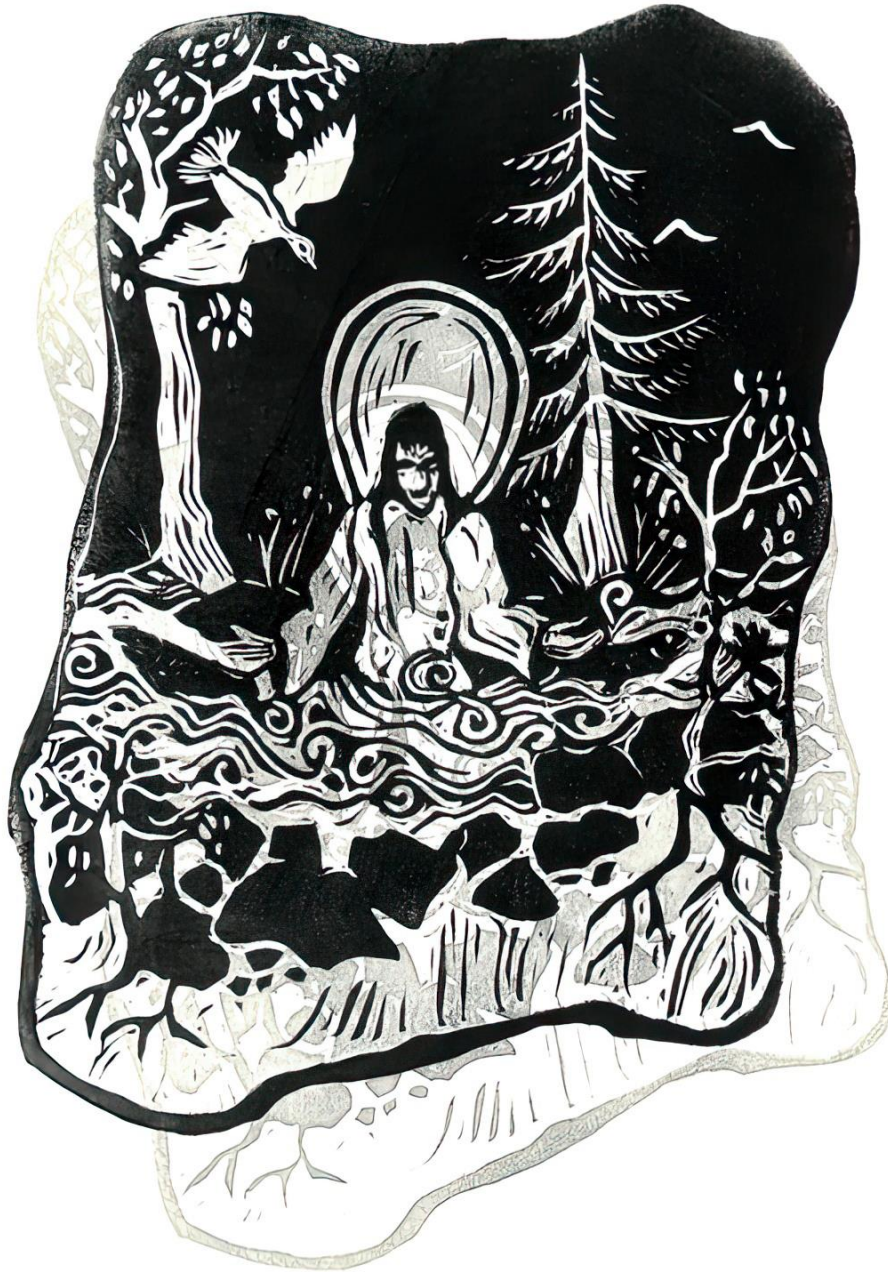


The Gayton Kirk

January 12, 2025

11 AM Service

Baptism of the Lord



“The Baptism of Jesus,” by Cara B. Hochhalter

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Susan Trulove

RINGING THE HOUR

Marney Titmus

PRELUDE

Margaret Storti, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP

Susan Trulove

Holy Triune God, author of community,
come baptize us.

**Remind us what it means
to belong to one another.**

God who tears the heavens, come baptize us.

