



*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**

*January 6, 2019
Epiphany 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.

“Surely God was in this place—and I did not know it!”

(Jacob, Genesis 28:16)

PRELUDE

“We Three Kings from Orient Are”

Raymond Haan

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 2:1-12)

We have seen traces, we have heard echoes:

God must be here—somewhere!

In the stars above, in the cooing of a child:

God must be here—somewhere!

In the silence and stillness within, in the noise and bustle without:

God must be here—somewhere!

Surely God is all around us,

And we just didn't know it!

In all things—grace!

In all the earth—God's glory!

Let us arise with life, friends,

For the light of the Lord has arisen upon us!

***OPENING HYMN 280**

“God Is Here!”

ABBOT'S LEIGH

***OPENING PRAYER**

(Matthew 2:1-12)

Shepherd of Israel

And light of all nations,

Made known in the gifts

Of those who call to other names

And walk on different ways:

May unjust powers

And the hatred within us

Be dismayed by your friendship

And dethroned by your love.

Amen.

ANTHEM

“Walk in Light”

Karen Marroli

SCRIPTURE

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER (SPOKEN)

SCRIPTURE

SERMON

Dr. David Weinfeld

***HYMN OF AFFIRMATION 173** “As with Gladness”

DIX

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

(Matthew 2:1-12)

OFFERTORY

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

Janet Linker

***DOXOLOGY 50**

“Praise God”

LASST UNSERFREUN

***OFFERING BLESSING**

(Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14)

**All-merciful God,
Whose unruly rule of love
Lifts up the lowly
And topples the proud:
Humble us in our giving
And inspire us in our living.
By this offering,
May the needful know your care,
And may we all know
Your beloved community. Amen.**

A LITURGY OF THE MAGI

Every year after Christmas, we celebrate Epiphany.

Christmas is about Christ coming into the world. Epiphany is about the world seeing Christ. That’s what the word Epiphany literally means: the “appearance” of Christ.

At Epiphany the church celebrates the story of the wise men from the east. The wise men represent the wider world. In their visit, Christ becomes known to all the world.

Commonly the celebration centers on the adoration of the Christ child and the precious gifts that the wise men give him.

Lost in the celebration is the crucial setting of poverty and helplessness. Christ is born not in wealth and splendor, but rather amid hardship and homelessness. His first home is a manger, his first acquaintance is with a band of lowly shepherds, and not long thereafter his family lives on the run amid the terror of King Herod’s rule.

What a wonder it is, that the wise men recognize God amid such poverty and want. In this way, they show us where to look for God. For even as an adult, Christ would continue to identify with the lowly. His words near the end of the gospel forever remind us of this: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing...." (Matt 25:35-36).

This past Christmas season, we shared in the homeless ministry of the Blessing Warriors here in Richmond, collecting items to be given to the homeless of our city. In this way, we follow the lead of the wise men.

We recognize Christ amid poverty and want, and we go to crown him king.

THE PEACE

(Matthew 2:1-12)

In the wise men's kneeling before Christ, we see the peace of bended knees. May we bend our knees to God in one another, and especially to God in the needful.

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

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

COMMUNION HYMN 162

"What Child Is This?"

GREENSLEEVES

(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) "Jesus the Light of the World"**

ELDERKIN

***BENEDICTION**

**May the mystery of God's love,
The hiddenness of Christ,
And the diversity of the Spirit—**

**Be ours to behold this year
Where we least expect it. Amen.**

POSTLUDE

"As with Gladness Men of Old"

Raymond Haan

***Please stand if able.**

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

Scheduled to serve today:

PreacherDr. David Weinfeld
 Director of Music..... Jack Fox
 Intern Emily Croxford
 Children’s Message Cinda Caiella
 Lay Leader Carl Schluter
 Elders Cinda Caiella and Gracie Tingle
 Deacons Audrey Schuler, Jeff Wilber,
Debbie Derr, and Carol Malla
 Nursery Darrah Davis

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.

In Memory of Loved Ones

This year as a part of our Christmas outreach, we contributed to the Blessing Warriors’ ministry, which befriends and serves the homeless in our city.

Our gifts were given in service to Christ.

Several were also given in memory of loved ones.

In Memory of:

By:

John Schmucker

Carl Schluter and Nancy Patterson

Jim Bovay

Carl Schluter

Anne and Hugo Schluter

Carl Schluter

Tim Cook

Debbie Cook

GRCC NEWS AND OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Bites, Brews, and Big Questions: If Jesus went missing, where would you look for him? According to the gospels, tables with food and drink and questions would be a good place to start. Join us this **January** as our gatherings resume around tables with food, drink, and questions. We will meet next on **Monday, January 7** at Rico's Mexican Grill on 2316 John Rolfe Pkwy at **6 pm** (same mall as Publix Market, at the far right end).

In this BBBQ installment, we will discuss a recurring question from our summer series: Just what is God's job description? As a guide for our conversation, we will be using James Bryan Smith's *The Good and Beautiful God*.

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. As Gayton Road is a church that celebrates the diversity of the body of Christ and welcomes each voice to the congregation, 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.

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.

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Lectionary Scripture

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

CALENDAR

TODAY

Sunday School @ 9:45 am
Worship @ 11 am
Elders Meeting (after Worship)

THIS WEEK

1/7 Bites, Brews, and Big Questions @ 6 pm
1/8 Symphony Manor Memory Care Gathering @ 10:30 am
1/9 Girl Scouts @ 6 pm
Choir Rehearsal @ 7 pm

COMING UP

1/14 Bites, Brews, and Big Questions @ 6 pm
1/16 Choir Rehearsal @ 7 pm
1/21 Bites, Brews, and Big Questions @ 6 pm
1/23 Girl Scouts @ 6 pm
Choir Rehearsal @ 7 pm
1/28 Bites, Brews, and Big Questions @ 6 pm
1/30 Choir Rehearsal @ 7 pm

LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER...

Our GRCC family: Mollie Caiella, Stuart Wilkinson, Ivan and Julie Round, Tom and Candice Nguyen, Marion Paitzel, Ben Croxford, and Jeff Wilber.

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

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
Ken and Liz Carpenter and family, friends of Anne Waring
Andy Hrabovsky, friend of the Wingo family
Linda Albimino, sister of Debbie Cook
Dale Garrett, cousin of Debbie Cook
Elizabeth Reich, sister of Kathy Moran
Amanda Stiverson, family of Debbie Cook
Kathleen McGinnis, mother of Rob McGinnis
Barbara Pietschman and family, friends of the Wingo family
Sandy Row, friend of the Wingo family
Family of Cherie Holberg, friends of Daniela Larew
Lillian Stewart, aunt of Debbie Cook
Bernadette McCabe, friend of Carl Schluter
Don, friend of Amanda Carlton
Jerry Galbreath, brother-in-law of Virginia Taylor
Drudy Carlton, sister of Paul Carlton
Doug Cramer, friend of Jeff Wilber
Gene Thompson, friend of Lu Roberts
Terri Kenner, daughter of June and Bubba Galbraith
David Ninesling, step-brother of Jeff Wilber

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

Jan 6: Cara McKinney, Mexico
Jan 13: Kearstin Bailey, Greece
Jan 20: Paul Turner, Democratic Republic of Congo
Jan 27: Rosalind Gnatt, Germany

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

*Together with other churches in Richmond **this January**, we pray to overcome in Christ's name the heritage of racism in metropolitan Richmond.*

For the week of January 6, 2019: We pray for the elimination of discrimination in living patterns, public education, employment, political jurisdiction, transportation, and churches in metropolitan Richmond.

(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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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.