

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 13, 2020



*We have God's joy in our blood.*

— Frederick Buechner

## 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](http://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 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm and the 100<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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

*Mary set out and went with haste. — Luke 1:39*

## 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

The Llope Family

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Angela Ryo

Once upon a time, there was a little girl who had a terrible day.  
She left her lunch at home. She skinned her knee on the playground,  
and no one wanted to sit with her on the bus. As she sank into her  
mother's arms at the end of the day, her mother said, "Honey, what  
was the best part of today?"

The little girl cried and said, "Nothing! The entire day was terrible."  
So the mother got down on one knee, wiped away her tears and  
said, "There is always some good. Sometimes we just really have to  
look for it."

The little girl looked up at her mom and said, "What is good about  
today?" And the mother said, "For starters, you're here in my arms."

Friends, anytime we gather together to worship God, we are here in  
God's arms. So may we recognize that gift, and in doing so, may we  
sow joy.

### HYMN 132

### Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

*In dulci jubilo*

Good Christian friends, rejoice  
With heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye hear of endless bliss:  
Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened heaven's door,  
And we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice  
With heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye need not fear the grace:  
Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all  
To gain the everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save!  
Christ was born to save!

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Angela Ryo

**O Great Writer,  
With a sky full of stars and world full of flowers, there should be  
no end to my joy. And yet, instead of decorating my very being  
with joy, I let it slip away like loose change. Instead of singing  
like Mary, or dancing like David, I pass by remarkable beauty and  
love most days, unfazed. Forgive me. Teach me the ways of  
children, who laugh and dance and sing as if joy is the very thing  
that keeps them alive. Maybe they have joy figured out. Gratefully  
we pray. Amen.**

## CHORAL RESPONSE

*Forest Green*

O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us we pray;  
Cast 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 are in awe of our Great Creator.  
We will never know how God managed to dream up  
mountains and valleys, freckles, dimples, and curly hair,  
a cool morning mist, the change of seasons,  
or the magic of music.  
God's greatness is beyond our reckoning.  
And because we are in awe of the Great Creator,  
we believe we must follow Mary's lead  
and allow our souls to sing.  
We believe that the appropriate reaction to God's goodness  
is complete gratitude, which looks like love for our neighbor,  
justice for the poor, food for the hungry, and joy that overflows.  
And even though we do not always believe in ourselves,  
we believe that our song is pleasing to our God.  
We believe. Amen.

## CONGREGATIONAL 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.***

*You'll find resources for children on our Worship from Home webpage at [kirkinthehills.org](http://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**

**Luke 1:26-45**

Rev. Kelsey Sorge

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

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Rev. Angela Ryo

**ANTHEM**

**Carol of the Bells**

*Mykola Leontovich, arr. Peter Wilhousky*

Hark! how the bells, sweet silver bells  
All seem to say, "throw cares away."  
Christmas is here bringing good cheer,  
To young and old, meek and the bold.  
Ding, dong, ding, dong, that is their song,  
With joyful ring, all caroling.  
One seems to hear words of good cheer  
From everywhere filling the air.  
Oh, how they pound, raising the sound,  
O'er hill and dale, telling their tale.  
Gaily they ring, while people sing,  
Songs of good cheer, Christmas is here!  
Merry, Merry, Merry, Merry Christmas!  
Merry, Merry, Merry, Merry Christmas!  
On, on they send, on without end,  
Their joyful tone to every home.  
Ding, dong, ding, dong. Bohm!

**SERMON**

**Dare to Dream**

Rev. Dr. Nate Phillips

**THE SENDING**

**HYMN 134**

**Joy to the World**

*Antioch*

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Nate Phillips

CHORAL AMEN

*Vincent Persichetti*

THE CARILLON

## About today's hymns

**Good Christian Friends, Rejoice** is said to have been taught to the mystic Heinrich Seuse by angels. Seuse was a fourteenth century German Dominican monk who studied under the great mystic Meister Eckhart. In his autobiography Seuse recounts his visionary experiences, many involving heavenly music, the most famous concerning *In dulci jubilo*. This carol is believed to be the oldest of all German macaronic (mixed language) hymns, and is unique in that the sense of the verse flows smoothly between German and Latin.

**Joy to the world** is a paraphrase of Psalm 98, with allusions to Luke 2: 7, Genesis 3: 17-18, and Romans 22. While this hymn contains no explicit references to Advent or Christmas, it was originally titled "The Messiah's Coming and Kingdom." The tune is adapted from two tunes by George Frideric Handel.

## About today's choral music

**Carol of the Bells** is a popular Christmas carol, with music by Ukrainian composer Mykola Leontovych dating from 1914 and lyrics by Peter J. Wilhousky. The song is based on the Ukrainian folk chant "Shchedryk". Conductor of the Ukrainian Republic Choir Oleksander Koshyts commissioned Leontovych to create the song based on traditional Ukrainian folk chants, and the resulting new work for choir, "Shchedryk", was based on four notes Leontovych found in an anthology. The original folk story related in the song was associated with the coming New Year, which, in pre-Christian Ukraine, was celebrated with the coming of spring in April. The original Ukrainian title translates to "the generous one" or is perhaps derived from the Ukrainian word for bountiful (shchedryj), and tells a tale of a swallow flying into a household to proclaim the bountiful year that the family will have. With the introduction of Christianity to Ukraine and the adoption of the Julian calendar, the celebration of the New Year was moved from April to January, and the holiday with which the chant was originally associated became Malanka, the eve of the Julian New Year (the night of January 13–14 in the Gregorian calendar). Wilhousky rearranged the melody for orchestra with new lyrics for NBC radio network's symphony orchestra, centered around the theme of bells because the melody reminded him of bells, which begins "Hark! How the bells". It was first aired during the Great Depression, and Wilhousky copyrighted the new lyrics in 1936 and also published the song, despite the song having been published almost two decades earlier in the Ukrainian National Republic.

## If you are in need of prayer

You may submit prayer requests online at [kirkinthehills.org](http://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 - The Dream** | Julia Stankova | used with permission

*The Dream* was created in 2006. It was inspired by Julia's study of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century Iconography.

## 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.

**John & Hette Block** and **Marie & Donald Krenke** by John and Donna Block

**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.



## Poinsettia Memorials 2020 (*continued*)



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

**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 Kaitlynnne.

**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.

**Bobby Tremain** by Karen and Scott Miller and Libby Miller Wilson

**Their loved ones** by the Maynard Timm Family.



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*  
jwalker@kirkinthehills.org



#### **Serve**

*Julie Walker*  
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#### **Congregational Care**

*Rev. Marjorie Wilhelmi*  
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#### **Choirs and Music Events**

*Glenn Miller*  
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#### **Baptisms, Memorials, Weddings**

*Jen Morris*  
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#### **Small Groups**

*Rev. Angela Ryo*  
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#### **Give**

*Karen Bowman*  
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#### **Questions/Information**

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#### **Church Leadership**

*Bob Beck/Clerk of Session*  
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