

# The Gayton Kirk

December 7, 2025

11 AM Service



"Tree of Jesse" by Terry Saul

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Mary Kay Scott

RINGING THE HOUR

Marney Titmus

PRELUDE

Margaret Storti, piano

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Mary Kay Scott

We light the first candle of Hope, remembering that we walk in the light of the Lord.

*(Light the first candle)*

We light the second candle of Advent, the candle of Peace.

**In this season of preparation, we seek God's peace.**

Isaiah envisions a peaceable kingdom where the wolf lives with the lamb, and a little child shall lead them.

**The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon the one who brings justice and peace.**

John the Baptist cries out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."

**We turn from what divides us and seek the peace that only God can bring.**

*(Light the second purple/blue candle)*

God of Peace, we light this candle as a sign of our yearning for Your shalom. Isaiah's vision stirs our imagination, a world without predator and prey, without violence and fear. As we prepare the way of the Lord, straighten the crooked places in our hearts. Help us to be peacemakers, bearing fruit worthy of repentance. Make us instruments of Your peace. Amen.

HYMN # 314

"Longing For Light, We Wait in the Darkness" (Verses 2 and 5)

Margaret Storti, piano

## CONFESSION and ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Betty Doll

**In this season of hopeful waiting, we confess that we have not always been watchful or ready for your coming. We have been distracted by the world's noise and have failed to prepare a clear path for your peace. Shine the light of Christ upon the places in our hearts that are still in darkness, forgive us our sins, and renew us for your kingdom.**

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

## IMAGINATIVE WORD

Cathi Thornton

***"Let Evening Come"* by Jane Kenyon**

Let the light of late afternoon shine through chinks in the barn, moving up the bales as the sun moves down.

Let the cricket take up chafing as a woman takes up her needles and her yarn. Let evening come.

Let dew collect on the hoe abandoned in long grass. Let the stars appear and the moon disclose her silver horn.

Let the fox go back to its sandy den. Let the wind die down. Let the shed go black inside. Let evening come.

To the bottle in the ditch, to the scoop in the oats, to air in the lung let evening come.

Let it come, as it will, and don't be afraid. God does not leave us comfortless, so let evening come.

**Isaiah 11: 1-10**

<sup>1</sup> A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. <sup>2</sup> The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. <sup>3</sup> His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, <sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge the poor and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. <sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins. <sup>6</sup> The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup> They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. <sup>10</sup> On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

**Matthew 3: 1-12**

<sup>1</sup> In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,  
<sup>2</sup> "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." <sup>3</sup> This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'" <sup>4</sup> Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, <sup>6</sup> confessing their sins. <sup>7</sup> But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Bear fruit worthy of repentance. <sup>9</sup> Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>11</sup> "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

Rev. Mary Kay Scott

**HYMN # 104**

“Oh Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

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](http://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 God, we give You thanks for Your vision of peace that sustains us. You promise a world transformed, where predator and prey live side by side, where justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

You sent Your Son Jesus Christ to be our Prince of Peace, to show us the way of love that conquers fear, the way of mercy that transforms hearts.

We offer You praise, dear God, and hearts lifted high, for in the communion of Your love, Christ comes close to us and we come close to Christ. Therefore, with all who long for peace, we glorify Your holy name:

# 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 # 88

“O Come, O Come, Emanuel”

Margaret Storti, piano

HYMN # 827

“O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright”

Margaret Storti, piano

BLESSING AND CHARGE

Rev. Mary Kay Scott

POSTLUDE

Margaret Storti, piano

## ADVENT AT THE KIRK

Sundays in Advent – A **Simply Centered Advent** at 9:45-10:30

Lead by Sandra O'Neill and Rev. Mary Kay Scott

December 11<sup>th</sup> – **Big Band Christmas Concert at the Kirk** at 7:30 p.m.

Bring a friend and enjoy some great music!

December 14<sup>th</sup> – **Blue Christmas Service** at 5:00 p.m.

A time of prayer, music, candle lighting, and grace in a season that feels stressful and hard.

December 24<sup>th</sup> – **Christmas Eve at the Kirk** 4:30 service

Come early for an extended prelude and settle in with some wonderful music.

December 25<sup>th</sup> – **Christmas Lunch at the Kirk** at 1:00 p.m.

Bring your favorite side dish and let's gather together to Celebrate Christ's birth!

## 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](http://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** "Tree of Jesse" by Terry Saul

<https://helizabethback.wordpress.com/2011/07/25/mary-tree-of-life/>

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

**IMAGINATIVE WORD** "Let Evening Come" by Jane Kenyon

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/46431/let-evening-come>

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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](mailto:gaytonkirk@gmail.com).*

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