

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.*

March 19, 2023

God Is Holding Your Life: Light of the World

*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

Elder Bland Weaver

Elder 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

THEME

The Rev. Janet James

Today's Psalm comes late in the Book and offers a glimpse of a time when the exiled outcasts are gathering back together and seeing their world built back up. We too, yearn for a re-gathering and a day when we sing our praises and play our instruments with abandon together again. We wait, we hope, we stay firm in our faith, knowing as our ancient ancestors did, that God is indeed holding our lives.

PRELUDE

"How Good It Is to Sing" (Psalm 147)

Stuart Townsend

OPENING PRAYER

Elder Rusty Deyerle

Healing God,
You are working to bind up the wounds of the world.
Open us this day to be your hands and feet for a suffering people,
so that we might make a difference right where we are,
contributing to your reign on earth as it is in heaven.
We praise you for the strength to persevere,
holding our lives together in love.
Amen.

**In the name of the Father,
in the name of the Son,
in the name of the Spirit Holy,
Three in One:
God make us holy,
Christ make us holy,
Spirit make us holy,
Three all-holy.**

Elder Keith Parkhouse
(lights the Trinity candles)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Elder Deyerle

**Count us not as nothing, O God,
count us not as nothing, O Christ,
count us not as nothing, O kind Spirit,
nor abandon us to eternal loss.
We confess our sins to you, Father, Son, and Spirit
Holy.**

(Silence)

Compassionate God of life, your kindly pardon give:
for our careless talk, our broken oath, our empty speech;
for all that we have left undone,
for all that we have done amiss.
Jesus, only-begotten Son and Lamb of God the Father,
you gave the blood of your body to save us from the grave.
As we receive the Word and knowledge of your forgiveness,
enshield us, encircle us, each day, each night, each dark, each light.
Uphold us, be our treasure, our triumph everlasting;
strong Son of God most high.
Amen.

BAPTISMAL WATERS

Elder 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)

“The Light in the Darkness,” by Trever Barlow

In every one of us a Light burns
A Light that pushes us to be better than what we are
A Light that pushes us towards perfection
The Light is the cause of happiness, love, and bliss
The Light is only contrasted by the Darkness
A Darkness which resides within each of us
The Darkness brings us down
And it seeks to extinguish the Light
The Darkness causes hatred, envy, and chaos
Where the Light is success, the Darkness is failure
Where the Light is freedom, the Darkness is imprisonment
Where the Light is satisfaction, the Darkness is remorse
Where the Light is forgiveness, the Darkness is blame
Where the Light is good, the Darkness is evil
Where the Light is God, the Darkness is Satan
And where the Light is serenity, the Darkness is frustration
And inside each of us the battle between Light and Darkness rages
Everything in life breathes both the Light and the Dark
Every action and every reaction in life is ruled by this clash
Every injustice and every act of morality

Every feeling of guilt and every sense of forgiveness
Both the Light and Darkness resides in each of us
The question is: Which are you allowing to control your life?

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Elder Bland Weaver

Open our hearts and minds by the power of your Spirit, Holy God,
that we might hear and receive the message you intend for us today. **Amen**

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 147

Elder Bland Weaver

¹Praise the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to our God;
for the Lord is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.
²The Lord builds up Jerusalem;
the Lord gathers the outcasts of Israel.
³the Lord heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.
⁴The Lord determines the number of the stars;
and gives to all of them their names.
⁵Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
the Lord's understanding is beyond measure.
⁶The Lord lifts up the downtrodden;
and casts the wicked to the ground.
⁷Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;
make melody to our God on the lyre.
⁸The Lord covers the heavens with clouds,
prepares rain for the earth,
makes grass grow on the hills.
⁹The Lord gives to the animals their food,
and to the young ravens when they cry.
¹⁰God's delight is not in the strength of the horse,
nor is the Lord's pleasure in the speed of a runner;
¹¹but the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear God,
in those who hope in the Lord's steadfast love.
¹²Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!
¹³For the Lord strengthens the bars of your gates;
the Lord blesses your children within you.
¹⁴The Lord grants peace within your borders;
and fills you with the finest of wheat.
¹⁵The Lord sends out his command to the earth;
the Lord's word runs swiftly.
¹⁶God gives snow like wool;
and scatters frost like ashes.
¹⁷The Lord hurls down hail like crumbs—
who can stand before his cold?
¹⁸The Lord sends out his word, and melts them;
the Lord makes the wind blow and the waters flow.
¹⁹The Lord declares his word to Jacob,
his statutes and ordinances to Israel.
²⁰The Lord has not dealt thus with any other nation;
they do not know God's ordinances. Praise the Lord!

John 9:1-41

As he walked along; he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.”

¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.”

²⁵He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?”

²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.”

³⁰The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”

³⁴They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.”

³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.”

³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him.

³⁹Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.

Here ends the reading of Scripture. **Amen.**

REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

special music

“Amazing Grace: My Chains Are Gone”

Pentatonix

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks and praise to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

From our beginning, you shaped us
to live in service to one another and all the earth.
You set us in the garden to co-create life with you.
You surrounded us with creatures and creations that depend on our care.
Our destinies have always been wrapped up in one another
– our individual well-being bound to the well-being of all.
Therefore we join our voices with your people on earth
and all the company of the heavens,
singing praise to you,

Holy, holy, holy ... please see screen to sing

Gracious One,
we struggle with spirits of fear and greed
that tempt us away from your original plan for us.
We excuse ourselves from responsibilities to our neighbors.
We struggle to believe we have anything to offer to the whole.
And at times we knowingly do harm to others for the sake of our own gain.
You know our struggles, O God. And so you sent us Jesus.

