

The Gayton Kirk

October 4, 2026

11 AM Service



"Earthrise" from the Apollo 8 Mission

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Rebekah Motley

RINGING THE HOUR

Leah Viar

PRELUDE

Natan Berenshteyn, piano

"Today is World Communion Sunday, a day we celebrate the Lord's Supper with our Siblings in Christ all around the world. Today the songs we sing will acknowledge the many and varied cultures that make up God's church in the world. The first hymn, "*Come all You People*", comes from Zimbabwe and is frequently used as a processional song. "Touch the Earth Lightly" comes out of New Zealand, and opens with a translated Australian aboriginal saying. Our closing hymn "I'm Gonna Live so God can Use Me" is an African American spiritual that that was used by enslaved people to sing about dedicating themselves to God's use. These songs may not be as familiar to us, yet we sing them today with joy and love for our neighbors for whom they mean so much."

**Please rise in body or spirit*

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Dr. Rebekah Motley

Around the world people gather to break bread and pour wine.

We gather with them in heart and mind.

Around the world the broken body is made whole.

As part of that body we join in its unity.

Around the world the Banquet of God is prepared for the table.

We, who share in the banquet, come eagerly to be fed.

Let us worship together, let us share God's bounty.

***HYMN # 388**

"Come All You People"

Natan Berenshteyn, piano

CONFESSION and ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Betty Doll

Trusting in the gracious mercy of the one who made the whole world and called it good, let us confess our sins in prayer:

Gracious God, we are indebted to you and your generosity. But we fail to live as good stewards of all you have given us. We confiscate and consume far more than our fair share. We neglect the poor and trap people in poverty, claiming that debt forgiveness is unfair. God, liberate us from our spiritual and moral bondage. Free our world for Jubilee. Reorder our priorities so all your nations and peoples may thrive. Amen.

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

“Mending Wall” by Robert Frost

Something there is that doesn't love a wall,
That sends the frozen-ground-swell under it,
And spills the upper boulders in the sun;
And makes gaps even two can pass abreast.
The work of hunters is another thing:
I have come after them and made repair
Where they have left not one stone on a stone,
But they would have the rabbit out of hiding,
To please the yelping dogs. The gaps I mean,
No one has seen them made or heard them made,
But at spring mending-time we find them there.
I let my neighbor know beyond the hill;
And on a day we meet to walk the line
And set the wall between us once again.
We keep the wall between us as we go.
To each the boulders that have fallen to each.
And some are loaves and some so nearly balls
We have to use a spell to make them balance:
'Stay where you are until our backs are turned!'
We wear our fingers rough with handling them.
Oh, just another kind of out-door game,
One on a side. It comes to little more:
There where it is we do not need the wall:
He is all pine and I am apple orchard.
My apple trees will never get across
And eat the cones under his pines, I tell him.
He only says, 'Good fences make good neighbors.'
Spring is the mischief in me, and I wonder
If I could put a notion in his head:
'*Why* do they make good neighbors? Isn't it
Where there are cows? But here there are no cows.
Before I built a wall I'd ask to know
What I was walling in or walling out,
And to whom I was like to give offense.
Something there is that doesn't love a wall,
That wants it down.' I could say 'Elves' to him,
But it's not elves exactly, and I'd rather
He said it for himself. I see him there
Bringing a stone grasped firmly by the top
In each hand, like an old-stone savage armed.

He moves in darkness as it seems to me,
Not of woods only and the shade of trees.
He will not go behind his father's saying,
And he likes having thought of it so well
He says again, 'Good fences make good neighbors.'

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Mike Doll

Bless us, O God, with ears to hear your truth, vision to discern your path, and feet ready to move into action, responding to your call. Inspire us as we hear your Word read and proclaimed. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Mike Doll

Matthew 21:33-46

³³ "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. ³⁴ When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵ But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷ Then he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' ³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" ⁴¹ They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time." ⁴² Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'?" ⁴³ "Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. ⁴⁴ The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls." ⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Fences and Borders"

Rev. Dr. Rebekah Motley

***HYMN # 713**

"Touch the Earth Lightly"

Natan Berenshteyn, piano

CALL TO OFFERING

Cathi Thornton

We are inspired to be generous by a generous God. We are inspired to give by the greatest of givers. In gratitude to God, let us present our tithes and offerings.

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

Natan Berenshteyn, piano

*DOXOLOGY # 606

Natan Berenshteyn, piano

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (IN UNISON)

Cathi Thornton

Holy God, bless these gifts for your good use. May these tokens of our gratitude be of service in liberating the poor, feeding the hungry, clothing and sheltering those struggling to survive. Use these gifts to further Christ's mission and ministry in a hurting world. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Dr. Rebekah Motley

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 our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, loving God, creator and sustainer of life. You planted the first fields — wheat, barley, rice, and maize — and made us in your image to care for your creation.

You fed your people in the wilderness with manna from heaven, leading them to a land of milk and honey. When human greed trampled the poor you spoke through the prophets, calling us to worship you with justice and peace.

Then, in the fullness of time, you sent Jesus Christ, the living bread, to lift up the oppressed and lowly and fill the hungry with good things. Therefore we praise you, joining the faithful who hunger and thirst for righteousness and singing the hymn of the whole creation:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Tune: Tracy Fedke, b. 1975 arr: Koiné

The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The tempo and mood are indicated by the arrangement. The lyrics are written below the staff, with some words underlined to indicate phrasing. The score consists of eight lines of music. The first two lines are identical: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of heav-en - ly hosts.' The third line is 'Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san - na!'. The fourth line is 'Ho-san - na! Ho - san-na in the high - est! Ho-san - na!'. The fifth line is 'Ho-san - na! Bless-ed is he who comes! Bless-ed is he who comes!'. The sixth line is 'Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!'. The seventh line is 'Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!'. The eighth line is 'Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!'.

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!

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, and one with all who share this meal, a great multitude from every nation.

Prayers of the People

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. Please hold the cup until all are served. We will drink the cup together.

COMMUNION MUSIC

CLOSING PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Rebekah Motley

*HYMN # 700

"I'm Gonna Live So God can Use Me"

Natan Berenshteyn, piano

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

Rev. Dr. Rebekah Motley

POSTLUDE

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

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 "Earthrise" from the Apollo 8 Mission | <https://www.nasa.gov/image-article/apollo-8-earthrise/>

LITURGY Presbyterian Outlook

IMAGINATIVE WORD "Mending Wall" by Robert Frost
<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/44266/mending-wall>

Copyright License B 11296699 Streaming License B 20310094

*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.*

The Gayton Kirk Presbyterian Church
Mail to: P.O. Box 29635, Henrico, VA 23242
Physical Address: 11421 Gayton Road, Henrico, VA
gaytonkirk@gmail.com 804-741-5254