**Reveal to us your power
that ushers in new realms.**

God who calls us beloved, come baptize us.

**Declare to us your great delight
and hold us in your pleasure.**

God of vulnerability, come baptize us.

**Welcome us into the paradox
of strength that comes from weakness.**

Together, let us remember this day.

**In the Creator's love we are held,
into Christ's body we are baptized,
and by the Spirit's power, we are claimed.
All glory to God. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Susan Trulove

God of baptism,
you emptied yourself of privilege
to free us from supremacy.
You were submerged in the depths
so that we would not be alone in them.
You were lifted from the waters
so that all might be lifted up. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Ever ready with cleansing love,
God invites our confession,
offering mercy and strength
so that we may start anew.

**In the waters of baptism, O God,
you have cleansed us and claimed us.
Forgive us for refusing your grace
and rejecting your name.
We have followed our own paths,
and they have led us far from you.
Help us to live into our baptisms,
to trust that all we need is in you,
for you have marked us as your own,
loving us without limit.
Wash us with your love again,
that with clean hearts
we may go in the way of Jesus.**

The love of God flows ceaselessly.
The mercy of God never ends.
This is good news!
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

HYMN # 408

“There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

Margaret Storti, piano

“Thanks Robert Frost” by David Ray

Do you have hope for the future?
someone asked Robert Frost, toward the end.
Yes, and even for the past, he replied,
that it will turn out to have been all right
for what it was, something we can accept,
mistakes made by the selves we had to be,
not able to be, perhaps, what we wished,
or what looking back half the time it seems
we could so easily have been, or ought...
The future, yes, and even for the past,
that it will become something we can bear.
And I too, and my children, so I hope,
will recall as not too heavy the tug
of those albatrosses I sadly placed
upon their tender necks. Hope for the past,
yes, old Frost, your words provide that courage,
and it brings strange peace that itself passes
into past, easier to bear because
you said it, rather casually, as snow
went on falling in Vermont years ago.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION AND SCRIPTURE READINGS

Linda Smiley

Saving God, source of our calling,
your Word is full of power and glory.
Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us
so that we may receive your grace
and live as your beloved children;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Isaiah 43: 1-7

¹But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ³For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. ⁴Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. ⁵Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; ⁶I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth— ⁷everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Acts 8: 14-17

¹⁴Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶(for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Shelly Barrick Parsons

HYMN # 69 “I, the Lord of Sea and Sky”

Margaret Storti, piano

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

CALL TO OFFERING

Lilly Craddock

There is only one Lord and God,
from whom all things come
and for whom we live.
Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

1 Corinthians 8:4-6

It is appropriate to respond to God with our time, talents, and money. Your offering can be placed in the offering plate along with prayer concerns written on the card attached to the bulletin (program) or through the chat feature online. Please use first names only.

Financial offerings can also be made by mail to P.O. Box 29635, Henrico, VA 23242 or donate by PayPal on The Kirk’s website www.thegaytonkirk.org website or use the QR Code below.



OFFERTORY HYMN

Margaret Storti, piano

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lilly Craddock

We praise and thank you, Lord God,
for the majesty of your work,
the wisdom of your word,
and the generosity of your grace.
Let the gifts of our lives bear witness
to your goodness and mercy,
your faithfulness and justice,
and your steadfast love for all. **Amen.**

Psalm 111

HOLY COMMUNION

The Rev. Dr. Shelly Barrick Parsons

*(Our communion bread is gluten free, and we use juice in lieu of wine.
Those at home are encouraged to set aside bread or bread substitute and
wine or wine substitute to join us for communion)*

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.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God:
You are our creator and redeemer.
Through the water you deliver us
and claim us as your beloved, your own.

Therefore we praise you, joining the song
of the universal church and the heavenly choir:

Holy, Holy, Holy Tune: Tracy Fedke, b. 1975 arr: Koiné

Ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of heav-en - ly hosts.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of heav-en - ly hosts.

Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san - na!

Ho-san - na! Ho - san-na in the high - est! Ho-san - na!

Ho-san - na! Bless-ed is he who comes! Bless-ed is he who comes!

Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior:
At his baptism by John in the Jordan,
you poured out your Holy Spirit upon Jesus
and revealed him to be your beloved Son.

Remembering your goodness and grace,
we offer ourselves to you with gratitude
as we share this joyful feast.

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon this bread and cup;
make us one in the body and blood
of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reshape our lives by your living Word
and renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit
so that we may follow you more faithfully.

Through the Lord Jesus Christ,
in the unity of the Spirit,
we bless you, God of glory,
now and forever. **Amen.**

Let us now pray the prayer Jesus 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

COMMUNION IS SHARED

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

COMMUNION HYMN # 688 “Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart”
Margaret Storti, piano

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks and praise, O God,
that you have fed us with your mercy
and poured out your Spirit in this place.
Continue to nourish and fill us each day,
that we may live as your beloved people;
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN # 547 "Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

Margaret Storti, piano

POSTLUDE

Margaret Storti, piano

BLESSING AND CHARGE

Shelly Barrick Parsons

WORSHIP NOTES

~ Special thanks to the Rev. Sr. Shelly Barrick Parsons
for leading our worship this morning ~

Worship Liturgists:

First Sundays: **Betty Doll**, Mike Doll, Cathi Thornton, Deb Kuhn
Second Sundays: **Susan Trulove**, Lilly Craddock, Beverly Evans, Norma Smith
Third Sundays: **Sally Wambold**, Barbara Crump, Lily Titmus, Marney Titmus
Fourth Sundays: **Linda Smiley**, Patti McCloskey, Janice Baldwin, Xavier Rivera, Juan Rivera
Fifth Sundays: **Betty Doll**, Lilly Craddock, Xavier Rivera, Sally Wambold

Would you like to become a member of the Gayton Kirk? Please let us know of your interest by contacting the [church office](#).

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

The Gayton Kirk Staff

Brendan Donahue, Audio-Visual Director
Margaret Storti, Pianist
John Donelson, Musician in Residence
Marilyn Johns, Zoom Master
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

COVER ART "The Baptism of Jesus," by Cara B. Hochhalter
<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/diglib-fulldisplay.pl?SID=20250105414980372&code=act&RC=59305&Row=24>

LITURGY <https://calltoworshipjournal.org/january-12-2025-baptism-of-the-lord/>

IMAGINATIVE WORD "Thanks Robert Frost," by David Ray, from *Music of Time: Selected and New Poems*
<https://www.katemitcheom.com/thanks-robert-frost-by-david-ray/>

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*Please note: The Gayton Kirk livestreams the 11 AM Worship Service. Our camera captures the worship leaders at the front of the sanctuary. We do not film the congregation during communion. **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.*

THE GAYTON KIRK WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY JANUARY 12

- 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)
- 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 JANUARY 13

- 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 - Women's Bible Study "Let Justice Roll Down" - in-person (led by Deb Kuhn)
- 6:30 PM - All Committees Night - on Zoom (host, Marilyn Johns)
- 7:00 PM - River City Players rehearsal

TUESDAY JANUARY 14

- 11:55 AM - Kirktown Ukes - in-person (led by Kay Cox and Tina Bechtle)
- 1:00 PM - Bridge and Learn to Play Bridge - in-person (Ellen Welthy and Tina Bechtle)
- 6:00 PM - Theology on Tap - in-person at Rare Olde Times
- 7:00 PM - River City Players rehearsal

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 15

- 9:45 AM - *Falling Upward* class - in-person (led by Bland Weaver)
- 12:30 PM - Midday Prayer Service (in the spirit of Taize) - in-person
- 5:30 PM - Tuckahoe Kiwanis Club - in-person
- 7:00 PM - River City Players rehearsal

THURSDAY JANUARY 16

- 9:30 AM - Tai Chi - in-person (led by Steve Sawyer)
- 10:30 AM - Chair Yoga - in-person (led by Robin Ricketts)
- 7:30 PM - River City Players rehearsal

SATURDAY JANUARY 18

- 5:00 PM - Memorial Service for Bob Chesnut

SUNDAY JANUARY 19

- 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)
- 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