



*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**

*September 2, 2018
Ordinary Time: Proper 17*



*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.

*“Christ plays in ten thousand places,
Lovely in limbs, and lovely in eyes not his.”*

(Gerald Manley Hopkins, 1844-1889)

PRELUDE

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” Michael Larkin

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(Song of Songs 2:8-13; James 1:17-27)

Listen! Did you hear that?

The voice of our beloved!

Look! Love is leaping and bounding our way.

There! At the window of our soul, Christ gazes upon us—

Saying, “Arise, my love, and come away.”

(We are Christ’s beloved!)

Let our worship, then, be this: let us arise and go away with Christ!

To gather around tables,

To support each other in small groups,

To share life with the needful.

For “Christ plays in ten thousand places,

Lovely in limbs and eyes not his.” Amen.

***OPENING HYMN 606** “God Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

NETTLETON

***OPENING PRAYER**

(Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23)

God of unclean hands,

Touching those

Rejected by the world,

Despised by the religious:

Guide us from false purity

Which hides misshapen hearts;

Lead us to the joyful feast

In which all are renewed.

Through Jesus Christ,

The beauty of God’s face. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (SPOKEN)

SCRIPTURE

Song of Songs 2:8-13

SERMON

"The Beauty That Calls Us"

***HYMN OF AFFIRMATION 614**

"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me" I'M GONNA LIVE

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

(James 1:17-27)

OFFERTORY

"Spirit Song"

John Carter

***DOXOLOGY 50**

"Praise God"

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

***OFFERING BLESSING**

(James 1:17-27)

**Gratuitous God,
Gracious beyond calculation—
Receive all that we have to offer
And scatter it
As seeds of your kingdom
Among the most needful
Here and to the ends of the earth.
In Christ, who gave his life.
Amen.**

CONFESSION

(Song of Songs 2:8-13; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23)

Lord, you call for us
to arise and go away.

Christ, your heart was
joined with the heart of
God.

Lord, you invite us to look
and listen for beauty out-
side us.

**When we stay slouched
in selfish habits:**

**When we honor God with
our lips, but our hearts are
far away:**

**When we are too busy to
savor and celebrate
goodness:**

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(Song of Songs 2:8-13)

THE PEACE

(Song of Songs 2:8-13)

Like love, the peace of Christ is beyond description or understanding. We know it not by study but by experience.

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

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

COMMUNION HYMN 424 "I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table" WELCOME TABLE

(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. Please come forward to take communion. Take a piece of bread and dip it into the cup. If you are unable to come forward, communion will be brought to you. The communion bread is gluten free.

PRAYERS OF THE ELDERS

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION

***CLOSING HYMN (INSERT)**

"We Are Called"

WE ARE CALLED

***BENEDICTION**

(Song of Songs 2:8-13)

**May the call of God,
The love of Christ,
And the gifts of the Spirit,
Excite our hearts
And inspire our hands.**

**We go now to love and serve
Christ in others. Amen.**

POSTLUDE

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Bruce Greer

***Please stand if able.**

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

Acknowledgments: Opening Prayer inspired by Steven Shakespeare, *Prayers for an Inclusive Church* (New York: Church Publishing, 2009), ebook loc. 416; "The Bias of the Bible?" in the News & Announcements is adapted from Brian Zahnd, "My Problem with the Bible," <https://brianzahnd.com/2014/02/problem-bible/>.

Scheduled to serve today:

Pastor	Jonathan Kruschwitz
Director of Music.....	Jack Fox
Intern	Emily Croxford
Lay Leader	Carl Schluter
Elders	Cinda Caiella & Gracie Tingle
Deacons	Debbie Derr, Carol Malla, Audrey Schuler, & Jeff Wilber
Acolytes	Nancy Patterson & Carl Schluter
Nursery	Darrah Davis & John Malla

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

Homeless Ministry: We are currently supplying **water and Gatorade** to Rhonda Sneed's Blessing Warriors homeless ministry. Anyone who wishes to help can bring these items to the outreach area of the narthex.

Prayer List: The prayer list has been cleared. If you would like any requests to remain on the prayer list, please email Jonathan and indicate which requests should remain.

Fall Schedule: Beginning **next Sunday, September 9**, Sunday Schools will resume meeting at 9:45 am and worship will resume meeting at 11 am.

Special Worship: There will be a special worship service **next Sunday, September 9**. Worship will begin in the Fellowship Hall, where we will prayerfully reflect on our gifts and sense of calling. Then we will gather around the Table for communion and a potluck lunch, after which folks will be invited to join a ministry team and to meet with their team for the first time to explore how they might share their gifts in the ministry of the church. A main dish will be provided for the lunch; please bring a side dish or dessert and join us this day for a worshipful blend of prayer, fellowship, food, and fun!

Brunswick Stew: The tradition continues! We are making Brunswick Stew again this fall, **Saturday, Sep. 22**, with chicken-picking after church on **Sunday, Sep. 16**. If you are able to help in any way, your assistance is greatly appreciated! There is a help and donation sign-up list in the narthex, as well as a pre-sales sign-up list...this year all orders must be in and paid for by Sunday, Sep. 16, and your name will be on each of the quarts belonging to you. Try to pick up your quarts on Sep. 22 as there is limited room to store them in the church freezer. Cost will be \$7 per quart this year. This is a great opportunity to spread the Word to others through the work of our hands.

