

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 6, 2020



*A friend is the one who comes in
when the whole world has gone out.*

— Grace Pulpit

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

How can this be... — Luke 1:34a

THE GATHERING

THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Nate Phillips

INTROIT

Prepare the way, O Zion
Your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley
A level way appear,
Greet One who comes in glory,
Foretold in sacred story.
O blest is Christ that came
In God's most holy name.

Bereden väg för Herran

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Jim and Amy Tully

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Angela Ryo

John the Baptist said, "Prepare the way."
So family of faith, how do we prepare our minds for worship?
We silence the inner critic.
We let go of busy thoughts.
We make space for God to speak.

How do we prepare our hearts for worship?

We bless all emotions.

We feel what we feel.

We open ourselves up to be moved.

How do we prepare our bodies for worship?

We take in the scent, sight and feel of this space.

We breathe in God's mercy.

We exhale God's love.

How do we prepare our souls for worship?

We bring our full selves into this space.

We wear our hearts on our sleeves.

We trust that even now, God is here.

Family of faith, what we practice in worship,
we must live out in our daily lives.

So prepare the way. Let us worship Holy God.

Hark! the herald angels sing,
 "Glory to the new-born King.
 Peace on earth and mercy mild,
 God and sinners reconciled."
 Joyful, all ye nations, rise;
 Join the triumph of the skies;
 With the angelic host proclaim,
 "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
*Hark! the herald angels sing,
 "Glory to the new-born King."*

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
 Hail the sun of righteousness!
 Light and life to all he brings,
 Risen with healing in his wings.
 Mild he lays his glory by,
 Born that we no more may die,
 Born to raise us from the earth,
 Born to give us second birth.
*Hark! the herald angels sing,
 "Glory to the new-born King."*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Angela Ryo

Holy God,
 We wish that peace was something we could buy.
 We wish that peace could be ordered in a subscription service,
 found on a map, downloaded in an app,
 or voted for in a ballot.
 We wish that peace was as easy as a one-time choice
 when we are feeling our best.
 However, what we have found is that peace involves everyday
 decisions over and over,
 whether or not we are feeling our best.
 So today I confess, in front of this community of faith,
 that I need your help in this Advent season.
 Prepare the way for greater peace,
 and teach me how to be a part of it.

May God forgive you. May God's guiding hand surround you.
 May you know comfort. May you know peace.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Forest Green

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
 Descend to us, we pray;
 Cast out our sin and enter in,
 Be born in us today.
 We hear the Christmas angels
 The great glad tidings tell;
 O come to us, abide in us,
 Our Lord Emmanuel.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Rev. Angela Ryo

We believe that a voice cried out in the wilderness,
 Saying, "Prepare the way of the Lord."
 And so, we show up in church pews on cold, blustery days.
 We march toward justice. We roll up our sleeves.
 We plant trees for our children. We make art.
 We choose hope. We gather at the Table.

We set an extra plate. We sing loudly, with joy.
We share stories and wisdom. We celebrate children.
We fall together. We rise together.
We love together.
we do all these things because we believe that God loves us so much
that God shows up here.
So we prepare and prepare for that next beautiful day.
May it be so. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE

The First Nowell

**Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of nought,
And with his blood our life hath bought.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.**

WORD WITH THE CHILDREN

Rev. Kelsey Sorge

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

THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:26-45

Rev. Kelsey Sorge

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

ANTHEM

The Savior Comes

Johann Franck, arr. Hal H. Hopson

The prophets long foretold His coming,
They spoke of Jesus, Holy Child.
He comes to bring us life and laughter,
He comes to bring us peace and joy.
*Prepare the way, the way of the Lord;
The Savior comes, the Savior comes.
Prepare the way, the way of the Lord;
The Savior comes, the Savior comes.*

O, sing a song, let all be joyful;
The day soon comes, the Lord is near.
From every home, from every city,
Let music ring; the Savior comes.
*Prepare the way, the way of the Lord;
The Savior comes, the Savior comes.
Prepare the way, the way of the Lord;
The Savior comes, the Savior comes*

The Treble Boys' Choir

SERMON

Dream Team

Rev. Dr. Nate Phillips

THE THANKSGIVING

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Kelsey Sorge

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Richard Proulx

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 WORDS OF INSTITUTION

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.

