



*We are Disciples of Christ,
a movement for wholeness
in a fragmented world.*

**Gayton Road Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
Ministers: Every Believer
Pastor: Jonathan Kruschwitz**

*February 25, 2018
Second Sunday of Lent*



*As part of the one body of
Christ, we welcome all to
the Lord's Table as God
has welcomed us.*

*Please use the Narthex for conversation, gathering and visiting,
so that the Sanctuary may be used for quiet reflection and preparing for worship.*

GATHERING

Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

"[Abraham] set out, not knowing where he was going." (Hebrews 11:8)

"Those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it." (Mark 8:35)

PRELUDE

"Aria"

Paul Manz

*During this time, you are invited to come forward to receive a Lenten anointing on your wrists,
symbolizing the cross we share and the powerful love of God made perfect in our weakness.*

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Mark 8:31-38)

Listen! Can you hear God,

Who calls us by our true name?

Look! Can you see God,

Who pulls us into promise and possibility?

There! In Christ!

Who calls us to the cross.

There! In Christ!

Who lifts us to new life.

There! In the one who comes to us!

Let us go to him. Let us follow him on the way.

***OPENING HYMN 108**

"Lift High the Cross"

CRUCIFER

***OPENING PRAYER**

(Mark 8:31-38)

God of dispossession,

Who rebukes us when we refuse

To give up our idols

Of success and security:

Send us with Jesus

On the way of the cross,

That we might lose our love of death

And take the risk of life,

Through Jesus Christ, the new covenant. Amen.

ANTHEM "O Taste and See" Richard Horn

SCRIPTURE Mark 8:31-38

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER 310 (SUNG) HAAS

SCRIPTURE Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

SERMON "Father Abraham"

*HYMN OF AFFIRMATION (INSERT) "Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone" MAITLAND

During this song, all are welcome to come forward to become members of Gayton Road Christian Church by transfer of membership or baptism.

Deacons gather in the back of the sanctuary to prepare for the offering.

OFFERING INVITATION (Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16)

OFFERTORY "Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness" Paul Bouman

*DOXOLOGY 528 "Give Thanks" GIVE THANKS

*OFFERING BLESSING (Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Mark 8:31-38)

**Giving God,
In Christ you lost your life
For the sake of the world.
Make these gifts and our lives
To bear the weight of the cross
And to give birth to new life.
In the name of our life, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

CONFESSION (Mark 8:31-38; Romans 4:13-25)

Lord, your life comes from loss.	Christ, your way is the cross.	Lord, you give life to the dead.
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When we cling too tightly to our own lives:	When we conform to the way of competition:	When we keep silent in the face of death:
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Lord, have mercy.	Christ, have mercy.	Lord, have mercy.
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Lord, have mercy.	Christ, have mercy.	Lord, have mercy.
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WORDS OF ASSURANCE

THE PEACE

In Christ, God is bringing all things together—what has been good, what has been hurtful, what cannot be understood. In Christ, all things are being redeemed.

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

COMMUNION HYMN 405 “In Memory of the Savior’s Love”

SALZBURG

(Elders and Deacons gather in the back of the Sanctuary to prepare to serve)

Communion is celebrated each Sunday. As a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) congregation, we practice an open table where all are invited to the table. There is no barrier that prevents participation in the Lord’s Supper. The bread and the cup are taken in unison; hold each in your hands until you are signaled to partake. This communion bread is gluten free.

You are invited to bless the bread and the cup for your neighbor. As you pass the element, you may say, “The body of Christ, broken for you,” and, “The blood of Christ, shed for you.”

PRAYERS OF THE ELDERS

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION

*CLOSING HYMN 24

“The God of Abraham Praise”

LEONI

*BENEDICTION

Into promises and possibility—**may God lead us.**

Unto the cross—**may Christ support us.**

With hope against hope—**may the Spirit inspire us.**

Until all the world—**is blessed with life abundant. Amen.**

Postlude

“Christ the Life of All the Living” Friedrich W. Zachow

*Please stand if able.

As a courtesy to other worshippers, please silence phones. Bibles (electronic or book) are most welcome!

Acknowledgments: Opening Prayer adapted from Steven Shakespeare, *Prayers for an Inclusive Church* (New York: Church Publishing, 2009), ebook loc. 360.

