

# **Jazz Vespers Online at The Gayton Kirk**

**Music by the Tommy Witten Trio**



The Gayton Kirk 11421 Gayton Rd Henrico VA 23238

*“It’s not about standing still and becoming safe. If anybody wants to keep creating, they have to be about change.”*

*– Jazz Musician, Miles Davis*

# Tonight's Theme: Missing the Boat

Definition of miss the boat in English according to the Oxford English Dictionary:

PHRASE *informal*

- Be too slow to take advantage of an opportunity.

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## ABOUT PARABLES

Definition of **Parable** (from C.H. **Dodd**) “At its simplest the **parable** is a metaphor or simile drawn from nature or common life, arresting the hearer by its vividness or strangeness, and leaving the mind in sufficient doubt about its precise application to tease it into active thought.”

Given Dodd's definition of a parable, what are the implications of this definition? Felix Just, SJ offers that:

- The meaning of most parables is not so obvious, or at least it shouldn't be. If we assume we know what Jesus is talking about, we are probably missing the main point; if we are too familiar with the story (having heard it so often before), we might not think carefully enough about its real meaning.
- Most parables contain some element that is strange or unusual. They should cause you to say, “Wait a minute! That's not how farmers do their work! That's not what kings usually do! That's not what normally happens in nature!” And this strange element should cause you to think!
- Parables do not define things precisely, but rather use comparisons to describe some aspect of how God acts or interacts with human beings. Yet to say “A is like B” does not mean that “A is identical to B in all respects”; so one should be careful not to misinterpret or misapply the parables.

<https://friarmusings.com/2017/07/10/what-is-a-parable/>

## **Scripture:** Matthew 22:1-14

22Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying:

<sup>2</sup>The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. <sup>3</sup>He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come.

<sup>4</sup>Again he sent other slaves, saying, "Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet." <sup>5</sup>But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, <sup>6</sup>while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. <sup>7</sup>The king was enraged.

He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. <sup>8</sup>Then he said to his slaves, "The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. <sup>9</sup>Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet." <sup>10</sup>Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

<sup>11</sup> "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, <sup>12</sup>and he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?" And he was speechless. <sup>13</sup>Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." <sup>14</sup>For many are called, but few are chosen."

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Music by the Tommy Witten Trio**

# Art



- Nicole Eisenman, artist

**Words** chosen by Don Warner, the Poemfinder

**Missing the Boat**

*by Naomi Shihab Nye*



It is not so much that the boat passed  
and you failed to notice it.  
It is more like the boat stopped  
directly outside your bedroom window,  
the captain blowing the signal-horn,  
the band playing a rousing march.  
The boat shouted, waving bright flags,  
its silver hull blinding in the sunlight.  
But you had this idea you were going by train.  
You kept checking the time-table,  
digging for tracks.  
And the boat got tired of you,  
so tired it pulled up the anchor  
and raised the ramp.  
The boat bobbed into the distance,  
shrinking like a toy—  
at which point you probably realized  
you had always loved the sea.



**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*

## **Communion Prayer**

The Reverend James

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.

### **COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

#### **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.

# Conversation

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

## GROUP DISCUSSION TOPIC:

*If it is true that the wedding host provides the wedding robes for the guests, what do you think the wedding guest without the proper clothes was thinking? Do you ever think in a similar way?*

# 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](http://www.thegaytonkirk.org).*

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