

# The Gayton Kirk

March 22, 2026

11 AM Service



“Mourning at Mineral Springs” by Frank Day

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Mary Kay Scott

RINGING THE HOUR

Marney Titmus

PRELUDE

Margaret Storti, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Mary Kay Scott

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

**Let your ears hear our supplication.**

We wait for you, O God. In your word is our hope.

**We wait for you, O Lord, for with you there is mercy.**

Come. Let us worship God.

CONFESSION and ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Marion Brown

God, we are a busy people. We become pre-occupied with the demands of work, our relationships, and our communities. We tend to focus on our own needs and fail to see the needs of those around us. We do that which we should not and fail to do that which we should. We ask for your forgiveness and for your guidance in following the path you have set before us. Hear us now as we humbly come before you silently and privately to confess our sin.

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

IMAGINATIVE WORD

Marion Brown

“Theology” by Jane Hirshfield

If the flies did not hurry themselves to the window  
they’d still die somewhere.

Other creatures choose the other dimension  
to slip  
into a thicket, swim into the shaded, undercut  
part of the stream.

My dog would make her tennis ball  
disappear into just such a hollow,  
pushing it under the water with both paws.  
Then dig for it furiously, wildly, until it popped up again.

A game or theology, I couldn’t tell.

The flies might well prefer the dawn-ribboned mouth of a trout,  
its crisp and speed,  
if they could get there,  
though they are not in truth that kind of fly  
and preference is not given often in these matters.

A border collie’s preference is to do anything entirely,  
with the whole attention. This Simone Weil called prayer.  
And almost always, her prayers were successful -  
the tennis ball  
could be summoned again to the surface.

**John 11: 1-45**

<sup>1</sup> Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup> Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup> So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." <sup>4</sup> But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." <sup>5</sup> Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup> after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. <sup>7</sup> Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." <sup>8</sup> The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" <sup>9</sup> Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. <sup>10</sup> But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." <sup>11</sup> After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." <sup>12</sup> The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." <sup>13</sup> Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. <sup>14</sup> Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. <sup>15</sup> For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." <sup>16</sup> Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." <sup>17</sup> When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup> Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, <sup>19</sup> and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. <sup>20</sup> When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup> Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." <sup>24</sup> Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup> She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." <sup>28</sup> When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." <sup>29</sup> And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup> The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. <sup>32</sup> When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." <sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.

<sup>34</sup> He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” <sup>35</sup> Jesus began to weep. <sup>36</sup> So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” <sup>37</sup> But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?” <sup>38</sup> Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. <sup>39</sup> Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” <sup>40</sup> Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” <sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. <sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” <sup>43</sup> When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” <sup>44</sup> The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.” <sup>45</sup> Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Tessa Schuman

HYMN # 215

“What Wondrous Love is This”

Margaret Storti, piano

CALL TO OFFERING

Janice Baldwin

*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

Hannah Terrell

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.**

You come to bring us back to life when we think all hope is lost. You offer us transformation and renewal when we are trapped in our ways of death. You call us from our doubt and grief, you call us from our hope and wonder, you call us out of the grave itself, bringing us to new life in you.

And so with the whole company of heaven, with all who have come to new life before us, we join the ancient song:

**Holy, Holy, Holy**      Tune: Tracy Fedke, b. 1975 arr: Koiné

The musical score is written for a single voice part in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of seven staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: '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!' The score includes various musical notations such as rests, eighth notes, quarter notes, and half notes, with some notes beamed together.

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 # 450**

“Be Thou My Vision”

Margaret Storti, piano

**HYMN # 438**

“Rock of Ages”

Margaret Storti, piano

**BLESSING AND CHARGE**

Tessa Schuman

**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](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** “Mourning at Mineral Springs” by Frank Day | <https://tinyurl.com/5bv5k34b>

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

**IMAGINATIVE WORD** “Theology” by Jane Hirshfield  
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