

The Gayton Kirk

April 13, 2025

11 AM Service

Palm Sunday

Today's flowers are given in memory of Ann French Morton McCray



“I Believe” by Steve Prince

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Susan Trulove

RINGING THE HOUR

Marney Titmus

PRELUDE

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

Handbells

CALL TO WORSHIP

Susan Trulove

On this day, Jesus marched

**in between the city walls and the Temple,
in between joyful Hosannas and doubtful whispers,
in between oppressive poverty and greedy power,
in between rampant fear and hope unfurled.**

On this day, Jesus marched in between what had been and what could be.

So may we meet Christ in that liminal space.

May we lay down our coats in that messy middle.

Hosanna in the highest!

Hosanna in between!

HYMN # 197

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

Margaret Storti, piano

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Susan Trulove

Friends, we are truth-tellers in the prayer of confession.

We are honest about the fact that we are works in progress.

We tell the truth of our lives.

We lay it all out before God.

But this moment of prayer isn't just about us.

In the prayer of confession we also reveal who God is, and our God is merciful.

Our God is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

So let us pray, knowing that God's truth will always mean grace for us.

Great Creator, forgive me

**when I speak before listening,
when I speak over my neighbor,
when I speak with barbed words.**

Creator God, forgive me
when I listen to society,
when I listen to my friends,
when I listen to the news,
but I do not listen to you.

Creator God, forgive me
when I shout out, but do not shout your name,
when I listen, but do not listen for your voice.
Forgive me.

Create in me a heart like yours.
Amen.

Lord, hear now the confessions that silence draws from our hearts.

Assurance of Pardon

Susan Trulove

Friends, whether or not you stuck to your Lenten goals this year,
whether or not this is your first time in church or your thousandth time,
whether or not you know to speak to God or listen for God's voice,
God listens to you.
God is merciful.
God is abounding in steadfast love.
There is nothing you could do or leave undone that could keep God from
loving you.

So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:
We are seen. We are heard. We are loved. We are forgiven.
Not a day goes by that we ever walk alone. Hosanna in the highest!
Amen.

If You Really Listen..., by Sarah A. Speed

In the city you'll hear horns, the clatter of the subway,
mothers calling to their children, saying,
"Take my hand before we cross the street."

You'll hear church bells, Salvation Army bells,
people asking for spare change, while others ask for directions.

You'll hear the whistle from the traffic cop,
the exhaust from the bus,
that a train is arriving in two minutes.

You'll hear mothers selling fresh mango,
theater kids selling tickets,
and religious groups selling ideas.

But even with all that shouting,
even with all that noise,
the birds still sing.
Against all odds,
thanks be to God,
the birds still sing.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION AND SCRIPTURE READINGS

Beverly Evans

Speaking God,
Most days we are inundated with noise.
Some of it is good—
laughter, music, storytelling.
Some of it is hard—
arguments, slurs, the sound of bomber planes.
Every day we live between silence and shouting,
rotating through quiet and noise.
So in the midst of this messy middle,
help us to hear what is yours.
Help us to hear your song,
your story, your good news.

Help us to hear your voice,
your Spirit, your will.
And show us how to release the rest.
We are listening.
Amen.

Luke 19: 29-42

²⁹When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰saying, “Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it.’” ³²So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them.

³³As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?” ³⁴They said, “The Lord needs it.” ³⁵Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road.

³⁷As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, ³⁸saying, “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!”

³⁹Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, order your disciples to stop.” ⁴⁰He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.”

⁴¹As he came near and saw the city, he wept over it, ⁴²saying, “If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Rev. Mary Kay Scott

**We believe that many years ago
a peaceful parade wove its way through the streets of Jerusalem.
We believe that on that day
the people cried out,
longing and praying for a better world.
We believe that these longings
came from a place of deep hope,
and we believe that hope cannot be silenced.
So we listen for the Spirit.
We sing Hosanna.
We pay attention.
For in between the silence and the song,
we believe the Spirit is speaking.
Amen.**

HYMN # 200 “A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd” Margaret Storti, piano

CALL TO OFFERING

Lilly Craddock

I appeal to you, siblings,
to present yourselves as a living sacrifice,
holy and acceptable to God.
Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

Romans 12:1

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

Yesterday, today, and tomorrow, we are offered opportunities to reach out to those who are in need of hope, healing, and friendship.

This is why you pour out your blessings upon us, trusting that we will share from our abundance to bless others, even as we have been blessed. Receive the gifts we offer, multiply them, and use them in the work of grace and justice. In Jesus' name, we pray. **Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Mary Kay Scott

(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.

