

Joy

jazz vespers online
sunday august 30 @ 5pm

<https://www.facebook.com/TheGaytonKirkPCUSA/live/>

The Gayton Kirk 11421 Gayton Rd Henrico VA 23238

Music by the Tommy Witten Trio

“And the thing about jazz, through all the business involved in practicing and improvement, it's always sweet: the improvement that you notice in the ability to express yourself, the feeling of playing, pushing yourself out into an open space through a sound, man. That's an unbelievable feeling, an uplifting feeling of joy to be able to express the range of what you feel and see, have felt and have seen. A lot of this has nothing to do with you. It comes from another time, another space. To be able to channel those things and then project them though an instrument, that's something that brings unbelievable joy.”

— Wynton Marsalis

“I have committed myself to joy. I have come to realize that those who make space for joy, those who prefer nothing to joy, those who desire the utter reality, will most assuredly have it. We must not be afraid to announce it to refugees, slum dwellers, saddened prisoners, angry prophets. Now and then we must even announce it to ourselves. In this prison of now, in this cynical and sophisticated age, someone must believe in joy.”

- Richard Rohr

Prayer

“I am a firm believer that laughter brings a necessary balance to our lives. Or said another way: The lightness of humor can help us with the darkness of worry.

Gracious God,
There are so many sad and troublesome things to face in the world today, which too often cause our hearts to become heavy with difficulties and doubts.

We pray that your joy would fill our hearts and strengthen our souls. May our lives be touched with moments of laughter. And may our joy touch others who are facing difficulties and hardships, so that together we may maintain an ever deepening trust in you.

Amen.”

The fullness of joy is to behold God in everything.

-Julian of Norwich

Tonight's Theme: Joy

an excerpt from Christian Headline.com and based on the Religion News Service article "Miroslav Volf delves into the theology of joy: A Q&A."

Volf, 61, the leader of the Yale Center for Faith and Culture, says studying the theology of joy with students and scholars is "hard work."

ARE THERE ANY VIRTUES THAT ARE PREREQUISITES FOR JOY?

If you take something like gratitude, if you take something like humility — there is such a thing as an ecology of virtue that provides a soil from which the joy can grow and that characterizes the joyful person. You think sometimes humble persons are not joyous persons because they're all maybe down on themselves. But humility actually is the state of not thinking too much about oneself. Humility ends up being one of those virtues that opens us up to joy...

Joy's hard work. Some of these soft kinds of things of life, often people think they're not really so intellectually demanding. But if you want to understand them rightly, they really are.

But I have found in life knowing how to enjoy and rejoice in the labor of love is as important — maybe even more important — than knowing how to rejoice in the immediacy of the experience of love.

I'll give you an example: I have a 6-month-old daughter. Seven o'clock, she wakes up. I come in the room and she's just all smiles, so excited to see me. I think, "Oh, this is fantastic: She likes me, I like her. Life can't be better." And then I change her diaper. Now, if I am just totally grumpy changing the diaper it's going to take away from my experience of her. But I have learned, and I try to practice the joy in the labor of love. The fact that I'm doing that for her, and what's done for her, itself brings joy. And that applies also to my intellectual work.

IF A PERSON SAYS, "I WANT TO LEAD A JOYFUL LIFE," WHAT WOULD YOU TELL THEM TO DO?

I would say, open your eyes to the goodness, to what is good in your life and in the lives of others. That's probably, to me, the most important thing. There are so many blessings to be grateful for, no matter what season of life you are in or what you are experiencing. The fact that you are alive is a miracle and worth rejoicing about.

Music by the Tommy Witten Trio

Scripture: Philippians 4: 1-9

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Music by the Tommy Witten Trio

Art



“One of the rEVOLVution of Joy” mural designed by Tres Taylor, a community building project across the “Black Belt.”

Words chosen by Don Warner, the Poemfinder

THE COMING OF LIGHT



Even this late it happens:

The coming of love, the coming of light.

You wake and the candles are lit as if by themselves,

stars gather, dreams pour into pillows,

Sending up warm bouquets of air.

