

The Gayton Kirk

October 26, 2025

11 AM Service



“Tender Gardens” by Marion Coleman

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

“Why I Love the Kirk”

Linda Smiley

Deb Kuhn

RINGING THE HOUR

Marney Titmus

PRELUDE

Margaret Storti, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP

Linda Smiley

Look around — this is the world:

The touch of a neighbor's hand, the sound of laughter in the hall,
the stubborn beauty of leaves turning gold.

This is the world — the real world God so loves.

We come not to escape the world, but to be restored to sanity within it.

To remember that grace is greater than noise,
and love is stronger than fear.

This is the world — the real world God so loves.

We come seeking the One who heals our hearts and renews our minds.

Here, together, we remember this is the world. And God is in it.

This is the world — the real world God so loves.

Let us Worship God.

HYMN # 803

"My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"

Margaret Storti, piano

CONFESSION and ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Linda Smiley

Holy One, we confess that we are often lost in a world of our own making. A world shaped by anxiety, competition, and screens that divide us. We confuse noise for truth, outrage for righteousness, and distraction for peace. We forget that You are here, in the ordinary and the real. Forgive us when we close our eyes to the beauty still unfolding around us.

Forgive us when we believe the lie that we must save ourselves.

Call us back to the grace of being human, dependent, beloved, and restored by You.

Hear now the prayers that silence draws from our heart...

IMAGINATIVE WORD

Barbara Crump

Breathing Under Water (by Carol Bieleck)

I built my house by the sea.

Not on the sands, mind you; not on the shifting sand.

And I built it of rock.

A strong house, by a strong sea.

And we got well acquainted, the sea and I.

Good neighbors.

Not that we spoke much.

We met in silences.

Respectful, keeping our distance,

but looking our thoughts across the fence of sand.

Always, the fence of sand our barrier, always, the sand between.

And then one day,
--and I still don't know how it happened--
the sea came.
Without warning.

Without welcome, even
Not sudden and swift, but a shifting across the sand
like wine,
less like the flow of water than the flow of blood.
Slow, but flowing like an open wound.
And I thought of flight and I thought of drowning and I thought of death.
And while I thought the sea crept higher, till it reached my door.
And I knew then, there was neither flight, nor death, nor drowning.
That when the sea comes calling you stop being neighbors
Well acquainted, friendly-at-a-distance, neighbors
And you give your house for a coral castle,
And you learn to breathe underwater.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION AND SCRIPTURE READING

Tina Bechtle

Psalms 130: 1-6

¹ Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord. ² Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications! ³ If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? ⁴ But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered. ⁵ I wait for the Lord; my soul waits, and in his word I hope; ⁶ my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.

James 3: 17-18

¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸ And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

SERMON

Elder Norma Smith and Rev. Dr. Hunter Hill

HYMN # 754

“Help Us Accept Each Other”

Margaret Storti, piano

CALL TO OFFERING

Hannah Terrell

We are invited 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.

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 scan the QR code.



OFFERTORY HYMN

Margaret Storti, piano

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Hannah Terrell

HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Dr. Hunter Hill

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

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 to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy and Loving God, in every age, when the world was loud with fear and pride,
You have whispered wisdom.

Wisdom that is peaceable, gentle, full of mercy, inviting us back to what is true.

You formed a world of beauty and called it good.

You gave us one another, that we might learn mercy and belonging.

When we forgot who we were, when we became addicted to noise, to judgment, to despair.

You did not abandon us.

You sent prophets and poets, and finally,

Your Word made flesh, Jesus Christ,

to remind us: *This is the world. And God is in it.*

So with all creation, with mountains and leaf blowers, with neighbors and strangers, with those who sit in silence and those who sing aloud, we join the unending hymn of praise:

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! _

Pastor continues in prayer

Hear us now as we 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.

COMMUNION IS SHARED

You are invited to come forward to receive a piece of gluten-free bread and a cup of juice. We are invited to drink the cup together after all are served.

COMMUNION HYMN # 792

"There is a Balm in Gilead"

Margaret Storti, piano

HYMN # 791

"For You, My God, I Wait"

Margaret Storti, piano

BLESSING AND CHARGE

Elder Norma Smith and Rev. Dr. Hunter Hill

POSTLUDE

Margaret Storti, piano

WORSHIP NOTES

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." You can also find our weekly calendar in the Kirk Happenings or online at <https://thegaytonkirk.org/calendar/>

COVER ART "Tender Gardens" by Marion Coleman
<https://americanart.si.edu/artwork/tender-gardens-120775>

LITURGY <https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>

IMAGINATIVE WORD "Breathing Under Water (by Carol Bieleck)
<http://nancyoelklaus.com/blog/2017/8/14/breathing-under-water-a-poem-by-carol-bieleck>

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