LET'S MAKE SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL

Ginter Park Presbyterian Church

The mission of GPPC is to embody God's love
by cultivating community, practicing hope, repairing harm, and doing justice as Jesus did.

November 1, 2026 *All Saints' Day* 11:00am

+ indicates you are invited to stand
***Bold print** indicates congregation in unison*

We are grateful to be gathered here in the Almond Creek-James River watershed, which we share with a diversity of plants and creatures, including the flowering dogwood, butterfly milkweed, striped bass, northern cardinal, and red fox. We acknowledge that this land is the traditional territory of the Powhatan Confederacy. May we nurture our relationship with all our neighbors, and our shared responsibilities to this watershed where we gather today.

GATHERING

The act of assembling in Jesus' name bears witness to the Church's identity and mission as Christ's body in the world. Gather your thoughts and feelings. Entrust yourself to God's saving grace.

Prelude — Prelude on the Name of Alain — Maurice Duruflé

Greeting and Announcements

Introit — Doug Brown

These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. - Revelation 7:14b
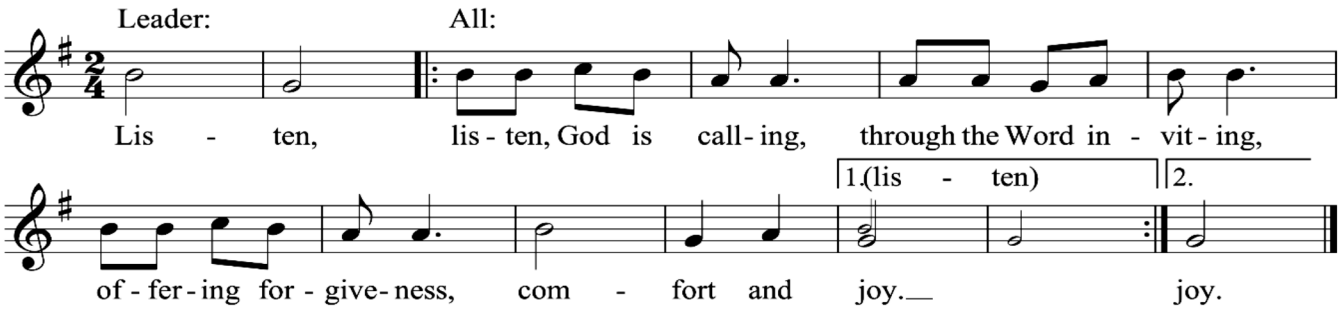
Call to Worship — [adapted from a call by Bruce Prewer]

One: Beautiful is the God we know in Jesus, who gathers the poor of the earth.
All: Glorious is our God, who wipes away the tears of sorrow.
One: Beautiful is the God we know in Jesus, who gives inheritance to the meek.
All: Glorious is our God, who satisfies the hunger of the just.
One: Beautiful is the God we know in Jesus, who gives mercy to the merciful.
All: Glorious is our God, who gives vision to the pure in heart.
One: Beautiful is the God we know in Jesus, who adopts the peacemakers.
All: Glorious is our God, who lifts high the persecuted.
One: Beautiful is the God we know in Jesus, who finds the lost.
All: Glorious is our God, who awakens the dead.

+ Hymn 326 *For All the Saints*

Confession of Sin and Pain

Kenyan traditional



Eternal God, in every age you have raised up people to live and die in faith. We confess that we often are indifferent to your will. You call us to proclaim your name, and we are silent. You call us to do what is just, and we remain idle. You call us to live faithfully, and we are afraid.

In your mercy, forgive us. Give us courage to follow in your way, so that, joined with those from ages past who have served you with faith, hope, and love, we may inherit the kingdom you promised in Jesus Christ.

Silent prayer

Assurance of Forgiveness and Healing

+ Gloria (Hymn 582) *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

WORD

Where the scriptures are read and proclaimed, Jesus Christ, the living Word, is present by the power of the Holy Spirit. God's Spirit also evokes our response. Through singing, affirmation, and prayer, with the help of God's Spirit, we discern Jesus Christ, receive Christ's grace, and resolve to follow Christ's way.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Revelation 7:9-17

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!”

