

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.*

May 17, 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

We have come to this place again, the place where we have met God before, where we have sung and prayed and been still, where we have told each other what we see when we peer into the darkness together.

We come because this is where we learn who we are.

We come with our faces turned upward, like the disciples on the mount, like empty cups that only one presence can fill.

We come watching. We come waiting. We come hoping.

The promise has not been rescinded. The Spirit is not finished with us. And so -

Let us worship God.

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

"Watershed"

Indigo Girls

IMAGINATIVE WORD

Nancy Parkhouse

"In the Leaving, A Blessing" by Jan Richardson

In the leaving,
in the letting go,
let there be this
to hold onto
at the last:
the enduring of love,
the persisting of hope,
the remembering of joy,
the offering of gratitude,
the receiving of grace,
the blessing of peace.

~ *moment of silence* ~

Acts 1: 1-14

¹ In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach ² until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴ While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." ⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." ¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³ When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

Rev. Mary Kay Scott

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Special Gifts"

Yo-Yo Ma and Alison Krauss

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 the peculiar, baffling, work of this people, your church, to gather week after week with no intention of being useful or productive, but only to declare things we cannot prove about a God we cannot see. We give you thanks, Holy God, for the long faithfulness of your presence with us: in the wilderness and in the promised land, in exile and in homecoming, in the manger and at the cross and at the empty tomb. We thank you for Jesus, who ate with his friends, who showed them his hands, who spoke to them about the kingdom, who promised that they would not be left alone.

Therefore, with all the saints who have gone before us, with all who gather at tables near and far, we join our voices in praise:

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.



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, 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 "Watershed" by Indigo Girls
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xl7N_xmXWIk

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IMAGINATIVE WORD "In the Leaving, A Blessing" by Jan Richardson
<https://uuwestport.org/in-the-leaving-by-jan-richardson/>

SPECIAL MUSIC "Special Gifts" by Yo-Yo Ma and Alison Krauss
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=baNueuDCue0>

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