

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 20, 2020



*It is Christmas in the heart
that puts Christmas in the air.*

— W. T. Ellis

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

An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. —Matthew 1:20

THE GATHERING

THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Nate Phillips

INTROIT

Angels, announce to man and beast:
He is coming from the east;
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word: the Lord is coming!
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Besançon carol

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Robert and Julia Libcke

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Angela Ryo

I knew joy, but when I heard the laugh of my child,
suddenly, joy was overflowing.
I knew love, but when you held my hand,
suddenly, love was overflowing.
I knew God, but when you showed me grace,
when you forgave me,
when you loved me,
when you raised me,
suddenly, God was overflowing.
So, let us worship Holy God together
as a reminder that God is here and we are never alone.
This is community.
This is the body of Christ.
Welcome home.

HYMN 108

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Divinum mysterium

**Of the Father's love begotten,
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega;
He the source, the ending he,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore!**

**O, that birth forever blessed
When the Virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world's Redeemer,
First revealed his sacred face,
Evermore and evermore!**

O ye heights of heaven, adore him,
Angel hosts, his praises sing.
Powers, dominions, bow before him,
And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth on earth be silent;
Every voice in concert ring,
Evermore and evermore.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Angela Ryo

God of Good News,
You say to me, "You are highly favored,"
but I struggle to see how that could be.
You say to me, "Do not be afraid,"
but I am afraid all the time.
You say to me, "Even the impossible is possible,
just look at Elizabeth!"
But hope slips through my hands like water.
The impossible still feels impossible.
So today I pray,
today we pray:
Teach us to sing like Mary.
Teach us to laugh like Elizabeth.
Teach us to trust like the angels.
Forgive us when we can only do one at a time, or none at all.
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 believe that this world is hard—
harder than it has to be.
When the world falls apart around us,
we believe in listening for the angels that say, "Do not be afraid."
And in seeking out the Elizabeths in our lives—
those who laugh with joy at our arrival
and throw open the doors to their homes.
We believe that healthy relationships can offer healing.
Through the laughter of cousins,
the joy shared between siblings,
and the home found in partnership.

Therefore, we believe in church families,
in chosen families,
and in the love that extends beyond family.
We believe in friendships,
in neighbors,
and in leaning on each other when the going gets tough.
We believe in the Triune God—
Lover, Beloved, and Love itself—
inherently relational, always connected, and never alone.
We believe that that same belovedness exists for us.
We believe that we are loved and claimed,
never alone.
Thanks be to God for a love like that.

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.***

WORD WITH THE CHILDREN/PAGEANT

Rev. Kelsey Sorge

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.**

Choral music is being included before, during, and at the conclusion of the Pageant as follows.

At the beginning of the pageant:

CAROL

Away in a Manger

Mueller

Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

Abbey and Maddie Deering, representing the Junior Girls' Choir

Before scene 7, Mary and Joseph arrive in Bethlehem:

CAROL

Once in Royal David's City

Irby

Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down from earth to heaven
Who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable,
And his cradle was a stall;
With the poor, and mean, and lowly,
Live on earth our Savior holy.

Bryce Colburn, Declan Field, Dakota Janczyk, and Averi Lewis, representing the Treble Boys' Choir

Before scene 10, the Magi and King Herod:

CAROL

Scots Nativity

Alan Bullard

This day to you is born a child
Of Mary meek, the Virgin mild:
That blessed bairn so loving and kind,
Shall now rejoice both heart and mind;
Balow, lammy, baloobalow.

And now shall Mary's little boy
Forever be our hope and joy;
Eternal be his reign on earth,
Rejoice then all people, for this holy birth;
Balow, lammy, baloobalow.

Sleep gently, sweet Jesus, and know no fear,
Thy subjects adoring watch over thee here;
God's angels and shepherds and kine in their stall,
And wise men and Virgin, Thy guardians all;
Balow, lammy, baloobalow.

Kate and Elizabeth Faglie and Joslyn Phillips, representing the Senior and Intermediate Girls' Choirs

At the end of the Pageant:

CAROL

Mueller

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray,
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

Abby and Maddie Deering, representing the Junior Girls' Choir

THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 1:18-25

Rev. Kelsey Sorge

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

THE SENDING

HYMN

In the Bleak Midwinter

Cranham

In the bleak midwinter,
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter,
Long ago.

Our God an heaven cannot hold Him,
Nor earth sustain,
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When He comes to reign:
In the bleak midwinter
A stable place sufficed
The Lord God incarnate,
Jesus Christ.

What can I give Him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man,
I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him:
Give my heart.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Nate Phillips

CHORAL AMEN

Vincent Persichetti

THE CARILLON

WORSHIP NOTES

About today's hymns

Of the Father's Love Begotten is a translation of a hymn by Auaarelius Clemens Prudentius. He lived from 348 to c. 413, and was the most prolific and prominent author of early sacred Latin poetry. A native of Spain, he was highly educated and had a career as a lawyer and magistrate before renouncing the world and retreating to a life of poverty, seclusion and writing at the age of fifty-seven. The tune *Divinum mysterium* is a plainsong melody and was connected with this text in the mid-nineteenth century.

In the Bleak Midwinter was written by English poet Christina Rossetti in 1872. Rossetti wrote a variety of romantic, devotional, and children's poems. She was the daughter of an Italian poet and scholar who emigrated to England, and was sister to two brothers and a sister, all of whom became writers, poets, and artists. After suffering depression during her early adolescent years, she and her mother and sister became involved in the Anglo-Catholic movement in the Church of England, and for the rest of her life religious devotion played a central role.

About today's choral music

Away in a Manger is a Christmas carol first published in the late nineteenth century and used widely throughout the English-speaking world. Although it was long claimed to be the work of German religious reformer Martin Luther, the carol is now thought to be wholly American in origin.

Once in Royal David's City is a Christmas carol originally written as a poem by Cecil Frances Alexander. The carol was first published in 1848 in her hymnbook *Hymns for Little Children*. A year later, the English organist Henry John Gauntlett discovered the poem and set it to music. *Hymns for Little Children* was a collection of poems aimed to elucidate parts of the Apostles' Creed for use in Sunday schools or in the home. "Once in Royal David's City" told the story of the Nativity of Jesus to illuminate "Born of the Virgin Mary". The tune *Irby* was composed for this text by Henry John Gauntlett who was organist at a number of London churches. He edited many hymnbooks and wrote over a thousand hymn tunes, although his setting of "Once in Royal David's City" to the tune *Irby* is his most famous. Since 1919, the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at the King's College Chapel Cambridge has begun its Christmas Eve service with this carol.

Scots Nativity is a setting of a traditional Scottish text. The word *bairn* is a Scots, Scottish English, and Northern English term for a child. It originated in Old English as "bearn", becoming restricted to Scotland and the North of England c. 1700. *Kine* is an archaic Scots word for cattle; *Balow, lammy, baloobalow* is an archaic Scots phrase for sleep, my little lamb.

If you are in need of prayer

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

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 - *Angel Messenger* | Julia Stankova | used with permission

Angel Messenger is an oil on wood panel created by Bulgarian artist Julia Stankova. Her work, inspired by 18th and 19th century iconography is from her 2010 collection.

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

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Kirk in the Hills

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