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” I said to him, “Sir, you are the one who knows.” Then he said to me,

“These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God and worship God day and night within God’s temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat, for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd and will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Psalm 34:1-10, 22

One: I will bless the LORD at all times, whose praise shall continually be in my mouth.
My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.
All: O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt God’s name together.
I sought the LORD, who answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.
One: Look to the LORD, and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed.
This poor soul cried, and was heard by the LORD, and was saved from every trouble.
All: The angel of the LORD encamps around the God-fearing, and delivers them.
O taste and see that the LORD is good; happy are those who take refuge in the LORD.
One: O fear the LORD, you holy ones, for those who are God-fearing have no want.
The young lions suffer want and hunger, but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.
All: The LORD redeems the life of those chosen to serve;
none of those who take refuge in the LORD will be condemned.

Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon — Carla Pratt Keyes

+ Hymn 485 *We Know That Christ is Raised*

+ Affirmation of Faith — [The Apostles' Creed]

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

+ Somos Uno (Hymn 322)

We are one in Christ Jesus, all one body, all one spirit, all together.
Somos uno en Cristo, somos uno, somos uno, uno solo.
We share one God, one mighty Lord, one abiding faith, one binding love,
One single baptism, one Holy Comforter, the Holy Spirit, uniting all.

EUCHARIST

The Lord's Supper is the sign and seal of our communion with the crucified and risen Lord.
We celebrate with thanksgiving (eukharistia) the grace (kharis) with which Jesus welcomes us to sit at his table,
eat what will satisfy our deepest hungers, and feed others as we've been fed.
We offer ourselves in response to Christ's wonderful offering of love.

Testimony — *What I find especially beautiful about GPPC … that makes me glad to support GPPC financially!* — Kimberly Carswell

Offering

Everyone is invited to place tithes, offerings, visitor cards,
or any other communications to the Pastor or staff
in the designated wall boxes beside each door at the back of the Sanctuary
or signal an usher to bring you the offering plate.
Ushers will also come down the aisle, in case you would like to make a gift or pledge
but would rather not come forward.

Monetary gifts and pledges to GPPC may also be given online at https://www.ginterparkpc.org/giving, or by using the QR Code to the left.

Offertory — Funeral Ikos — John Tavener

Why these bitter words of the dying, o brethren, which they utter as they go hence?
I am parted from my sisters, all my friends do I abandon and go hence.
But whither I go, that understand I not, neither what shall become of me yonder;
Only God who hath summoned me knoweth but make commemoration of me with the song:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

But whither now go the souls? How dwell they now together there?
This mystery have I desired to learn; but none can impart aright.
Do they call to mind their own people, as we do them?
Or have they forgotten all those who mourn them and make the song: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

We go forth on the path eternal, and as condemned
with downcast faces, present ourselves before the only God eternal
Where then is comeliness? Where then is wealth? Where then is the glory of this world?
There shall none of these things aid us, but only to say oft the psalm: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

- from *The Order for the Burial of Dead Priests*, Orthodox Christian liturgy, trans. Isabel Hapgood