Scheduled to serve today:

Pastor Jonathan Kruschwitz
 Director of Music..... Jack Fox
 Intern Emily Croxford
 Lay Leader Teresa Campbell
 Elders Gracie Tingle & Amanda Carlton
 Deacons Audrey Schuler, Julie Round,
 Carol Malla, & Alex Schuler
 Children’s Message David Koerner
 Acolytes Schuler Family
 Nursery Darrah Davis & John Ennis

Welcome to Worship: *Whether you are a member, friend or visiting with us today, may God bless you during worship this morning. You ARE welcome and we’re very blessed that you are worshipping with us today!*

Communion is celebrated each Sunday.

GRCC NEWS AND OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Offering Envelopes: Beginning in 2018, we will no longer be distributing boxes of offering envelopes to members and friends. Instead, we will have a basket of offering envelopes in the narthex for common use. If you plan to give cash and desire records of your giving, please be sure to place your offering in an envelope and to write your name on the outside.

Week of Compassion Offering: **Today** we will receive an offering for Week of Compassion. Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). It seeks to equip and empower disciples to alleviate the suffering of others through disaster response, humanitarian aid, sustainable development, and the promotion of mission opportunities.

Sunday Morning Lenten Study: “Explore the meaning of Lent, its importance in spiritual formation, its significance in the preparation of Easter, and the holy season of Easter itself.” Join us this year as we rediscover the meaning of Lent. **Each Sunday morning during Lent at 9:45 am (February 18-April 1),** we will gather for a time of shared study and exploration, led by Jonathan and based on the book *God for Us* (eds. Greg Pennoyer and Gregory Wolfe). This will be a wonderful opportunity for us to share together our Lenten journey, which “is not about becoming lost in feelings of brokenness, but about cleansing the palate so that we can taste life more fully.” (Speaking of “taste”: coffee and pastries will accompany each gathering. Participants who would like to gather for a moment of refreshment and fellowship are invited to arrive around 9:30 am.)

Fasting Invitation: Fasting has long been a religious tradition, a way to align our body with our spirit. You might call it “body talk.” It is a way for our body to join our spirit in responding to a grievous sacred moment or realization. John Schuler invites all who are interested to join him in another fast this Lenten season, from Saturday evening to Sunday evening on **March 17-18**. Sharing this fast would be an opportunity to respond—spiritually and bodily—to shared concerns. If you have interest in sharing the fast, please contact John. Additionally, if you have prayer requests that you would like shared with the fasting group, please pass these on to John. There are plans to break both fasts after Sunday evening’s prayer gathering.

From Outreach: February will be a month of Compassion! Outreach will collect for this special offering. **The church continues to collect** used eyeglasses to help children learn and parents maintain their jobs; tab tops from dink cans, soup cans, & cat/dog food cans, etc. to support Ronald McDonald house; box tops found on cereal boxes, soup cans, Kleenex, etc. to support our educational system. The collection boxes are in our narthex.

Prayer List: Please note that on **March 4**, the prayer list will be cleared. If there are any requests that you wish to remain on the prayer list at that time, please email Jonathan.

Craig Springs Summer Camp: Registration has opened for 2018 Summer Camp at our Region’s beloved Craig Springs. Please see information packets in the narthex. (More information on the individual camps is available at www.craigsprings.com/camp-program/) If you have interest or questions in any camp, please let Jonathan know.

Amazon Smile: GRCC has enrolled in a fundraiser through Amazon called Amazon Smile. Purchases that you make with the Amazon Smile logo will raise funds for our church.

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/54-1241622>

The above link will take you to a special Amazon page, and when you shop, Amazon will donate money to our church.

From Where I Sit: Faith is an experience. As a community of faith, we share our faith experiences to encourage and inspire each other, and to learn about the ways that God is moving among our community and our world. We invite you to write and share an experience of your own, however great or small. Please send any entries to grccdoc@verizon.net. These will be shared with the church through email.

Lectionary Scripture

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Psalms 22:23-31

Romans 4:13-25

Mark 8:31-38

CALENDAR

TODAY

Week of Compassion Offering
Children & Youth Sunday School @ 9:45 am
Sunday Morning Lenten Study Begins @ 9:45 am
Prayer Gathering @ 5 pm

THIS WEEK

2/27 Girl Scouts @ 4 pm
2/28 Girl Scouts @ 6 pm
Choir Rehearsal @ 7 pm

COMING UP

2/25 Week of Compassion Offering
3/4 Elders Meeting (after worship)
3/6 Symphony Manor: Memory Care Gathering @ 10:30 am
3/7 Choir Rehearsal @ 7 pm
3/13 Girl Scouts @ 4 pm
3/14 Girl Scouts @ 6 pm
Choir Rehearsal @ 7 pm
3/17 Yard Sale
3/18 Board Meeting (after worship)
3/21 Common Table @ 6 pm
Choir @ 7:15 pm

LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER...