God who speaks in many ways, your creation proclaims your glory.

Our voices of praise join singing birds, crashing waves, and the whispering of the wind through the trees. From your word made manifest in nature to the prophets you sent when we turned away, we give thanks that you still speak to us today.

Jesus who wept for us, your grace is not bound by the limits of our faithfulness. In love you told us parables that we might know who you are. You performed miracles that displayed your power. All of this that we might open ourselves to you. For your radical love, we give our thanks.

Spirit who lives and moves within us, you continue to make yourself known. You reveal yourself when truth is spoken to power. You lay bare the half-truths and intentional misunderstanding that we use to shield ourselves from the challenges of discipleship. At the same time, you nurture hope within us that we might be Christ's love in the world. How thankful we are for your careful tending of our hearts.

So with those who spread cloaks before you,
and those who are sustained by your love,
we join our voices, singing:

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!

Holy are you, Sustainer of the weary,
and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Love become human.
He emptied himself of glory,
to be filled with our broken hopes and hearts.
He chose the path of suffering love,
so that we could run through
the streets of the kingdom
waving branches of joy.

As we journey through Jerusalem and beyond,
as we struggle with death, loss, and grief
we would ponder that mystery we call faith:

**In trust, Christ died.
In joy, Christ was raised to new life.
in hope, Christ will come again.**

As we gather here in the name of the Triune God,
we humbly ask that you would be the Spirit of Grace among us.
Surround us with your presence
and bring us into communion with our Risen Lord.
Make the loaf and cup more than symbols of grace
as we are joined as the Body of Christ.

As a sign of our unity in you, we join our voices together to pray,

**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 # 527 “Eat This Bread” Margaret Storti, piano

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of hope,
we give you thanks for the blessing of our communion with you.
May you guide us in faithfulness as we move through Holy Week.
From the upper room to the empty tomb, we seek to be where you are.
Amen.

HYMN # 196

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

Margaret Storti, piano

BLESSING AND CHARGE

Mary Kay Scott

POSTLUDE

Margaret Storti, piano

WORSHIP NOTES

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**, Tina Bechtle, Janice Baldwin, Linda Craig
Fifth Sundays: **Betty Doll**, Lilly Craddock, Mary Horsley, 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

Mary Kay Scott, Interim Pastor
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 "I Believe," by Steve Prince
A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

LITURGY | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

IMAGINATIVE WORD "If You Really Listen . . . ," by Sarah A. Speed
A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

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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.*

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THE GAYTON KIRK WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY APRIL 13 - Palm Sunday

- 8:30 AM - Celtic Worship Service in-person and Zoom (*host, Marilyn Johns*)
- 9:45 AM - Lenten Study - in-person (*led by Mary Kay Scott*)
- 11:00 AM - Worship Service in-person, live streaming, and on Zoom (*host, Marilyn Johns*)
- 3:30 PM - Artist's Reception - New Beginnings - in-person
- 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 APRIL 14

- 11:00 AM - Coffee and Scripture - Zoom (*host, Marilyn Johns*)
- 1:30 PM - Creative Expressions - in-person (*led by Sandra O'Neill*)
- 6:30 PM - Committee Meetings - on Zoom (*host, Mary Kay Scott*)

TUESDAY APRIL 15

- 11:30 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

WEDNESDAY APRIL 16

- 9:45 AM - God and Empire Class - in-person (*led by Bland Weaver*)
- 12:30 PM - Midday Prayer Service (*in the spirit of Taize*) - in-person
- 5:30 PM - Handbells - in-person (*led by John Donelson*)
- 5:30 PM - Tuckahoe Kiwanis Club - in-person

THURSDAY APRIL 17

- 10:30 AM - Chair Yoga (*led by Robin Ricketts*)
- 7:00 PM - Maundy Thursday service with Communion - in-person

FRIDAY APRIL 18

- 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM - Good Friday Prayer Stations - in-person

SATURDAY APRIL 19

- 9:00 AM - Church Workday

SUNDAY APRIL 20 - Easter Sunday

- 8:30 AM - Celtic Worship Service in-person and Zoom (*host, Marilyn Johns*)
- 9:45 AM - Resurrection in the Gospel of Mark - in-person (*led by Hunter Hill*)
- 11:00 AM - Worship Service in-person, live streaming, and on Zoom (*host, Marilyn Johns*)
- 12:00 PM - Easter Egg Hunt
- 12:30 PM - Easter Potluck Dinner
- NO JAZZ VESPERS THIS WEEK