+ Doxology (Hymn 607)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore.
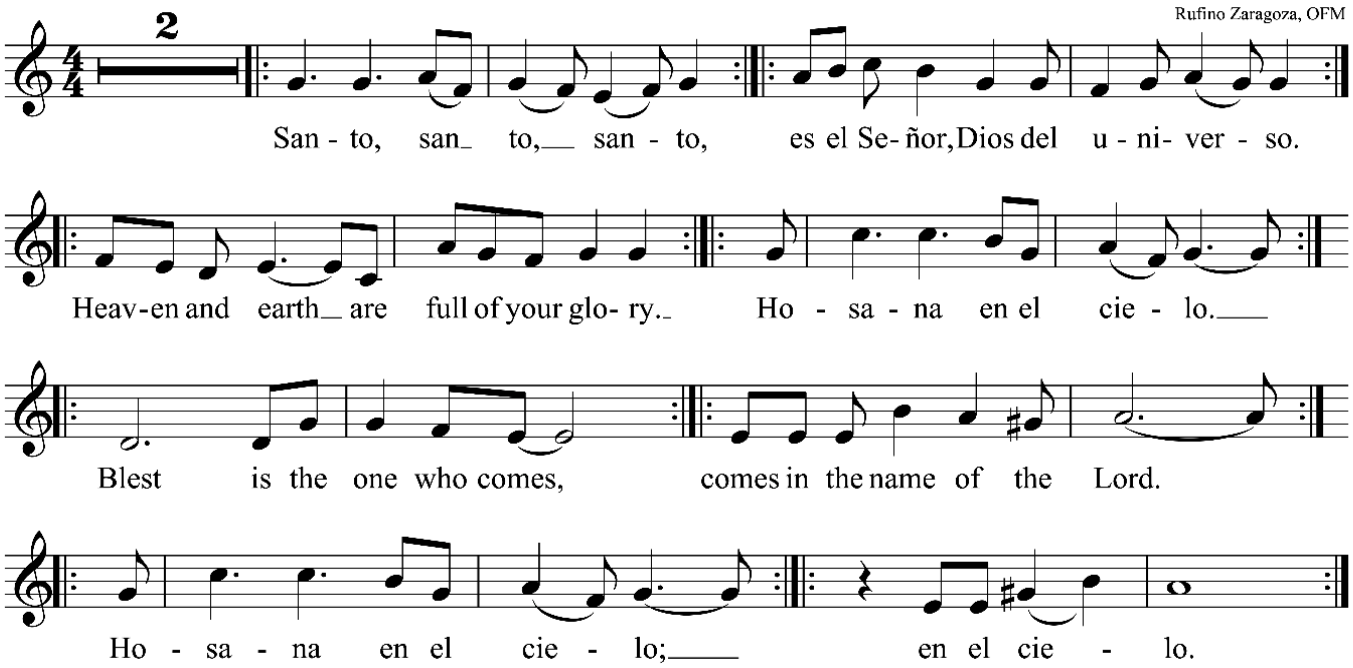
Invitation to Communion

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

One: The Lord be with you.
All: And also with you.
One: Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them to the Lord.
One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.
One: Thanks and praise to you, O God, creator and lover of the universe. You created all that was; you nurture all that is; you imagine all that will be. You are the pattern of community, Three-in-One, God of mercy.

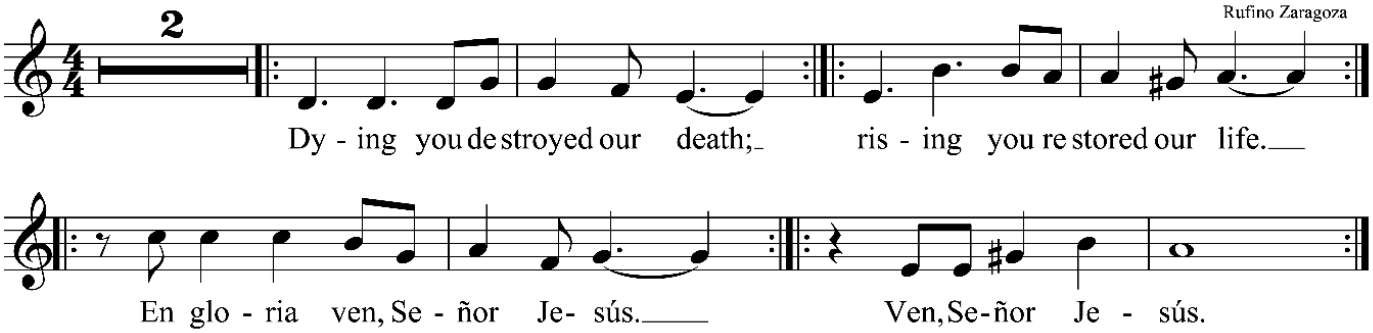
From the beginning of time, you have created us for relationship with one another, with the earth, and with you. When we reject your call to community, choosing isolation over partnership, and brokenness over healing, you call us back, again and again, with words of grace and the promise of new life. Remembering that we are not alone at this table, we join our voices with all the saints whom you have called, from all times and all places, who forever sing your praise.

First time: Solo. **Second time: ALL**



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We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our host and our guest at this meal. Through his birth, you took on flesh, affirming the goodness of our bodies and our world. Through his life, you took on suffering, sharing the truth of hope in desperation. Through his death, you took on death, revealing the depth of your love for us. Through his resurrection, you brought new creation, embodying the promise of life everlasting. With thanksgiving, we take bread and cup, gifts of the earth through which you bless us, and we offer ourselves in your service. Praise to you, Lord Jesus:



One: Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, O God, and upon these gifts of fruit and grain, that we may taste your goodness, see your presence, and become one with you and your body. Gathered at your table, we join all your saints who have gone on before us, and remember them now before you.