Jeremy Young

BREAKING OF THE BREAD, SHARING OF THE CUP

ANTHEM DURING COMMUNION

*For You, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits;
Truly my hope is in You.
O Key of Knowledge, guide us on our pilgrimage;
We ever seek, yet unfulfilled remain;
Open to us the pathway of your peace.
For You, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits;
Truly my hope is in You.*

Marty Haugen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**In your body broken and in your blood shed for all of us, Lord,
we have tasted and seen that you are good. In this meal, we have
experienced again your deep love for your world. May the sweet
taste of this meal strengthen us for living for you and remind us
that we are called to live according to your will and to love as you
love. Help us to yearn for your coming again, we pray in Jesus'
name. Amen.**

THE SENDING

HYMN 123

It Came Upon A Midnight Clear
It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
From heaven's all-gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.

Carol

And you, beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow,
Look now, for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing:
O, rest beside the weary road,
And hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on,
By prophets seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years
Shall come the time foretold,
When peace shall overall the earth
Its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Nate Phillips

CHORAL AMEN

Vincent Persichetti

THE CARILLON

About today's hymns

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing was written by the Methodist hymn writer Charles Wesley in 1739. The tune is adapted from music by Felix Mendelssohn in a cantata he composed in 1840 to commemorate Johann Gutenberg's invention of movable type printing.

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear was written by Edmund Hamilton Sears in 1849. Sears was a Unitarian pastor in Massachusetts. He wrote this hymn during a period of personal melancholy, recovering from a breakdown after seven years of hard work coupled with news of revolution in Europe and the United States' war with Mexico fresh in his mind. In this hymn Sears portrays the world as dark, full of "sin and strife", and not hearing the Christmas message.

About today's choral music

Prepare the Way, O Zion is a Swedish Advent hymn. The text was inspired by Isaiah 40: 3-5 and the story of John the Baptist, the forerunner and cousin of Christ, who fulfilled the prophesy in the book Isaiah regarding the coming into the world of the Messiah.

The Savior Comes is based on a melody by Johann Franck, a seventeenth century German lawyer, poet, and composer of hymn tunes.

For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits is an Advent text is an adaptation of the Advent "O" antiphons, with the refrain being a paraphrase of Psalm 62: 5. The "O" antiphons are verses that are sung before and after the singing of the Magnificat (the Song of Mary, Luke 1: 46-55) during the last full week of Advent in Vespers, the evening worship service of the Church, as a count-down to Christmas Eve. Today only one of the seven is being sung.

The practice of singing the "O" antiphons dates from the earliest years of the Church, and continues to this day in religious communities as well as in congregations whose worship and spirituality are strongly centered and grounded in the rich history and liturgy of the Church. In these traditions attaching antiphons to the singing or recitation of the Psalms or in other hymns such as the Magnificat provides a frame which reflects and focuses the text of the psalm or hymn in that of the particular season or holiday of the church year.

The term "O" antiphon is in this instance applied because the title of each of these antiphons (in Latin) begins with the vocative particle "O." Each antiphon is a name of Christ, one of his attributes in Scripture, as follows: day one, "O Wisdom" (Isaiah 11: 2, 3); day two, "O Lord" (Isaiah 11: 4, 5); day three, "O Root of Jesse" (Isaiah 11: 1); day four, "O Key of David" (Isaiah 22: 22); day five, "O Dayspring" (Isaiah 9: 2); day six, "O King of the Nations" (Isaiah 9: 8); day seven, "O Emmanuel, God with us" (Isaiah 7: 14). The well-known Advent hymn, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" is based on the "O" antiphons.

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.



