



*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**

*March 18, 2018  
Fifth 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.*

*“We humans are like the cicada, except that our shells are made of words.*

*As life grows, the verbal shells transform themselves into prisons.*

*They have to be abandoned so that life may go on.” (Rubem Alves)*

**PRELUDE**

“Jesus, I Will Ponder Now”

Wilbur Held

*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**

(Jeremiah 31:31-34; John 12:20-33)

“The days are surely coming,” says the Lord—

**When we will not live burdened by our loss.**

“The days are surely coming,” says the Lord—

**When we will see God in every little thing.**

“The days are surely coming,” says the Lord—

**When the world will live not by law but by love.**

How soon, O how soon?

**As soon as the seed falls into the earth and dies.**

How soon, O how soon?

**As soon as others come before the Self.**

How soon, O how soon?

**As soon as we follow the Christ of the cross. Come, let us follow him today.**

**\*OPENING HYMN 649**

“Give Thanks for Life”

SINE NOMINE

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

(John 12:20-33)

**Lord of “losing,”**

**Who dies to the Self—**

**The ruler of this world—**

**And bears fruit for others:**

**Give us courage and faith**

**To join the “losing” side**

**In the hope of a harvest of love.**

**Through Jesus Christ, the fruitful grain. Amen.**

ANTHEM "O Remember Not" Jonathan Battishill

SCRIPTURE John 12:20-33

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (SPOKEN)

SCRIPTURE Jeremiah 31:31-34

SERMON "The Writing on Our Hearts"

\*HYMN OF AFFIRMATION 197 "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" ST. CHRISTOPHER

*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 (Psalm 51)

OFFERTORY "Air" Jonathan Battishill

\*DOXOLOGY 46 "Praise God" OLD HUNDREDTH

\*OFFERING BLESSING (Psalm 51)

**Holy God,  
Whose delight is not a burnt offering  
But rather a humble heart  
That helps others:  
Like the bread at your table,  
Bless and break  
These gifts and our lives  
For the healing of a hurting world.  
Through Christ who died and bore much fruit. Amen.**

CONFESSION (Jeremiah 31:31-34; John 12:20-33)

Lord, you enter into  
relationship with us.

Christ, you surrender  
yourself to love.

Lord, you invite us into  
promise and adventure.

**When we choose  
independence over  
compassion:**

**When we choose  
grasping over giving:**

**When we choose  
certainty over faith:**

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

**Christ, have mercy.**

**Lord, have mercy.**

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(Jeremiah 31:31-34)

## THE PEACE

(John 12:20-33)

The peace of Christ is like a grain of wheat that falls into the earth and dies. In letting go of our old self, there is not less life but more.

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

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

### COMMUNION HYMN 395 “Seeds Scattered and Sown” SEEDS SCATTERED

*(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 337 “Jesus Calls Us O’er the Tumult” GALILEE

### \*BENEDICTION (John 12:20-33)

Over the presumption of our hearts—**may God write something new.**  
Of what we possess and what possess us—**may Christ help us to let go.**  
In the routine of our every day—**may the Spirit break through and sustain us.**  
We go now together—**in the way of the cross and new life. Amen.**

**Postlude** “Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended” Johannes Brahms

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**\*Please stand if able.**

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

**Scheduled to serve today:**

Pastor .....	Jonathan Kruschwitz
Director of Music.....	Jack Fox
Intern .....	Emily Croxford
Lay Leader .....	Amanda Carlton
Elders .....	Amanda Carlton & Nancy Patterson
Deacons .....	Barbara Chapman, Holly McGinnis, Alyssa McGinnis, & Carl Schluter
Children’s Message .....	Amanda Carlton
Acolytes .....	Chris & Garrett Carlton
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**

**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).

**Easter Lilies and Shamrocks**—Worship and Outreach are teaming up! For the month of March, you may purchase an Easter Lily to adorn our sanctuary on April 1 and/or purchase a Shamrock which represents a donation to sponsor Campers of all ages at Craig Springs. Both are \$10.00. You may do this “In Memory” or “In Honor” of someone. Please fill out a form in the Narthex and make your checks payable to GRCC. Please indicate in the memo line what you wish to donate. For ordering purposes, **this Sunday, March 18**, will be the last day to order Easter Lilies. Please see Teresa Campbell or Carol Malla if you have any questions.

**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.

**Palm Sunday Breakfast and Egg Hunt**—Donations requested for this year’s Egg Hunt, and volunteers for Palm Sunday Breakfast! Please donate individually wrapped candy to the cause by **this Sunday, March 18**. See the sign-up sheet in the narthex to volunteer a dish for the Palm Sunday Breakfast.

