

The Gayton Kirk

January 4, 2026

11 AM Service



"Jan Brueghel the Elder - The Adoration of the Kings [1598]"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Mary Kay Scott

RINGING THE HOUR

Marney Titmus

PRELUDE

Margaret Storti, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Mary Kay Scott

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

We come, drawn by a light we do not fully understand, but trust enough to follow.

Wise ones from afar followed a star, not knowing exactly where it would lead.

We, too, come seeking, hopeful, curious, open to God's surprise.

Come, let us worship the God who reveals Christ to all people, everywhere.

We come to worship, to listen, and to follow.

HYMN # 133

"O Come All Ye Faithful"

Margaret Storti, piano

CONFESSION and ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Betty Doll

God of revelation, we confess that we often prefer familiar paths to faithful ones. We cling to certainty when you invite trust. We resist change when you call us to follow your light into new places. Forgive us for the ways we ignore your guidance or mistake our own fears for wisdom. Turn us again toward your light, that we may walk in your ways.

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

IMAGINATIVE WORD

Cathi Thornton

Rev. Walter Canter, his Substack newsletter, "Walter Writes Words"

In January, when your resolutions become forgotten promises,
may you be blessed with a voice saying, "I like you just the way you are."

In February, when your nose chafes and your lips crack,
may you be blessed with cooling balms and steaming beverages.

In March, when your bracket inevitably underperforms expectations,
may you be blessed with blossoms and the shoots of green leaves.

In April, when mud tracks across your entryway and your garden grows roots,
may you be blessed with patience, humility and grace.

In May, when teachers proclaim endings and the sun proclaims beginnings,
may you be blessed with the eternal possibility of "between."

In June, when the water is too cold and the cement is too hot,
may you be blessed with joyful shouts and splashes.

In July, when time warps in a way that is impossibly both treeline-blurring and puddle-stagnant,
may you be blessed with a fresh breath to fill your lungs.

In August, when sweat trickles rivers across your porous skin,
may you be blessed with evaporation.

In September, when your cursor blinks uselessly against your to-do list,
may you be blessed with pleasant daydreams.

In October, when you begin to gripe about your neighbor's Christmas decorations,
may you be blessed with an angel who reminds you that the lights are a symbol of hope in the darkness.

In November, when you celebrate saints,
may you be blessed by their memory.

In December, when the wax runs from candle wicks in stalactite tears,
may you be blessed with heavenly peace.

In the year to come, when life provides moments of unparalleled joy, unprecedented sorrow, or inexplicable
happenstance, may you be blessed in remembering that you are a beloved child of God.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION AND SCRIPTURE READING

Mike Doll

Matthew 2: 1-12

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage."

³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶ 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.' ⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Mary Kay Scott

HYMN # 151

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”

Margaret Storti, piano

CALL TO OFFERING

Cathi Thornton

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

Cathi Thornton

HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Mary Kay Scott

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy and gracious God, we give you thanks for your light revealed to the world. You guided seekers by a star, called disciples to follow, and in Jesus Christ made your love known beyond all boundaries. In him, the mystery of your grace is revealed, that all are welcome, all are beloved, and all are invited into your unfolding purpose.

Therefore, with shepherds and angels, with Magi and saints, with all who seek your light, we praise your name and join the unending hymn:

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 # 117

“While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks”

Margaret Storti, piano

HYMN # 853

“We Are Marching in the Light of God”

Margaret Storti, piano

BLESSING AND CHARGE

Rev. Mary Kay Scott

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/>

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