

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 dying, 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.*

October 11, 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

Lyn Hill

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.

PRELUDE

"Morning Has Broken"

Kaleb Brasee

BODHRAN CALL TO WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rusty Deyerle

Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;

God's steadfast love endures forever.

Who can utter the mighty doings of the Lord, or declare all his praise?

Happy are those who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times.

Save us, O Lord our God, and gather us from among the nations,

that we may give thanks to your holy name and glory in your praise.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting.

And let all the people say, Amen.

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.*)

IMAGINATIVE WORD

Nancy Parkhouse

"The Golden Calf" by John Newton

When Israel heard the fiery law,

From Sinai's top proclaimed;

Their hearts seemed full of holy awe,

Their stubborn spirits tamed.

Yet, as forgetting all they knew,

Ere forty days were past;

With blazing Sinai still in view,

A molten calf they cast.

Yea, Aaron, God's anointed priest,
Who on the mount had been
He durst prepare the idol-beast,
And lead them on to sin.

Lord, what is man! and what are we,
To recompense thee thus!
In their offence our own we see,
Their story points at us.

From Sinai we have heard thee speak,
And from mount Calv'ry too;
And yet to idols oft we seek,
While thou art in our view.

Some golden calf, or golden dream,
Some fancied creature-good,
Presumes to share the heart with him,
Who bought the whole with blood.

Lord, save us from our golden calves,
Our sin with grief we own;
We would no more be thine by halves,
But live to thee alone.

~ moment of silence ~

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Bland Weaver

Dear God, your Word itself tells us that you inspire all Scripture, that everyone who belongs to you may be equipped for every good work. As we hear your Word read and proclaimed, inspire us through your Holy Spirit that we may be ready to worship you and serve others with the love and grace of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Bland Weaver

Exodus 32: 1-14

¹ When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." ² Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters and bring them to me." ³ So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears and brought them to Aaron. ⁴ He took these from them, formed them in a mold, and cast an image of a calf, and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" ⁵ When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it, and Aaron made a proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a festival to the Lord." ⁶ They

rose early the next day and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being, and the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to revel. ⁷ The Lord said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸ they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’ ” ⁹ The Lord said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰ Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation.” ¹¹ But Moses implored the Lord his God and said, “O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹² Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³ Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’ ” ¹⁴ And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

Hunter Hill

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Great is Thy Faithfulness”

Kaleb Brasee

Prayers of the people

Lyn Hill

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.

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

Hunter Hill

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.



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!

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WORSHIP NOTES

PRELUDE "Morning Has Broken" by Kaleb Brasee
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gg624-msadY&list=RDgg624-msadY&start_radio=1

LITURGY Presbyterian Outlook

IMAGINATIVE WORD "The Golden Calf" by John Newton
<https://www.best-poems.net/john-newton/the-golden-calf.html>

SPECIAL MUSIC "Great is Thy Faithfulness" by Kaleb Brasee
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tFv_Yddsdmg&list=RDtFv_Yddsdmg&start_radio=1

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Exodus 32:1-14 – Exegesis

What is going on in the larger context:

- The Hebrew people had been enslaved in Egypt for 400 years. God sent Moses to set God's people free. God also appointed Moses' brother Aaron as Moses' helper. Aaron would later become the chief priest.
- In chapter 20 of Exodus, Moses presented the Hebrew people with the 10 commandments at the foot of Mount Siani. Moses then goes back up the mountain for 40 days to speak with God. This absence creates anxiety in the people. There is a suggestion among the people that since Moses has been absent, God is absent as well.

Who is the original audience and what would they have understood:

- Scholars believe that while the story of the Exodus (specifically, a large mass of people fleeing bondage from Egypt) did not happen. However, there is an historical core, or origin mythology, to the story that is still crucial to the Jewish belief today.
- Scholars also believe that the Book of Exodus, along with the rest of the Pentateuch (first five books) was written during the 6th century BCE. This was the time of the Hebrew people's exile in Babylon. It's possible and perhaps likely that this story reflects Israel's understanding of their origin, rise, and fall into exile.

What sources are being used:

- This motif of Israel turning to idols or foreign gods is seen all throughout the Hebrew scriptures. Specifically, the image of a calf comes up over and over again. For example, 1 Kings 12 tells the story of King Jeroboam creating golden calves. In an echo of this Exodus story, 1 Kings 12:28 says, "So the king took counsel and made two calves of gold. He said to the people, "You have gone up to Jerusalem long enough. Here are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.
- The story of the golden calf is interpreted by many biblical scholars as a retrospective critique of the Northern Kingdom of Israel, as well as the Jerusalem priesthood.

What words or phrases should we understand:

- The Egyptian god Apis had the form of a bull. When the Hebrew people felt abandoned by Moses and subsequently, by God, they revert to the old ways of Egypt. In this case, in the form of another god they could look to as their liberator.