

KIRK IN THE HILLS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
NOVEMBER 29, 2020



I don't think hope is the end product on the assembly line of our lives.

*No, I think it is simply a part of the journey,
part of the way in which we come to know God's way in our lives
with a richness that ripens and ripens and ripens...*

— Emilie M. Townes

Welcome to worship. Welcome to the Kirk. Welcome home.

Here at the Kirk, our vision statement is *We envision a world where every heart experiences God's transforming love*. This statement was born from months of congregation-wide listening sessions and years of prayer and discernment. We are already seeing it take root.

We envision a world. In one of Jesus' most famous moments, he feeds the multitudes with five loaves and two fish. In another story, Jesus helps his frustrated disciples to secure a net full of fish by inviting them to cast their nets on the other side of the boat. They catch so many fish that there are too many to eat on their own! Ours is a church that hopes to look beyond our own needs to do what Jesus and the disciples did—share our **fish** with the world. In December, we hope you will participate in our Adopt a Family and Angel Tree ministries so that we can help more people in need to have a joyful Christmas celebration. You can also find opportunities to serve throughout the holidays by calling Julie Walker at (248) 973-8001 or by visiting kirkinthehills.org.



Where every heart experiences. Jesus reminds us in his birth, his ministry, and in his promise of the Holy Spirit, that God is near! Throughout the pages of the gospels, we see people following him to shorelines and meeting him there. Jesus was standing on the shore when he called his first disciples, Peter and Andrew. The **shore** is where the crowd listened to him preach and where the disciples met him after the resurrection. We hope to be a church that comes to shore to meet the living Christ! For us, this starts in **worship**. We hope through our worship, mission, and formation, we will have your eyes lighting up with the reminder of how you and how our community are made well (created), are being made well (healed), and will be made well (saved) into eternity.



Service schedule:

9:00 a.m. - Pre-recorded online broadcast on our website and facebook

11:00 a.m. - Radio broadcast 92.7 FM Faith talk

11:00 a.m. - Kirk West (Fox Run) broadcast

God's transforming love. *The Lord is my shepherd*, says the 23rd Psalm and the 100th Psalm reminds us that we are his flock. Jesus uses similar imagery in the New Testament when he assures us that the shepherd will find the lost sheep. Our **Christian formation** ministries are meant to gather us as a **flock** and to be led by the shepherd. Small groups, Bible studies and special events continue over Zoom—you can find all of the links and materials for our groups in our weekly e-newsletter or at kirkinthehills.org on the Worship From Home website page.



Stay warm!
Pastor Nate

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

9:00 a.m., Stream from Home Service

Then it was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them"

The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced. — Psalm 126

THE GATHERING

THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Nate Phillips

INTROIT

For You, Lord, my soul in stillness waits;

Marty Haugen

Truly my hope is in You.

O Lord of Light, our only hope of glory,

Your radiance shines in all who look to You;

Come light the hearts of all in dark and shadow.

For you, Lord, my soul in stillness waits;

Truly my hope is in You.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Jim and Denise Devlin

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Nate Phillips

The power of dreams lies in waking up.

For when we close our eyes,

we can see a better world.

When we close our eyes,

we can dream a better dream.

But when we open our eyes,

we begin the work of faith.

The power of worship is the same.

When we enter this space,

we can see a better world.

When we enter this space,

we dream a better dream.

But when we leave this space,

we begin the work of faith.

So come in, dream your dream.

Find hope here.

For in an hour,

we will begin the work of faith.

Let it be so.

HYMN 88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Veni Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,

And ransom captive Israel,

That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.
O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Angela Ryo

Original Dreamer,
Over and over again in scripture,
we hear your dream for a beautiful world.
We hear your dream for peace and reconciliation.
We hear your dream for harmony and togetherness.
We hear your dream for community and hope.
We hear your dreams, and yet we do not open our eyes.
We continue to live with the curtains drawn,
the covers pulled tight,
eyes shut to the realities of the world.
Forgive us. Kindle a hope in us that will burn
through the darkest nights.
Give us the strength and the will to keep awake
in this sleeping world.
With hope we pray. Amen.

