



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



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

*March 25, 2018
 Palm Sunday*

*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.

*"It seems God is humble, identifies with us, is fully on our side,
 and is actually for us more than we are for ourselves. (Richard Rohr)*

PRELUDE

"Prelude in Classical Style"

Gordon Young

*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.*

INTROIT

"Hosanna!"

Taize

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(Mark 11:1-11)

Receiving the titles "Lord," "Son of God," and "King,"

You were a threat to the empire.

Challenging hollow habits and self-interested sanctuaries,

You were a threat to the religious leaders.

Healing on the Sabbath and eating with sinners,

You were a threat to the righteous.

Denying yourself, living for others, and inviting us to follow you,

You are a threat to the center of our hearts.

Come friends, let us wave our palms and shout our praise,

But let this not be empty:

Let us expose our hearts and change our ways,

For the donkey still makes its entry.

***OPENING HYMN 192**

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

ST. THEODULPH

***OPENING PRAYER**

(John 12:20-33)

**Ride on, Lord Jesus,
 Humbly on a donkey
 Into the center of power—
 Into our hearts.**

**As hosannas fade,
 And shadows fall,
 And friends falter—
 Ride on, Lord Jesus.**

**Showing the way, truth, and life,
 Ride on, Lord Jesus, ride on. Amen.**

ANTHEM "Hosanna in the Highest" Robert Lau

SCRIPTURE Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER 310 (SUNG)

SCRIPTURE Mark 11:1-11

SERMON "God for Us"

***HYMN OF AFFIRMATION 581** "Near to the Heart of God" MCAFEE

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 118:1-2, 19-29)

OFFERTORY "Cantabile" Cesar Franck

***DOXOLOGY 528** "Give Thanks" GIVE THANKS

***OFFERING BLESSING** (Mark 11:1-11)

**Christ on the colt,
We give these gifts to you
Not because you come
With power and the threat of force,
But because your humble love
Has inspired us,
And we want to welcome your kingdom
Where it is coming:
Among the "least" of us. Amen.**

CONFESSION (Mark 11:1-11)

We cry "Hosanna,"
thinking that your kingdom
aligns with our personal
agendas.

We get caught up
in the crowd,
mistaking spectacle
for significance.

We praise you
in one breath,
and do not recognize you
with our next.

**Forgive us, Lord,
for we know not
what we do.**

**Forgive us, Lord,
for we know not
what we do.**

**Forgive us, Lord,
for we know not
what we do.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29)

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ outlasts both wrongdoing and grievance, and reconciles us to God and to one another.

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

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

COMMUNION HYMN 425 “Let Us Break Bread Together” LET US BREAK BREAD

(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 202** “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” PASSION CHORALE

*CLOSING MEDITATION

Where Christ walks,

We will follow.

Where Christ stumbles,

We will stop.

Where Christ cries,

We will listen.

Where Christ suffers,

We will hurt.

Where Christ dies.

We will grieve.

And we will hope against hope.

There is no other way.

The way of Christ is the only way.

*RESPONSE

“Were You There?”

WERE YOU THERE?

*We depart the sanctuary quietly,
mindful of the way of the cross that Christ walks and invites us to walk.*

*Please stand if able.

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

Scheduled to serve today:

PastorJonathan Kruschwitz
 Director of Music..... Jack Fox
 Intern Emily Croxford
 Lay Leader Cinda Caiella
 Elders Teresa Campbell & Gracie Tingle
 DeaconsSusan Campbell, Ivan Round,
Alexa McFarlane, & Barbara Chapman
 Children’s Message David Koerner
 Acolytes The 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

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).

Shamrocks for Craig Springs Campers—For the month of March, you may purchase a Shamrock for \$10, which represents a donation to sponsor Campers of all ages at Craig Springs. 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 see Teresa Campbell 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.

Easter Offering: Today, **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.

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 next on Wednesday, **April 18** at 6 pm, when we will welcome special guests from **L'Arche Metro Richmond**. L'Arche is a global community of faith that celebrates the gifts of persons with intellectual disability—gifts of welcome, wonderment, spirituality, and friendship.

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 local 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/) If you have interest or questions in any camp, please let Jonathan know.

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.

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

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Mark 11:1-11

CALENDAR

TODAY

Palm Sunday

Breakfast @ 9 am

Egg Hunt (after Breakfast)

Sunday Morning Lenten Study Begins @ 9:45 am

Prayer Gathering @ 5 pm

THIS WEEK

Holy Week

3/27

Girl Scouts @ 4 pm

3/28

Girl Scouts @ 6 pm

Choir Rehearsal @ 7 pm

3/29

Maundy Thursday Special Service @ 7 pm

3/30

Good Friday—Shared Prayer (wherever you are)

COMING UP

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)

4/18

Common Table @ 6 pm (Special Guests: L’Arche Metro Richmond)

Choir Rehearsal @ 7:15 pm

4/21

District VII Variety Show @ 12—2 pm

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

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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 25, 2018: We pray for health care in metropolitan Richmond: a national health care system which promotes and encourages health, wellness, and well being for all people.

(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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Moderator: Seth Spivey
Phone: 804-873-5629
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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.