

Celtic Worship

The **bodhrán** is a frame drum of Irish origin. A goatskin head is tacked to one side (synthetic heads or other animal skins are sometimes used). The other side is open-ended for one hand to be placed against the inside of the drumhead to control the pitch and timbre. One or two crossbars, sometimes removable, may be inside. The bodhrán is considered to be the native drum of the ancient Celts and was possibly used originally for winnowing or wool dying, with a musical history that predated Christianity, native to southwest Ireland. It is also called a poor man's tambourine.



*Embracing the example of Jesus,
our welcome knows no boundaries
and is extended to ALL people.*

Sunday, December 1, 2024

First Sunday of Advent

*Welcome to worship!
If you are worshipping at home, and would like to participate in
Holy Communion,
please have bread and wine or juice set aside.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Janet James
Keith Parkhouse
(has set the table)

We gather at God's feast. We listen to Holy Scripture. We hear music that connects our hearts. We are fed the nurturing grace of God through the brokenness and poured out life of Jesus the Christ. The table is set. All are welcome.

BODHRAN CALL TO WORSHIP

Introduction

Janet James

Advent is a season of waiting, watching, and wonder. Not like “waiting in line,” but rather like waiting for a concert to begin, a love letter to arrive, or the stars to come out on a cold, clear night. A time of anticipation, expectation, and excitement. A time of renewing our hope, peace, joy, and love, getting ready for the marvel on the way.

The word itself is from the Latin *adventus* (“arrival”) – and of course the wondrous One who's arriving is Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. Over the next four weeks, we'll read scripture, pray, sing, and light candles to remind us of the growing light of God's presence, even and especially in the shadows of despair, conflict, sorrow, and hate.

Dark skies are perfect for stargazing, for seeking out the Light of the World among the deep indigos, bottomless blues, and inky blacks of God's night sky. Just as the shepherds and Magi looked up to the heavens and faithfully followed the stars, we'll spend the next four weeks training our eyes to wait, and to watch, and to wonder at all God has done – and will do – for the love of this broken, beautiful world.

OPENING PRAYER

Rusty Deyerle

The God who breathed this world alive
And sustains it day by day,
Whose hands flung stars into space
And controls our destiny
Says, "Do not be afraid, for I am with you."
The God who filled the ocean depths
And set tides on their way,
Who caused mountains to be raised up
And rainbows to display
Says, "I have called you by name, you are mine."
The God who made the fertile earth
And seed within to sow,
Whose artistry creates butterflies
And the early morning dew
Says, "You are precious in my sight."

**Christ with me,
Christ before me,
Christ in me,
Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,
Christ on my right,
Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down,
Christ when I sit,
Christ when I stand,
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.
Amen.**

BAPTISMAL WATERS

Rusty Deyerle
Nancy Parkhouse

When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death.
We were buried so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of God, we
too might walk in newness of life.

(Water is poured into the font.)

IMAGINATIVE WORD

Lyn Hill

Liberation, by Sri Aurobindo

I have thrown from me the whirling dance of mind
And stand now in the spirit's silence free,
Timeless and deathless beyond creature-kind,
The centre of my own eternity.

I have escaped and the small self is dead;
I am immortal, alone, ineffable;
I have gone out from the universe I made,
And have grown nameless and immeasurable.

My mind is hushed in a wide and endless light,
My heart a solitude of delight and peace,
My sense unsnared by touch and sound and sight,
My body a point in white infinities.

I am the one Being's sole immobile Bliss:
No one I am, I who am all that is.

~ moment of silence ~

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION AND SCRIPTURE

Bland Weaver

May your Word be a *lamp* unto our feet, and a light unto our paths.
Let your light shows us the way to go, both night and day. **Amen.**

Luke 21: 25-36

²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³⁴“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

Janet James

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Go Down, Moses”

Louis Armstrong

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks and praise to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

Holy God, you created the world
and all who live in it.

As your first act of Creation,
you said, "Let there be light."

And there was light, and it was good.

You make the sun rise on the good and evil alike,
for your love has no prejudice.

It is not dependent on who we are
but is steadfast and true because that is who you are.

SANCTUS (please see the screen)

Jesus, Light of the World,
you came into the world so we may have life.

In the mystery of God, you call us to be light in the world
because life is something to be shared.

With your compassion on the sick, the poor, and the outcast,
you taught us what love is.

In the glory of your resurrection
you demonstrated how far love will go.
Love, life, light – you have given us a purpose in the world.

Holy Spirit, light within us,
you enable us to be the fragrance of life
and the salt of the earth.

You lead our hearts
so that we may season the world with grace.
In the same way,
you gather us at this table to sustain us
so that we may be salt and light in the world.

Ever thankful,
we pray that you would sprinkle salt on this meal we share today.
May it renew our communion in Christ and with one another.
With joy, we celebrate
that this meal is not limited to this time and place.

And so as you bind us together with the cup and the loaf,
we give thanks that this table extends
to every cathedral, sanctuary, home and group
where two or three have gathered in your name.

With the boldness of those who know
the love of God,
the light of Christ,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we join our voices in the prayer you taught us.

**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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

As Jesus sat down to eat with his disciples,
he took the bread, broke it and gave thanks.
He then passed it to his disciples, saying,
“Eat! This is my body broken for you.”

Next, he took the cup, and after he had blessed it,
he gave it to the disciples and said,
“Drink! This is the blood of the new covenant.
My blood shed for you.”

