

The Gayton Kirk

August 30, 2026

11 AM Service



"Peter's Vision of a Sheet with Animals" by Domenico Fetti

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Betty Doll

RINGING THE HOUR

Debbie Mueller

PRELUDE

Madeline Clore, piano

**Please rise in body or spirit*

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Betty Doll

Seek the Lord! Seek God in the wilderness.

Seek God in the sanctuary.

Seek God in the burning bush.

Seek God in the burning heart.

The Lord is here! This place is holy!

We are standing on holy ground.

***HYMN # 337**

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

Madeline Clore, piano

CALL TO CONFESSION

Betty Doll

Sin casts us out into the cold, but the warmth of God’s forgiveness welcomes us back. Trusting in God’s love, let us confess our sins to God:

CONFESSION

Betty Doll

God of wonders, we confess that we do not understand why you call us when we are scared, clumsy, busy or flawed. We confess that we think we know better than you do who is qualified to do your work. Forgive our fears and excuses and self-doubts. Lend us your fire and your strength, as we go about the work of serving our neighbors, building up your church, loving your children, and tending to the scorched places of our world. Help us to burn for you, without burning up or burning out. Give us a purpose and the courage to pursue it. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Betty Doll

Hear the good news! New life rises from the ashes. In Christ, your sins are dead and you are alive to all that is good.

In Christ, we are made whole; in Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.

IMAGINATIVE WORD

Marion Brown

“Coming to God: First Days” by Mary Oliver

Lord, what shall I do that I
Can't quiet myself?
Here is the bread, and
Here is the cup, and
I can't quiet myself.

To enter the language of transformation!
To learn the importance of stillness,
With one's hands folded!

When will my eyes of rejoicing turn peaceful?
When will my joyful feel grow still?
When will my heart stop its prancing
As over the summer grass?

Lord, I would run for you, loving the miles for your sake.
I would climb the highest tree
To be that much closer.

Lord, I will learn also to kneel down
Into the world of the invisible,
The inscrutable and the everlasting.
Then I will move no more than the leaves of a tree
On a day of no wind,
Bathed in light,
Like the wanderer who has come home at last
And kneels in peace, done with all unnecessary thing;
Every motion; even words.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Marion Brown

Divine Light, shine on these pages that the stories may speak again to us today. Shine on our hearts that we might know how to respond. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Marion Brown

Acts 10:17-33

¹⁷ Now while Peter was greatly puzzled about what to make of the vision that he had seen, suddenly the men sent by Cornelius appeared. They were asking for Simon's house and were standing by the gate. ¹⁸ They called out to ask whether Simon, who was called Peter, was staying there. ¹⁹ While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Look, three men are searching for you. ²⁰ Now get up, go down, and go with them without hesitation, for I have sent them." ²¹ So Peter went down to the men and said, "I am the one you are looking for; what is the reason for your coming?" ²² They answered, "Cornelius, a centurion, a righteous and God-fearing man who is well spoken of by the whole Jewish people, was directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and to hear what you have to say." ²³ So Peter invited them in and gave them lodging. The next day he got up and went with them, and some of the brothers and sisters from Joppa accompanied him. ²⁴ The following day they came to Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. ²⁵ On Peter's arrival, Cornelius met him and, falling at his feet, worshiped him. ²⁶ But Peter made him get up, saying, "Stand up; I am only a mortal." ²⁷ And as he talked with him, he went in and found that many had assembled, ²⁸ and he said to them, "You yourselves know that it is improper for a Jew to associate with or to visit an outsider, but God has shown me that I should not call anyone profane or unclean. ²⁹ So when I was sent for, I came without objection. Now may I ask why you sent for me?" ³⁰ Cornelius replied, "Four days ago at this very hour, at three o'clock, I was praying in my house when suddenly a man in dazzling clothes stood before me. ³¹ He said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard, and your alms have been remembered before God. ³² Send therefore to Joppa and ask for Simon, who is called Peter; he is staying in the home of Simon, a tanner, by the sea.' ³³ Therefore I sent for you immediately, and you have been kind enough to come. So now all of us are here in the presence of God to listen to all that the Lord has commanded you to say."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"On Being the Church: A Journey of Transformation."

