

Jazz Vespers Online

from The Gayton Kirk

October 26, 2025

5:00 pm



"Tender Gardens" by Marion Coleman

Music

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

Welcome and Announcements

"Why I Love the Kirk"

Tina Bechtle
Elder Sally Wambold

Music

Opening Prayer

Tina Bechtle

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.

Tonight's Theme

The Psalmist invitation to "wait for the Lord" is shared often.

What does this mean, what does it look like in your life?

Tina Bechtle

Music

The Gayton Kirk Jazz Trio

Scripture

Sally Wambold

Psalm 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Words

Elizabeth Shewan

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.

Music

The Gayton Kirk Jazz Trio

Out of the depths we cry to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our voices; let your ears be attentive to our prayers.

We wait for you, more than those who watch for the morning.

Our hope is in your steadfast love and in your redeeming presence.

Though we do not share bread and cup this evening,

We remember that Christ's Spirit still gathers and nourishes us.

For we are one body, joined not by ritual alone,

But by love, forgiveness, and the wisdom that comes from above.

Wisdom that is pure, peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits.

Wisdom that makes us peacemakers, sowing seeds of justice in the Spirit's field.

So, even without the table, we share in Christ's feast of grace

His presence in our music, our prayers, and in one another.

Come, Spirit of Christ, dwell among us.

Make us your body in this place, your heart in this world. Amen.

Music

The Gayton Kirk Jazz Trio

Closing Words

Tina Bechtle

Music

The Gayton Kirk Jazz Trio

Offering

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.



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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 thegaytonkirk.org/calendar/

WORSHIP NOTES

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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