You are the salt of the earth.
You are the light of the world.
These are holy statements.
And they are impossible statements.
But when faced with the impossible,
Jesus reminds us that in him, all things are possible.

So, come: eat and drink
so that your body and soul may be nourished
to go out into the world
and continue the ministry of Jesus.

COMMUNION IS SHARED

*After we receive the bread and the cup,
let us hold the cup and drink together.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

EXTINGUISHING THE LIGHT

Rusty Deyerle

Lord of all light, as we go forth into the world,
we extinguish the lights here that
represent the presence of the Holy in our midst.
**But we will carry the light in our hearts,
and we pray that as we go about our work in the world,
we will shine with the love of God.**

BLESSING

Janet James

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 [click here](#) to use PayPal on The Kirk's website or use the QR Code below.



If you would like to become a member of the Gayton Kirk, please let the pastor, [Janet James](#), know of your desire.

For a copy of our weekly newsletter, *Kirk Happenings*, please go to www.thegaytonkirk.org, scroll down the website's front page, and click the box that says, "Kirk Happenings."

Photography notice: Please be aware that photographs are taken at things happening around the Kirk. These are used in various ways, including social media and print publications. If you are uncomfortable having your photo taken or shared, please let us know, either by notifying anyone you see taking a photograph or a church leader on site, or by emailing gaytonkirk@gmail.com.

WORSHIP NOTES

worship leaders

Bland Weaver

Keith Parkhouse

Lyn Hill

Nancy Parkhouse

Rusty Deyerle

Brendan Donahue, Audio-Visual Director

Janet James, Pastor

Margaret Storti, Pianist

John Donelson, Musician in Residence

Marilyn Johns, Zoom Master

Russ Kerr, Parish Associate

Chrestine Shehata, Child Care

Yonan Shehata, Sexton

Flutists-Outdoor/Midday Prayer Service: Allen Burris, Deb Saidel, Myrick Crampton

The Gayton Kirk Jazz Trio: Joe Sarver, Ross Riddell, Bruce Sullivan

PRELUDE "Creator of the Stars of Night," St. John's Episcopal Church

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zibWoP4RJ14>

LITURGY

Faith and Worship: https://www.faithandworship.com/prayers_Epiphany.htm#gsc.tab=0

Call to Worship Journal: <https://calltoworshipjournal.org/january-6-2025-epiphany-of-the-lord/>

IMAGINATIVE WORD "Liberation," by Sri Aurobindo <https://allpoetry.com/poem/8583035-Liberation-by-Sri-Aurobindo>

SPECIAL MUSIC "Go Down, Moses," Louis Armstrong

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vf6jBP4YXwo>

THE GAYTON KIRK WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY DECEMBER 1 - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 8:30 AM - Celtic Worship Service in-person and Zoom (*host, Marilyn Johns*)
- 11:00 AM - Worship Service in-person, live streaming, and on Zoom (*host, Marilyn Johns*)
- 12:15 PM - Congregational Meeting to Elect Officers - on Zoom (*host, Marilyn Johns*)
- 5:00 PM - Jazz Vespers in-person, live streaming, and on Zoom (*host, Marilyn Johns*)
- 5:45 PM - Jazz Vespers Discussion - in person and Zoom (*host, Marilyn Johns*)
- 6:00 PM - Jazz Vespers Fellowship - in-person

MONDAY DECEMBER 2

- 11:00 AM - Coffee and Scripture - Zoom (*host, Marilyn Johns*)
- 1:30 PM - Creative Expressions - in-person (*led by Sandra O'Neill*)
- 3:00 PM - *Let Justice Roll Down* Women's Bible Study - in-person (*led by Barbara Crump*)
- 5:00 PM - River City Players Auditions

TUESDAY DECEMBER 3

- 11:55 AM - Kirktown Ukes - in-person (*Kay Cox and Tina Bechtle*)
- 1:00 PM - Bridge and Learn to Play Bridge - in-person (*Ellen Welthy and Tina Bechtle*)
- 7:00 PM - River City Players Auditions

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 4

- 9:45 AM - *Falling Upward* class - in-person (*led by Bland Weaver*)
- 12:00 PM - Tuckahoe Kiwanis Club
- 12:30 PM - Midday Prayer Service (*in the spirit of Taize*) - in-person
- 1:00 PM - Creative Art Fellowship - in-person (*led by Robin Ricketts*)

THURSDAY DECEMBER 5

- 10:30 AM - Chair Yoga - in-person (*led by Robin Ricketts*)
- 5:30 PM - Handbells (*led by John Donelson*)
- 7:00 PM - River City Players Callbacks

FRIDAY DECEMBER 6

- 6:45 PM - Celtic Harp Circle Rehearsal

SUNDAY DECEMBER 8 - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 8:30 AM - Celtic Worship Service in-person and Zoom (*host, Marilyn Johns*)
- 11:00 AM - Worship Service in-person, live streaming, and on Zoom (*host, Marilyn Johns*)
- 3:30 PM - Artist's Reception - Small Works
- 5:00 PM - Jazz Vespers in-person, live streaming, and on Zoom (*host, Marilyn Johns*)
- 5:45 PM - Jazz Vespers Discussion - in person and Zoom (*host, Marilyn Johns*)
- 6:00 PM - Jazz Vespers Fellowship - in-person