Even this late the bones of the body shine

and tomorrow's dust flares into breath.



Mark Strand (1934-2014)

Music by the Tommy Witten Trio

Talk Time with Janet and Ray about 'the Joy of the Lord.'

Music by the Tommy Witten Trio

Holy Communion

Invitation

The table of bread and wine is now to be made ready.
It is the table of company with Jesus, and all who love him.
It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world,
with whom Jesus identified himself.
It is the table of communion with the earth, in which Christ became incarnate.

So come to this table,
you who have much faith and
you who would like to have more;
you who have been here often
and you who have not been for a while
you who have tried to follow Jesus,
and you who have failed;
Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

- from the Iona Worshiping Community

Prayer

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

We love you, Holy God.
We love you for the feast that is life:
friendships and laughter,
intimacy and trust,
moments of discovering deep truth,
hidden potentials we never knew we had,
and beauty - serene beauty and rugged beauty,
the world you have crafted
and the words, the sounds, the colors
with which people reflect and explore life.

We love you, holy God
for not leaving us alone,
because in Jesus you became tangible:
hands touched him, tears touched him,
generosity touched him.
And he has touched us. That is why we are here.
That is why across time and eternity
we say because we cannot keep silent:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord; God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!**

God, we have been gathered by you, caught in your net,
summoned to your table.

As we open ourselves to your generous hospitality,
let your Spirit move among us and be present in the food we share
so that this Bread and wine become for us the living presence of Jesus.
Open our eyes to see him, our ears to hear him, our hands to hold him,
our hearts to receive him, our souls to cherish him. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*On the night Jesus was betrayed, he took bread, blessed it, and gave it to
his disciples saying "this is my body broken for you.*

Do this in remembrance of me."

*In the same way, at the end of the meal, he took the cup and said, "this is
my blood shed for the salvation of the world.*

Do this in remembrance of me."

As his first disciples shared communion in an upstairs room,
we share these gifts from hand to hand,
and feed on them in our hearts with love and gratitude.

As Jesus broke bread, we break this bread.
As Jesus took wine, we take this cup.

Communion

Music by the Tommy Witten Trio

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.

Closing

Conversation

Please join us on [Zoom](#) immediately following communion for discussion about this evening's topic "the 'aha' moment."

GROUP DISCUSSION TOPIC:

What does 'joy in the Lord' mean to you?

Music by the Tommy Witten Trio

Responding to the Word

OFFERING *It is appropriate to respond to God with our time, talents and money. Financial offerings can be made by mail to P.O. Box 29635, Henrico, VA 23242 or through PayPal on The Kirk's website www.thegaytonkirk.org.*

WORSHIP NOTES

JAZZ QUOTE — Wynton Marsalis, [To a Young Jazz Musician: Letters from the Road](#)

Joy quote Richard Rohr quote <https://sojo.net/articles/voice-day-richard-rohr-0>

quote from Meditations with Julian of Norwich by Brendan Doyle

GATHERING PRAYER~ Pat Hendricks, Director of Senior Faith Formation and Spiritual Coach, Nativity Church, <https://www.nativitychurch.org/a-prayer-for-joy-and-laughter/news/>.

WORDS: “The Coming of Light” by Mark Strand. <https://poets.org/poem/coming-light>

THEME QUOTATION- <https://www.christianheadlines.com/slideshows/is-joy-the-same-as-happiness-10-things-to-know-about-this-fruit-of-the-spirit.html>

ARTWORK: Tres Taylor, mural “The Revolution of Joy”
<https://goodgritmag.com/blogs/news/the-revolution-of-joy>

COMMUNION PRAYER: “Ceidlh Communion Liturgy,” Iona Worshiping Community, Wild Goose Publications.

The Reverend Janet James, Pastor
Ray Carver, Worship Leader
The Tommy Witten Trio: Tommy Witten, Ross Riddell, Joe Sarver
Camera - Betty Meador
IP - Stacy Deyerle
Seminary Intern - Mollie Trainum
Deborah Sparks Mueller, Director of Music
Marilyn Johns, Zoom Host