Dr. Safwat Marzouk

*HYMN # 317

"In Christ There Is No East or West"

Madeline Clore, piano

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

(The Confession of 1967)

God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of our minds. We believe that God has created the world of space and time to be the sphere of God's dealings with humankind. In its beauty and vastness, transcendence and awe-fulness, order and disorder, the world reflects to the eye of faith the majesty and mystery of its Creator.

We believe that God has created us for a personal relationship in which we may respond to the love of the Creator. Life is a gift to be received with gratitude and a task to be pursued with courage.

CALL TO OFFERING

Janice Baldwin

With gratitude for all God has given us, let us return our offerings to God.

We are invited to respond to God with our time, talents, and money.
Your offering can be placed in the offering plate long with prayers 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 or scan the QR code.



OFFERTORY

Madeline Clore, piano

***DOXOLOGY # 606**

Madeline Clore, piano

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (IN UNISON)**

Janice Baldwin

Generous God, we offer our gifts to you, grateful for all you have given us, and grateful for the chance to give to others. Build up your church through these offerings, that we might be a place where your goodness is seen, practiced, and shared. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

Dr. Safwat Marzouk

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 commanded light to shine out of darkness, divided the sea and dry land, created the vast universe and called it good. You made us in your image to live with one another in love. You gave us the breath of life and freedom to choose your way. You promised yourself in covenant with Abraham and Sarah, told us your purpose in commandments through Moses, and called for justice in the cry of prophets. Through long generations you have been faithful and kind to all your children.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with the heavenly choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name.

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

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. I Corinthians 11: 23-26

COMMUNION IS SHARED

You are invited to come forward to receive a piece of gluten-free bread and a cup of juice. Please hold the cup until all are served. We will drink the cup together.

COMMUNION MUSIC

CLOSING PRAYER

Dr. Safwat Marzouk

*HYMN # 69

"I, The Lord of Sea and Sky"

Madeline Clore, piano

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

Dr. Safwat Marzouk

POSTLUDE

(During the postlude, meditate and pray about your worship experience today)

BIOGRAPHY OF VISITING PASTOR

Safwat Marzouk, an Associate Professor of the Old Testament and an Egyptian Presbyterian, was ordained as a pastor in 2002 by the Delta Presbytery of the Synod of the Nile (the governing body of the Presbyterian Church in Egypt), and in May 2021 he joined the Wabash Valley Presbytery of PC(USA). As a Christian Egyptian and migrant to the U.S., he interprets the Bible in ways that are interreligiously and interculturally sensitive seeking God's shalom and justice for the vulnerable and the marginalized.

<https://www.upsem.edu/academics/faculty/safwat-marzouk>

WORSHIP NOTES

We welcome all to worship today. If you are visiting and would like to know about the Gayton Kirk, please be in touch with the pastor or any member. Welcome!

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 <https://thegaytonkirk.org/calendar/>

COVER ART "Peter's Vision of a Sheet with Animals" by Domenico Fetti
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter%27s_vision_of_a_sheet_with_animals

LITURGY Presbyterian Outlook, Carol Prickett

IMAGINATIVE WORD "Coming to God: First Days" by Mary Oliver
<https://yearsrisingmaryoliver.blogspot.com/2010/09/coming-to-god-first-days.html>

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*Please note: The Gayton Kirk livestreams the 11 AM Worship Service. Our camera captures the worship leaders at the front of the sanctuary. We do not film the congregation during communion. **Photography notice:** Please be aware that photographs are taken at things happening around the Kirk. These are used in various ways, including social media and print publications. If you are uncomfortable having your photo taken or shared, please let us know, either by notifying anyone you see taking a photograph or a church leader on site, or by emailing gaytonkirk@gmail.com.*

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