Silence.

One: We name together members of this congregation who have died in the last year:

All: **Gwen Hawley**
Barbara McCue
June Sears
Patsy Verreault

One: In life and in death, we belong to you, our Alpha and Omega, our beginning and end.
All thanks and praise to you, O God, Holy Three-in-One, now and forever.

All: **Amen. 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.**

Breaking of the Bread *(Bread is gluten-free and vegan with honey.)*

Servers have used hand sanitizer. Hold your hand flat to receive the bread, then take a cup from the tray.
Please return to your seat by a side aisle.
If you cannot easily come forward, we will happily bring the elements to your pew.
After others have been served, please raise your hand to signal us.

Communion Music Funeral Ikos (conclusion) John Tavener

If thou hast shown mercy unto others, then that same mercy shall be shown thee there;
And if on an orphan thou hast shown compassion, the same shall there deliver thee from want.
If in this life the naked thou hast clothed, the same shall give thee shelter there, and sing the psalm:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Youth and the beauty of the body fade at the hour of death,
And the tongue then burneth fiercely, and the parched throat is inflamed,
The beauty of the eyes is quenched then, the comeliness of the face all altered,
The shapeliness of the neck destroyed, and the other parts have become numb nor often say:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

With ecstasy are we inflamed if we but hear that there is light eternal yonder;
That there is paradise, wherein every soul of righteous ones rejoiceth
Let us all, also, enter into Christ, that we may cry aloud thus unto God:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

- from *The Order for the Burial of Dead Priests*, Orthodox Christian liturgy, trans. Isabel Hapgood

Prayer after Communion

SENDING

Our worship and service do not end with the postlude; we go forth to love and serve God in our daily lives.

+ Hymn 507 *Come to the Table of Grace*

If you've brought food for the GPPC little food pantries,
please put those gifts into the grocery cart as it's pushed down the aisle.

+ Charge and Blessing

+ The Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.
All: And also with you.

+ Postlude Fugue on the Name of Alain Maurice Duruflé

Visitors - we're glad you're here! *We believe God knows, loves, and welcomes you fully. We hope to welcome you in ways that reflect God's love. Could we reach out to you later this week - to say another hello, answer any questions you may have, and perhaps share our e-newsletter? If so, please scan this QR code to share your contact information.*

ABOUT WORSHIP

THE FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY TODAY are given by Jane Chudoba to the glory of God and in honor of Anne and Jack Carvill.

WORSHIP LEADERS: Director of Music is Doug Brown. Today's lector is Colleen Miller. The livestream operator is Anna Creech. Tom Hobbs is lead usher and Mary Hobbs is greeter. Today's Bible translation is the NRSVue, adjusted per *An Inclusive-Language Lectionary*.

HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES AND LARGE PRINT HYMNS are available from an usher in the Narthex.

Beautiful things coming up!

Today, 1-4pm - Help Beautify Frances McClenney Elementary. Come to clear garden beds, plant perennials, and repaint the green wall at our partner school. Bring your own water to drink and, if you have them, gardening gloves and shovels. Wear clothes that can get dirty or paint-splattered!

Monday, November 2, 2026 at 7:00pm - The GPPC organ with full orchestra! Doug Brown will play the organ for the thrilling Saint-Saëns Organ Symphony with the Richmond Philharmonic. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to hear this organ play this amazing piece. Admission is free.

Tuesday, November 3, 2026 - Election Day! If you haven't already voted, do this as an act of Christian discipleship.

Saturday, November 7, 2026, 12 noon - 3:00pm, Volunteer Workday at GPPC. We'll be raking, pulling weeds, power-washing, and generally spiffing up GPPC's exterior.

Commitment Sunday, November 8, 2026 - Help GPPC make more beautiful ministry possible! Please bring your pledge card to worship and stay for lunch! (And we'd love to have your help with lunch. There's a sign up sheet in the narthex.)

MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS about events in the life of GPPC are available through a weekly e-newsletter. If you would like to be added to the distribution, please contact Karen Mitscherlich at ginterparkpc@gmail.com.