“The Bias of the Bible?”: “I have a problem with the Bible...I’m an ancient Egyptian, a comfortable Babylonian, a Roman in his villa. See, I’m trying to read the Bible for all it’s worth, but I’m not a Hebrew slave suffering in Egypt. I’m not a conquered Judean deported to Babylon. I’m not a first century Jew living under Roman occupation. I’m a citizen of a superpower. I was born among conquerors. I live in the empire. But I want to read the Bible and think it’s talking to me. This is a problem.” (Brian Zahnd)

Beginning **Sunday, September 16**, we will diverge from our normal lectionary readings for a short, five-week series of scripture readings and sermons that wrestle with the problem of reading the Bible from above rather than below.

District VII Annual Assembly: This year, Gayton Road will be hosting the District VII Annual Assembly on **Sunday, October 7, at 4 pm!** As this is World Communion Sunday, our gathering will celebrate the communion of our district churches and the universal church. Our joint worship will feature music from a district choir; an address by Dr. Richard Voelz (professor of preaching and worship at Union Seminary); a collection of personal care items to be donated to Safe Harbor, which provides shelter for human trafficking and domestic violence victims; and a shared supper. Please see the flyers in the narthex for more information.

As we will be hosting this year’s event, we will be helping with registration and meal preparation. Stay tuned for more information on how you can volunteer.

The church continues to collect used eyeglasses and hearing aids to help children learn and parents maintain their jobs; tab tops from drink cans, soup cans, & cat/dog food cans, etc. to support Ronald McDonald house; and box tops found on cereal boxes, soup cans, Kleenex, etc. to support our educational system. The collection boxes are in our narthex.

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: Tom and Candice Nguyen’s new mailing address is River City RV Park / 2225 Merrill Ave., Space 76 / Bullhead City, AZ 86442.

Thank You for all the help, prayers, and support that made possible our recent yard sale and the evening meal that we shared with Caritas families at St. Matthews UMC.

Lectionary Scripture

Song of Songs 2:8-13

Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9

James 1:17-27

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

CALENDAR

TODAY

Worship @ 10 am
Elders Meeting (after Worship)

THIS WEEK

9/3 AA Labor Day Gathering @ 11 am—3 pm
9/4 Memory Care Gathering (Symphony Manor) @ 10:30 am
9/5 Choir Rehearsals Resume! @ 7

COMING UP

9/9 Fall Schedule Resumes
Sunday School @ 9:45 am
Special Worship: Luncheon and Ministry Team Gatherings @ 11 am
9/12 Girl Scouts @ 6:15—7:15 pm
Choir Rehearsal @ 7 pm
9/16 Chicken-Picking for Stew (after Worship)
Deadline for Stew orders
9/19 Choir Rehearsal @ 7 pm
9/22 Brunswick Stew (times TBA)
9/26 Girl Scouts @ 6:15—7:15 pm
Choir Rehearsal @ 7 pm
9/29 AA Corrections Workshop in Fellowship Hall @ 7 am—6 pm

LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER...

Our GRCC family: Mollie Caiella, Tom and Candice Nguyen, **Ivan & Julie Round, Debbie Derr, and Darrah Davis.**

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:

Carol Sharp, mother of Julie Round
Lillie May Slaven, grandmother of Julie Round
Joan & Doug Borden, parents of Jeremy Borden
Valerie McCarry, sister of Jeremy Borden
Don Campbell, father of Cliff Campbell
Keel Family (esp. Hunter), friends of June and Bubba Galbraith
Donna Bell, sister-in-law of Barbara Chapman
The Allen Family, friends of Barbara Chapman
Rose Wingard, mother of Anna McFarlane
Cherie Holberg and Abby, friends of Daniela Larew

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

Sep 2-8: Jeanette Salley, Nicaragua
Sep 9-15: Jeffrey Mensendiek, Japan
Sep 16-22: Emmanuela Loccident, Morocco
Sep 23-29: Tom Liddle, East Timor
Sep 30-Oct 6: Robert Breckenridge, Zambia

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

—
*Together with other churches in Richmond, we pray this **September** for schools and educational institutions of metropolitan Richmond.*

For the week of September 2, 2018: We pray for all superintendents, school boards, school administrators, PTAs, teachers, students, and staff.

(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)**

12050 Ridgefield Parkway Henrico, VA 23233
www.GRCCDOC.org
(804) 360-4464

Pastor: Jonathan Kruschwitz
Phone: 804-316-8434
Email: grccdoc@verizon.net
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 11am-3pm

Director of Music: Jack Fox
Phone: 804-447-3863 (home)
Email: jack_fox_1998@yahoo.com

Intern: Emily Croxford
Phone: 804-687-5710
Email: emilycroxford@yahoo.com

Elder Chair: Debbie Cook
Phone: 804-360-0565
Email: debbiecook1283@verizon.net

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.