



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.*

October 11, 2026

Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

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

The Representation of Chaos from *The Creation*

Joseph Haydn

Greeting and Announcements

Introit

Doug Brown

*You are the salt of the earth, but if that salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored?
You are the light of the world, so let your light shine before all the earth. - Matthew 5:13a, 14a, 16b*

Call to Worship

(inspired by Genesis 1)

One: In the beginning, God made the heavens and the earth.

All: And God saw that it was good!

One: Day and night, land and sea, filled with creatures great and small.

All: And God saw that it was good!

One: Then God made human beings in the divine image to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

All: And God saw that it was good!

One: Born in beauty, called to make creation more beautiful.

All: Come, let us make something beautiful together!

One: Let us worship God!

+ Hymn 32 *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

Confession of Sin and Pain

Kenyan traditional

Leader: All:

Lis - ten, lis - ten, God is call - ing, through the Word in - vit - ing,
of - fer - ing for - give - ness, com - fort and joy. joy.

God, giver of life: we confess how many times we have scorned your gift. We find our hearts burdened with the memory of days we failed to appreciate, because we did not understand the opportunities that lay in them.

We confess before you our many refusals to walk in your way: vows we have made and forgotten, time we have frittered away, higher purposes in us we have allowed to grow weak. We confess all the goodness of life we have received without giving thanks, all the beauties of this world we have ignored, all the love coming to us from other human hearts we have accepted carelessly.

O God, you give us more than we desire or deserve. Come now with forgiveness and healing to our confused lives and make us your own.

Silence

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

Genesis 1:26-31

Then God said, "Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

So God created humans in God's image,

in the image of God, God created them; male and female God created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. God saw everything that God had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

"The Creation," by James Weldon Johnson, 1871–1938

James Weldon Johnson, born in Florida in 1871, was a national organizer for the NAACP and an author of poetry and nonfiction. Perhaps best known for the song "Lift Every Voice and Sing," he also wrote several poetry collections and novels, often exploring racial identity and the African American folk tradition.

Matthew 5:14-16

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good and beautiful works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All: Thanks be to God.

+ Hymn 753 *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*

+ Affirmation of Faith

[from the *Iona Abbey Worship Book*]

We believe in God, in whom is power and compassion.

We believe in the Creator, who gave birth to the universe, set solar systems dancing in space, shaped molecules and mountains, and conceived beauty beyond our imagining.

God's power topples tyrants and brings down walls of separation;

God's love embodies the tenderness of a mother and father, encouraging and caring for us.

We believe in Jesus, born in obscurity in an occupied land -

a human being, vulnerable to hunger, thirst, persecution and grief.

He understood the power of love and confronted the powers of evil,

spoke the truth with courage and clarity, forgave his enemies and changed lives.

In his living, dying, and rising again he showed love strong enough to save the world.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who sustains, comforts, and empowers us, opens the scriptures, opens our minds, and illuminates earth's darkness.

+ 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.

Prayers of the People

EUCCHARIST

Though we are not sharing the bread and cup today, we remember 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!*

Nancy Negus

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.*

*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

From *The Creation*

Joseph Haydn

*Achieved is the glorious work, our song shall be the praise of God! Glorious be his name for ever;
he sole on high, exalted, reigns. Alleluia. - Gottfried van Swieten*

+ 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.***

+ Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

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.

SENDING

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

+ Hymn 853 *We Are Marching in the Light of God*

1. "We are marching ..."
2. "We are dancing ..."
3. "We are praying ..."
4. "We are singing ..."
5. "Siyahamba ..."

+ Charge and Blessing

+ The Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

+ Postlude

Introduzione from Seven Last Words of our Savior on the Cross

Joseph Haydn

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

WORSHIP LEADERS: GPPC's Pastor is Carla Pratt Keyes. Director of Music is Doug Brown. Today's lector is Ardyth Lohuis, and Alicia Neumann is reading "The Creation". The livestream operator is Wesley Neumann. Steve Booth is lead usher and Cheri Nutty is greeter.

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

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.



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SOMETHING
BEAUTIFUL**

30 DAY BEAUTY CHALLENGE

NOTICE. ADMIRE. REJOICE!

1	Compliment two people today: someone you love, and a stranger. Lift their spirits!	2	What's one thing in the world that still fills you with wonder? Seek it out today.	3	Perform a small, beautiful act of kindness today. Expect nothing in return!	4	What's a song or piece of music you find beautiful? Listen to it today. Share it with a friend.	5	BEAUTY WALK #1 What's the smallest, most beautiful thing you can find? Be filled with wonder.	6	Beauty in the sky: Find a beautiful cloud or starry constellation. Let your imagination wander.
7	Friendship is beautiful: Send a quick text or call an old friend. You might make their day!	8	What's a favorite, beautiful place in your town, city, or neighborhood? Swing by for a visit.	9	Pay for someone's coffee, tea, or treat. Generosity is beautiful!	10	What's your favorite poem? Read it aloud to a family member or friend.	11	BEAUTY WALK #2 What are the biggest beautiful things you can find? An oak tree? A skyscraper? Take time to marvel.	12	Send a thank-you note to someone you admire. Name something beautiful they've brought into the world.
13	What's the most beautiful animal in your area? Compare notes with a friend.	14	What's the most beautiful animal on Earth? Find and share a photo or video that does it justice.	15	What's the most beautiful book you've ever read? Revisit a favorite passage today.	16	BEAUTY WALK #3 Bring a bag, and pick up litter as you go. Beautify!	17	What's the most moving act of "moral beauty" you've ever seen? Do something today inspired by it (even something small).	18	Food is beautiful! Go get (or make!) an especially "beautiful bite."
19	Think of someone you admire. What's a beautiful quality they possess? Tell them today.	20	Forgiveness is beautiful: Look for an opportunity to forgive today.	21	BEAUTY WALK #4 Have you ever discovered beauty where others saw none? Visit a place others might overlook and see what beauty is waiting to be found.	22	Research an animal you find "ugly" – and identify one (or two!) beautiful things about it.	23	What's the most beautiful movie you've ever seen? Watch it again – or have a "Beauty Film Festival" with family or friends.	24	Choose a nonprofit doing beautiful, inspiring work – and make a donation. Invest in beauty!
25	Make some art today: Pencil, paint, collage, clay, music, or a beautiful meal – your choice!	26	Support a local business that makes your community more beautiful. Give them a boost – and a positive online review.	27	BEAUTY WALK #5 Choose a favorite color and see how many times you can find it.	28	What's the most beautiful painting or drawing you've ever seen? Compare notes with family or friends.	29	For you, what's one of the most beautiful stories or passages from the Bible? A story, a teaching, a parable, a song – your choice.	30	Reflect on the past 30 days of beauty. What changed? What surprised you? What might you carry forward?