Our GRCC family: Mary Harris, Ankie Moore, Julie Round, Ivan Round, Pat Carter, Tom and Candice Nguyen, Leslie Hess, Marion Paitsel, Dolores Cadet, Bubba Galbraith, and Jim Harris.

Those who are unable to worship with us on a regular basis: Jim Harris; Stuart Wilkinson; Anna Lee Werner; Marion Stinnett; June & Bubba Galbraith; Marion Paitsel.

Friends of GRCC:

Theda Mundy, mother of Teresa Campbell

Dana Doupe, a family friend of Debbie Cook.

Family of Tara Harrell, first cousin once removed of Susan Campbell

Ziya and Billy Cagatay, friends of John Schuler

The Keel Family, esp. Hunter, friends of June & Bubba Galbraith

Ima Tart, friends of June Galbraith

Bart Martorell, friend of June & Bubba Galbraith

Charlie Davis, brother-in-law of Cinda Caiella

Chris Atkinson, cousin of Carol Malla

Velma Huggins, grandmother of Emily Croxford

Trina Soto and Bo Casillas, friends of Candice Nguyen

David French, cousin of Cinda Caiella

Nikki Caiella, niece of Cinda Caiella

Donna Bell, sister-in-law of Barbara Chapman

Devon Schuler, nephew of John Schuler

Jean Cook, aunt of Debbie Cook

Family and Friends of Jim Tomasello, friend of Jeff and Rebecca Wilber

John Long, uncle of Peggy Wingo

Cherie Holberg, friend of Daniela Larew

Giannini Family, friends of Seth Spivey

Bev Price and Family, friends of Debbie Cook

Becky Garrett, cousin of Debbie Cook

Frank and Mary Alice Hancock, friends of Jonda Taylor

Dot Janutolo, sister of Betty Taylor

Mae Stancliffe, aunt of Julie Round

Donald Mason, uncle of Julie Round

Bruce and Carol Sharpe, parents of Julie Round

Amy Penland, cousin of Susan Campbell

Kelly Harris, friend of Amanda Carlton

Barbara Burns, friend of Amanda Carlton

Jeff Price, friend of Debbie Cook

Cuppett Family, family friends of Debbie Cook

*During the month of **February**, please be in prayer for these Mission Personnel of the Global Ministries for our church.*

Feb 4-10: Susan Valiquette and Scott Couper, South Africa

Feb 11-17: Lauren Robinson, Philippines

Feb 18-24: Joshua J. Busick, Dominican Republic

Feb 25– Mar 3: Joanines Adorno-Diaz, India

For more information and weekly prayers for these specific areas please visit www.globalministries.org

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*Together with other churches in Richmond, we pray this **February** for the coming of God's Kingdom in metropolitan Richmond.*

For the week of February 25, 2018: We pray for the coming of God's Kingdom in metropolitan Richmond: for enhancement of our common life in Jesus' name through the Holy Spirit, and for the resurrection of metropolitan Richmond as a modern metropolitan city of hope for the world.

(www.metroprayrva.org)

***People listed in bold added this week. (Please email or call the church with updates.)**

The Taylor family would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the Church and all of our Church family for the love extended to us at the passing of Betty Taylor. The outpouring of condolences and many hugs sustained us during this time. A special thank you to Jonathan and Jack for the wonderful service to honor our mother's memory and to all those who prepared and served the delicious meal for everyone after the entombment. We have known that Gayton Road is a special place, full of special people and you continue to prove it by spreading the love of Jesus Christ wherever it is needed.

**Gayton Road Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)**

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Moderator: Seth Spivey
Phone: 804-873-5629
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Chair of Elders: Nancy Patterson
Phone: 804-301-0322
Email: nancy.patterson@yahoo.com

GAYTON ROAD CHRISTIAN CHURCH

“Where everybody is welcome”

Gayton Road Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is a family of friendly, accepting, God-centered people. With our come-as-you-are attitude and non-judgmental philosophy, we believe we are called to love and care for one another and share the Good News of God’s love and grace with the community through our words and actions.