

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.*

March 15, 2026

*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

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to God all my life long.

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord:

Who made heaven and earth, and all that is in them.

Who executes justice for the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoner free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

The Lord watches over the strangers and upholds the orphan and the widow,

But the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

The Lord will reign forever. Praise the Lord!

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

"This Little Light of Mine"

Bruce Springsteen with the Sessions Band

IMAGINATIVE WORD

Lyn Hill

When I am Among the Trees by Mary Oliver

When I am among the trees,
especially the willows and the honey locust,
equally the beech, the oaks and the pines,
they give off such hints of gladness.
I would almost say that they save me, and daily.

I am so distant from the hope of myself,
in which I have goodness, and discernment,
and never hurry through the world
but walk slowly, and bow often.

Around me the trees stir in their leaves
and call out, "Stay awhile."
The light flows from their branches.

And they call again, "It's simple," they say,
"and you too have come
into the world to do this, to go easy, to be filled
with light, and to shine."

~ *moment of silence* ~

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION AND SCRIPTURE

Bland Weaver

John 9: 1-41

¹ As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷ saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹ Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹ He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹² They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." ¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet." ¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰ His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, ²¹ but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." ²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵ He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶ They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷ He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰ The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."

³⁴They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out. ³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” ³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.” ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

Rev. Mary Kay Scott

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Spirit Open My Heart”

Norval United

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.

It is right, and it is our deepest joy, to give you thanks, O God of light. You prepared a feast of wonder for us, when creation burst forth: green pastures radiant with sunflowers; cool, still pools for rest and renewal; paths formed by antelopes up mountainsides. Your heart overflowed with love as you showed us what to do that we might live with you in peace. But looking at sin and death, we said, 'surely these are the ones we should follow,' and trailed after them. You would not reject us, but sent prophets to pursue us, calling us to return to you. But we did not know where they came from and so ignored them. And then, in the fullness of time, you sent your Son, the light of the world, born into the darkness of a frightened, violent world. Not a distant light on a far horizon, but light walking among us, eating with us, touching the eyes of those who could not see.

And so with the whole company of heaven, with all who have walked by this light before us, we join the ancient song:

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

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 or scan the QR code.



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WORSHIP NOTES

PRELUDE “This Little Light of Mine” by Bruce Springsteen with the Sessions Band
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R0qAYq1GVec>

LITURGY <https://pres-outlook.org>

IMAGINATIVE WORD “When I Am Among the Trees” by Mary Oliver
<https://www.theletterlab.com/when-i-am-among-the-trees-mary-oliver/>

SPECIAL MUSIC “Spirit Open My Heart” by Norval United
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EP0HU9Dqsto>

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