Silence is kept

KYRIE ELEISON

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

William Smith

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Rev. Angela Ryo

We believe in God.
We believe that God has dreams for humanity.
We believe in the Holy Spirit.
We believe that the Holy Spirit comforts us
when our dreams turn to nightmares.
We believe in Jesus.
We believe that Jesus walked this world to wake us up,
inviting us to be the church in the world.
We believe in dreams.
We believe in the power that dreams have to show us a new way.
So, in the Advent season,
We are those who dream and those who wake up.
May it be so. Amen.

Glory be to the Father,
 And to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
 As it was in the beginning,
 Is now, and ever shall be,
 World without end. Amen. Amen.

WORD WITH THE CHILDREN

Rev. Angela Ryo

You'll find resources for children on our Worship from Home webpage at kirkinthehills.org.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name.
 Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread,
 and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors,
 and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
 for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.
 Amen.

THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 126

Rev. Marjorie Wilhelmi

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PRPAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Dan Heaton

ANTHEM

Come, Ever-Gracious Son of God

George Frideric Handel

Come, ever gracious Son of God,
 And with Thee bring Thy joyous train;
 For Thee we long, and cry to Thee,
 With whom eternal peace doth reign.

SERMON

Daydreams

Rev. Kelsey Sorge

THE SENDING

HYMN 83

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Stuttgart

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
 Born to set Thy people free;
 From our fears and sins release us;
 Let us find our rest in Thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
 Hope of all the earth Thou art;
 Dear desire of every nation,
 Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver,
 Born a child and yet a king,
 Born to reign in us forever,
 Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.

By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Kelsey Sorge

CHORAL AMEN

Vincent Persichetti

THE CARILLON

About today's hymns

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel is based on a series of Advent antiphons which date from the ninth century and sung prior to the singing of the Magnificat (the Song of Mary, Luke 1: 46-55) in Vespers, the evening worship service which dates back to the earliest centuries of the Church and continues to be very much a part of the worship practices of liturgical churches. These antiphons are known as the "O" Antiphons because each begins with the word "O" followed by a Biblical title for the Messiah.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus was written by English Methodist hymn writer Charles Wesley. Wesley was, like his brother John, a priest in the Church of England. After a deeply spiritual experience he and his brother founded and dedicated themselves to a renewal movement in the church which eventually became the Methodist denomination. Charles wrote over six thousand hymns. This hymn first appeared in *Hymns for the Nativity of Our Lord* (1744).

About today's choral music

For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits is an Advent text which is also based on the "O" Antiphons. The refrain is a paraphrase of Psalm 62: 5. The composer, Marty Haugen, is a prolific contemporary American composer of liturgical music and hymns.

Come, Ever-Gracious Son of God is a duet that Handel originally composed for inclusion in his oratorio, *Judas Maccabeus*, and is here coupled with a traditional Advent text.

If you are in need of prayer

You may submit prayer requests online at kirkinthehills.org under Resources/Prayer Request.

Stephen Ministers are available for personal, confidential prayer.

If you or someone you know is in need of prayer please contact Nancy Lau at 248-835-6691.



The flowers on the altar are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of Anne R. Sherwood and Lloyd C. "Skip" Sherwood by the Sherwood family.

Today's Cover Art - *Wheatfield with Crows* | Vincent van Gogh (1853 - 1890) | public domain
Van Gogh was a post impressionist painter who is known for the use of vivid colors and strong brush strokes. This painting was created towards the end of his life when he was residing in Arles, France. Critics have claimed that this French landscape was one of the greatest paintings he ever did.

Poinsettias will be used to adorn the Kirk during the Christmas season. If you would like to donate flowers to this display, today is the **last day** to turn in requests. You can donate online at kirkinthehills.org. The deadline is November 30.





Rev. Angela Ryo, Rev. Dr. Nathaniel D. Phillips, Rev. Kelsey Sorge



We envision a world where every heart experiences God's transforming love.



Membership

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Serve

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Give

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Questions/Information

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Church Leadership

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