <https://bwim.info/bwim-month-of-advocacy/> for more information about advocacy for women in ministry!

Church Check-in

We have the updated logos from Parable Media to share with you! Let's plan for a Church Check-in after worship TODAY so we can take a look and give feedback to Parable Media. Hope to see you then!

Save the Dates!

Holy Week services for GPBC:

- Palm Sunday - April 13th, service at 10:30am
- Maundy Thursday - April 17th, service at 7pm (with Anointed New Life Baptist and First Mennonite)
- Good Friday - April 18th, Self-guided prayer stations from 4-8pm
- Easter Sunday - April 20th, Brunch at 9am, service at 10:30am. Bring a dish to share!

Page Turner Book Club

The Page Turners Book Club will next meet on Sunday May 18, 2025. Location TBA. The book for discussion will be: *The Guilty One* by Kiersten Modglin.

Backpack Update

We are in need of paper bags with handles for our weekly backpack food program. Please continue to bring in your bags from your shopping trips, and if you are able please purchase extras. See Dixie Leathers or Connie Bak for more details.

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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Living for Jesus

Living for Jesus a life that is true, striving to please him in all that I do;
yielding allegiance, glad-hearted and free, this is the pathway of blessing for me.

O Jesus, Lord and Savior, I give myself to thee;
for thou, in thy atonement, didst give thyself for me;
I own no other master, my heart shall be thy throne;
my life I give, henceforth to live, O Christ, for thee alone.

Living for Jesus who died in my place, bearing on Calvary my sin and disgrace;
such love constrains me to answer his call, follow his leading, and give him my all.

O Jesus, Lord and Savior, I give myself to thee;
for thou, in thy atonement, didst give thyself for me;
I own no other master, my heart shall be thy throne;
my life I give, henceforth to live, O Christ, for thee alone.

Living for Jesus through earth's little while, my dearest treasure--the light of his smile;
seeking the lost ones he died to redeem, bringing the weary to find rest in him.

O Jesus, Lord and Savior, I give myself to thee;
for thou, in thy atonement, didst give thyself for me;
I own no other master, my heart shall be thy throne;
my life I give, henceforth to live, O Christ, for thee alone.

What Wondrous Love Is This

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down, when I was sinking down, sinking down;
when I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul, Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, to God and to the Lamb I will sing!
To God and to the Lamb, who is the great "I AM,"
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing, while millions join the theme, I will sing!

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on!
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and through eternity I'll sing on!

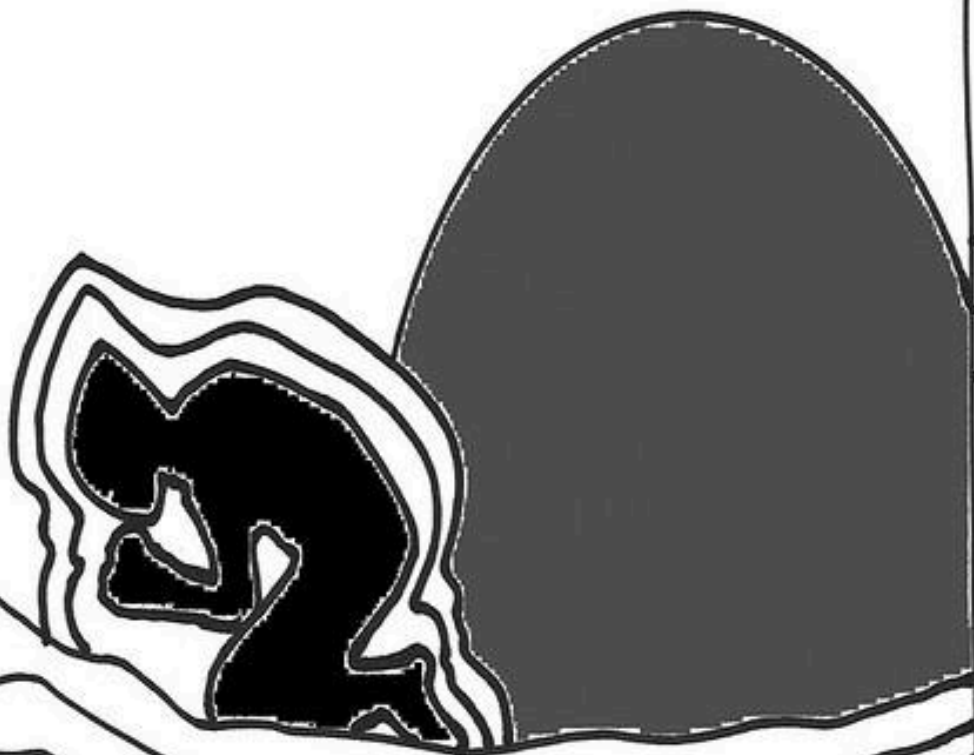
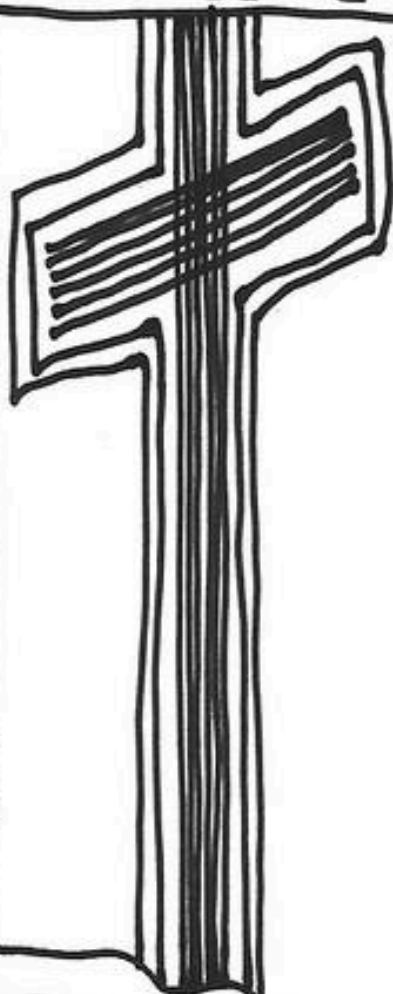
Softly and Tenderly

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me;
patient and loving, he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.
Come home, (Come home,) come home, (come home,) ye who are weary, come home;
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, "O sinner, come home!"

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me?
Why should we wait, then, and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me?
Come home, (Come home,) come home, (come home,) ye who are weary, come home;
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, "O sinner, come home!"

O for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me;
tho' we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me.
Come home, (Come home,) come home, (come home,) ye who are weary, come home;
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, "O sinner, come home!"

Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven,...



LENT 4

...whose sins are covered. Psalm 32v 1

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