

Jazz Vespers Online

from The Gayton Kirk

May 17, 2026

5:00 pm



“The Creation” by Aaron Douglas

Cathering Music

The Gayton Kirk Jazz Trio
Joe Sarver, Bruce Sullivan, Ross Riddell

Words of Welcome

Sally Wambold

Music

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The promise has not been rescinded.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.

Tonight's Theme

What do you make of the disciples standing there, staring at the sky?

The angels essentially say, "Why are you looking up? Get moving." When have you found yourself staring at what was, instead of turning toward what comes next?

Music

The Gayton Kirk Jazz Trio

Scripture

Sally Wambold

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.

Art

Please see front cover

Larry Bedford

Words

Elizabeth Shewan

“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.

Music

The Gayton Kirk Jazz Trio

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:

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

Prayer After Communion

Music

The Gayton Kirk Jazz Trio

Closing Prayer and Benediction

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.org website or scan the QR code.



Would you like to become a member of the Gayton Kirk? Please let the church office know of your interest. For a copy of our weekly newsletter, *Kirk Happenings*, please go to 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 thegaytonkirk.org/calendar/

WORSHIP NOTES

COVER ART "The Creation" by Douglas Aaron
<https://www.arthistoryproject.com/artists/aaron-douglas/the-creation/>

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

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