Today's Cover Art - *Mary and Elizabeth* | Lauren Wright Pittman | used with permission

This colorful painting depicts the emotional moment when Mary and Elizabeth support each other through their similar circumstances. "When we draw near to one another, we live more fully into who we were created to be." Lauren Wright Pittman. A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org.

Poinsettia Memorials 2020



The wreaths, garlands, and poinsettias decorating the sanctuary and transepts are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of **Edgar and Mary Annette Flint** and **Howard Flint II**, *by Marilyn Flint and Mike Murphy, Martha and David Kistler, Heather and Mike Putz, Darcy and David Fischer Jr., and Mary and Chris Pardi.*

The wreaths by the Sanctuary doors are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of **Samantha Christine Reynolds** *by Robert and Christy Reynolds and Ryan and Stephanie.*

The wreaths on the Kirk House doors are presented to the glory of God *by Mr. and Mrs. David B. Littleton in joyful gratitude for God's gift to all people of his Son, Jesus Christ.*

The wreaths on the Heritage Hall doors are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of **Ken Pardonnet** by his wife, Judy and family.

The poinsettias throughout the church are presented to the glory of God in loving memory or in honor of . . .

In honor of the **Kirk Pastors** - beloved always but especially now, for faith filled and creative leadership during COVID, *by a very thankful Kirk Family.*

In honor of **Glenn, Dennis**, and the **choir** for keeping music in our hearts and homes *by the Kirk Family.*

In honor of the **Kirk staff** who have worked especially hard during COVID *by the Kirk Family.*

With praise and thanksgiving to God and to honor our **parents** and the **men and woman in the military services** *by Don and Grace Guthrie.*

Douglas and Dorothy Booth *by Arnold Kummerow.*

Robert Booth *by Arnold Kummerow.*

Mark Brown *by Pam Brown.*

Harry "Bud" Buttorf *by the Lau Family.*

Harold and Alyce Chargot *by Pam Brown.*

Becky Davis *by Nathan and Kristi Schulz.*

John and Marian Dressler *by a friend.*

Janet Emerson *by Todd, Rosemary, Caitlin and Andrew Emerson.*

Bob Fredericks *by his wife, Terry Fredericks.*

Grandma Rose Goers *by Laura and Brian Ambrose.*

Ronald M. Hardison *by Jim and Amy Tully.*

Richard T. Hartzell *by his family.*

Robert E. Hoisington *by the Hoisington Family.*

Phillip H. Kneen *by his family.*

Constance Booth Kummerow *by Arnold Kummerow.*

Arnold and Elizabeth Kummerow *by Arnold Kummerow.*

David F. Lau *by his family.*

Dr. John H. Libcke *by his wife, Jean and family.*

Louise Morian *by Todd, Rosemary, Caitlin and Andrew Emerson.*

Poinsettia Memorials 2020 (*continued*)



Virginia Mosley by *Brian and Sally Carlson.*

Joel Pott by *his wife, Sandra Pott.*

Rhoda, Maynard, Irene and Mitch by *Mark and Carolyn Gier.*

Philip and Eloys Rothwell by *Laura and Brian Ambrose.*

Curtis Rundell *loving husband and father of 3 sons* by *Yvonne Rundell.*

M. Lynne Scheiber by *Dennis E. Scheiber, family, Jacquelyn, Logan and Kaitlynn.*

Mr. and Mrs. Shepherd Sikes by *Leslie Sikes.*

Terry L. Stinson by *his wife, Lynn, and son, Christopher Stinson.*

Elizabeth Caradine Tully by *Jim and Amy Tully.*

Gloria Watt by *Susan Jones.*

Mr. and Mrs. Don White, Sr. parents of *Yvonne Rundell.*

Henry and Mae Wolfe and **Emil and Esther Pyorala** by *Jim and Py Wolfe.*

Her husband, **Robert Larkin** and daughter-in-law, **Karen Larkin** by *Ann Larkin.*

Her mother, **Maxine Thompson** by *Jan Thompson.*

Their loved ones by *the Maynard Timm Family.*

SERMON NOTES



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



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



Membership

Julie Walker
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Serve

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