In him we learn how to show up for one another.
Jesus lived in service to collective well-being.
He sought out those in need of community.
He befriended the ones who were isolated.
He challenged the structures that destroy.

Through his life, you taught us that the same capacities live in us.
We too can choose the way of service to collective life.
You have given each of us gifts to play our part.
The same spirit of courage
that kept Jesus proclaiming love
even in the face of death lives in us.

On the night of his arrest, Jesus shared a meal with his companions.
He took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to his disciples and said:
“This is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”
After the meal, he took the cup, blessed it, and shared it saying:
“This cup that is poured out is the new covenant.”

In remembrance of all you have done to save us,
we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ was birthed among us.

Christ was killed among us.

Christ rises again among us.

Pour out your Spirit on these gifts
and make this bread and this cup sustenance for our Lenten journey.

By your grace, may we experience anew
the call you place on our lives to serve one another.

In feasting at your table,
may our hearts be filled with courage once again
to follow Christ, come what may.

In collective longing for a taste of your Kingdom on earth,
we join together in echoing the prayer of Jesus:

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.

The Communion of the People

*After we receive the bread and the cup,
let us hold the cup and drink together.*

Prayer after Communion

God, your bread and your cup renew our spirits.
No matter the times we have failed to show up to your call,
or to our own needs,
or to the cries of our neighbors,
you receive us again.
May your unending grace be our foundation
as we journey with Christ towards justice. **Amen.**

EXTINGUISHING THE LIGHT

Elder 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

Elder Weaver

OFFERING

It is appropriate to respond to God with our time, talents, and money.

Financial offerings can be made by mail to
P.O. Box 29635, Henrico, VA 23242
or [click here](#) to use PayPal on The Kirk's website

If you would like to become a member of the Gayton Kirk, please let the pastor,
[Janet James](#), 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."

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WORSHIP NOTES

worship leaders

Rusty Deyerle	Keith Parkhouse	Nancy Parkhouse
Lyn Hill	Bland Weaver	Jim Collins
The Reverend Janet James	Zoom Master: Marilyn Johns	
AV Director: Brendan Donahue		

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PRELUDE: <https://youtu.be/Jg6wMflhIsc>

SPECIAL MUSIC: <https://youtu.be/Obp-9BEZe1c>

IMAGINATIVE WORD: "The Light in the Darkness," by Trever Barlow

SANCTUS <https://youtu.be/6VvZ64NA5Kw>

COMMUNION LITURGY Lenten communion prayer enfleshed.com

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THE GAYTON KIRK WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY MARCH 19

- 8:30 AM - Celtic Worship Service **in-person** and ZOOM (hosted by Marilyn J.)
9:45-10:45 AM — Holy Politics - **in-person** (led by Rev. Nancy Summerlin)
9:45 AM - Youth & Children's Sunday School **in-person** (led by Rev. Russ K.)
11:00 AM - Worship Service **in-person**, live streaming, and on ZOOM (hosted by Marilyn J.)
5:00 PM - Jazz Vespers **in-person**, live streaming, and on ZOOM (hosted by Marilyn J.)
5:45 PM - Jazz Vespers discussion - **in person** and ZOOM (hosted by Marilyn J.)

MONDAY MARCH 20

- 11:00 AM - Coffee & Scripture - ZOOM (led by Janet J.)
1:30 PM - Creative Expressions **in-person** (led by Sandra O.)
6:30 PM - Session Meeting - ZOOM
7:00 PM - Art by Hand **in-person** (led by Liz B.)

TUESDAY MARCH 21

- 10:30 AM - Chair Yoga - **in-person** (led by Robin R.)
12:00-2:00 PM—Making art for Lent (everyone is welcome) - **in-person** (led by Betty D.)
1:00 PM - Bridge - **in-person** (led by Ellen W.)
1:00 PM - Learn to Play Bridge - **in-person** (led by Tina B.)
7:00 PM - Enneagram Class— ZOOM (led by Janet J.)

WEDNESDAY MARCH 22

- 9:45 AM - Causes, Actions, & Effects of World War II - **in-person** (led by Bland W.)
12:00-2:00 PM—Making art for Lent (everyone is welcome) - **in-person** (led by Betty D.)
3:00 PM - Staff & Committee Head Meeting - **in-person** and ZOOM -contact Janet for link (led by Janet J.)
7:00 PM - Taizé- **in-person**

THURSDAY MARCH 23

- 10:00 AM - Tai Chi - **in-person** (led by Steve S.)
6:30 PM - Handbell Choir Practice - **in-person** (led by John D.)

SUNDAY MARCH 26 CENTSABILITY

- 8:30 AM - Celtic Worship Service **in-person** and ZOOM (hosted by Marilyn J.)
9:45-10:45 AM — Holy Politics - **in-person** (led by Rev. Nancy Summerlin)
9:45-10:45 AM - Youth & Children's Sunday School **in-person** (led by Rev. Russ K.)
11:00 AM - Worship Service **in-person**, live streaming, and on ZOOM (hosted by Marilyn J.)
12:15 PM - Carver Meal Packing **in-person** (led by Stacy D.)
5:00 PM - Jazz Vespers **in-person**, live streaming, and on ZOOM (hosted by Marilyn J.)
5:45 PM - Jazz Vespers discussion - **in person** and ZOOM (hosted by Marilyn J.)