

# CELTIC worship

The **bodhrán** is a frame drum of Irish origin. A goatskin head is tacked to one side (synthetic heads or other animal skins are sometimes used). The other side is open-ended for one hand to be placed against the inside of the drumhead to control the pitch and timbre. One or two crossbars, sometimes removable, may be inside. The bodhrán is considered to be the native drum of the ancient Celts and was possibly used originally for winnowing or wool dyeing, with a musical history that predated Christianity, native to southwest Ireland. It is also called a poor man's tambourine.



*Embracing the example of Jesus,  
our welcome knows no boundaries  
and is extended to ALL people.*

**December 7, 2025**

*Welcome to worship!  
If you are worshipping at home, and would like to participate in  
Holy Communion,  
please have bread and wine or juice set aside.*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Mary Kay Scott  
Keith Parkhouse (*has set the table*)

We gather at God's feast. We listen to Holy Scripture. We hear music that connects our hearts. We are fed the nurturing grace of God through the brokenness and poured out life of Jesus the Christ. The table is set. All are welcome.

## BODHRAN CALL TO WORSHIP

### OPENING PRAYER

Rusty Deyerle

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.

## BAPTISMAL WATERS

Rusty Deyerle  
Nancy Parkhouse

When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of God, we too might walk in newness of life. (*Water is poured into the font.*)

## PRELUDE

"Longing for Light, We Wait in the Darkness"

Bernadette Farrell

## IMAGINATIVE WORD

Lyn Hill

**"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.

*~ moment of silence ~*

# PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION AND SCRIPTURE

Bland Weaver

## 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.

## REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

Rev. Mary Kay Scott

## SPECIAL MUSIC

"Oh Lord, How Shall I Meet You"

Johann Crüger

## 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:

**SANCTUS** (please see the screen)

*Pastor continues the 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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION IS SHARED

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

EXTINGUISHING THE LIGHT

Rusty Deyerle

Lord of all light, as we go forth into the world,  
we extinguish the lights here that  
represent the presence of the Holy in our midst.

**But we will carry the light in our hearts,  
and we pray that as we go about our work in the world,  
we will shine with the love of God.**

BLESSING

Rev. Mary Kay Scott

## 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!

## 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.com](http://www.thegaytonkirk.com) or scan the QR code.



If you would like to become a member of the Gayton Kirk, please let the [church office](#) know of your desire.

For a copy of our weekly newsletter, *Kirk Happenings*, please go to [www.thegaytonkirk.org](http://www.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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## WORSHIP NOTES

**PRELUDE** "Longing for Light, We Wait in the Darkness" by Bernadette Farrell  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kt3Qc04ulOM>

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

**IMAGINATIVE WORD** "Let Evening Come" by Jane Kenyon  
<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/46431/let-evening-come>

**SPECIAL MUSIC** "Soon and Very Soon" by Andrae Crouch  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XaYrh9yamUA>

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