All are invited to gather for breakfast on Palm Sunday (**March 25**) at 9:00 am. The Egg Hunt will take place following the breakfast.

**A Common Table**: If there's one thing Jesus enjoyed—and was particularly good at—it was eating together! We happen to like it too. :) Please join us at the table every third Wednesday of the month for a hearty meal. This year, our Common Table gets a reboot. We will occasionally welcome an “outside voice”—someone from the community who will share with us a perspective perhaps different than our own. After all, if the Bible is any indication, we often encounter God in the stranger. Come, then, for an adventure of food, friendship, and faith! We meet **this Wednesday, March 21 at 6 pm**.

**Easter Offering**: Next Sunday, **March 25**, and Easter Sunday, **April 1**, we will be receiving our special Easter Offering . Your gift to the Easter Offering helps bring life, love, and learning through the general ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Ministries that receive funding from the Easter Offering include: the Center for Faith and Giving, Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries, Communication Ministries, Council on Christian Unity, Disciples Home Missions, Disciples Women, Division of Overseas Ministries/Global Ministries, and Higher Education and Leadership Ministries.

**District VII Variety Show**—On Saturday, **April 21**, 12:00-2:00 pm, at Battery Park Christian Church, there will be a district variety show which will raise funds to support locals efforts to aid victims of human trafficking. All churches are invited to share a couple “acts/talents” for the show, which will feature music, laughter, and more! In addition to the show, there will be lunch (“Make Your Own Sandwich”) and activities for folks to get to know each other.

**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/](http://www.craigsprings.com/camp-program/)) If you have interest or questions in any camp, please let Jonathan know.

**Directory Update**: Marion Paitsel's new address is:  
Lakewood; Health Services Building #223; 1900 Lauderdale Dr.; Henrico, VA 23238.

**Prayer List**: Please note that the prayer list was recently cleared. If there are any requests that have disappeared that you would like returned to the list, please email Jonathan.

### **Lectionary Scripture**

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalms 51:1-12

Hebrews 5:5-10

John 12:20-33

# CALENDAR

## TODAY

Children & Youth Sunday School @ 9:45 am  
Sunday Morning Lenten Study Begins @ 9:45 am  
Board Meeting (after worship)  
Prayer Gathering @ 5 pm

Final Day for Egg Hunt Candy Donations and Lily/Shamrock purchases

## THIS WEEK

3/21 Common Table @ 6 pm  
Choir @ 7:15 pm

3/24 Virginia State Young People of AA Gathering—Sanctuary, 2-6 pm

## COMING UP

3/25 Palm Sunday  
Breakfast @ 9 am  
Egg Hunt (after Breakfast)

3/27 Girl Scouts @ 4 pm

3/28 Girl Scouts @ 6 pm

3/29 Maundy Thursday Special Service @ 7 pm

3/30 Good Friday—Shared Prayer (wherever you are)

4/1 Easter Sunday  
“Sonrise” Service @ 6:30 am

Breakfast (following Sonrise Service)

Sunday School @ 9:45 am

Easter Worship @ 11:00 am

4/3 Symphony Manor Memory Care Gathering @ 10:30 am

4/4 Choir Rehearsal @ 7 pm

4/8 Elders Meeting (after worship)

4/10 Girl Scouts @ 4 pm

4/11 Girl Scouts @ 6 pm

Choir Rehearsal @ 7 pm

4/15 Board Meeting (after worship)

**LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER...**

**Our GRCC family:** Tom and Candice Nguyen, Mary Harris, Ankie Moore, Marion Paitsel, Bubba Galbraith, Carl Schluter, 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; and Marion Paitsel.

**Friends of GRCC:**

Chris Atkinson, cousin of Carol Malla

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

Cherie Holberg, friend of Daniela Larew

Charlie Davis, brother-in-law of Cinda Caiella

**We extend our deepest sympathy to  
Debbie Cook and her family on the  
passing of her mother,  
Marjorie Cook.**

**Please keep Debbie and her family in  
your heart and prayers.**

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

Mar 4-10: Karen Campbell Nelson, Indonesia

Mar 11-17: Ricardo Mayol, Guatemala

Mar 18-24: Monica Liddie, East Timor

Mar 25-31: Victor Makari, Israel/Palestine

*For more information and weekly prayers for these specific areas please visit [www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org)*

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*Together with other churches in Richmond, we pray this **March** for health care in metropolitan Richmond.*

*For the week of March 18, 2018: We pray for health care in metropolitan Richmond: for emergency response personnel and all emergency room staff. For hospitals, nursing homes, and hospice programs; and for persons diagnosed with terminal illness.*

*([www.metroprayrva.org](http://www.metroprayrva.org))*

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

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

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**Chair of Elders:** Nancy Patterson  
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**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.