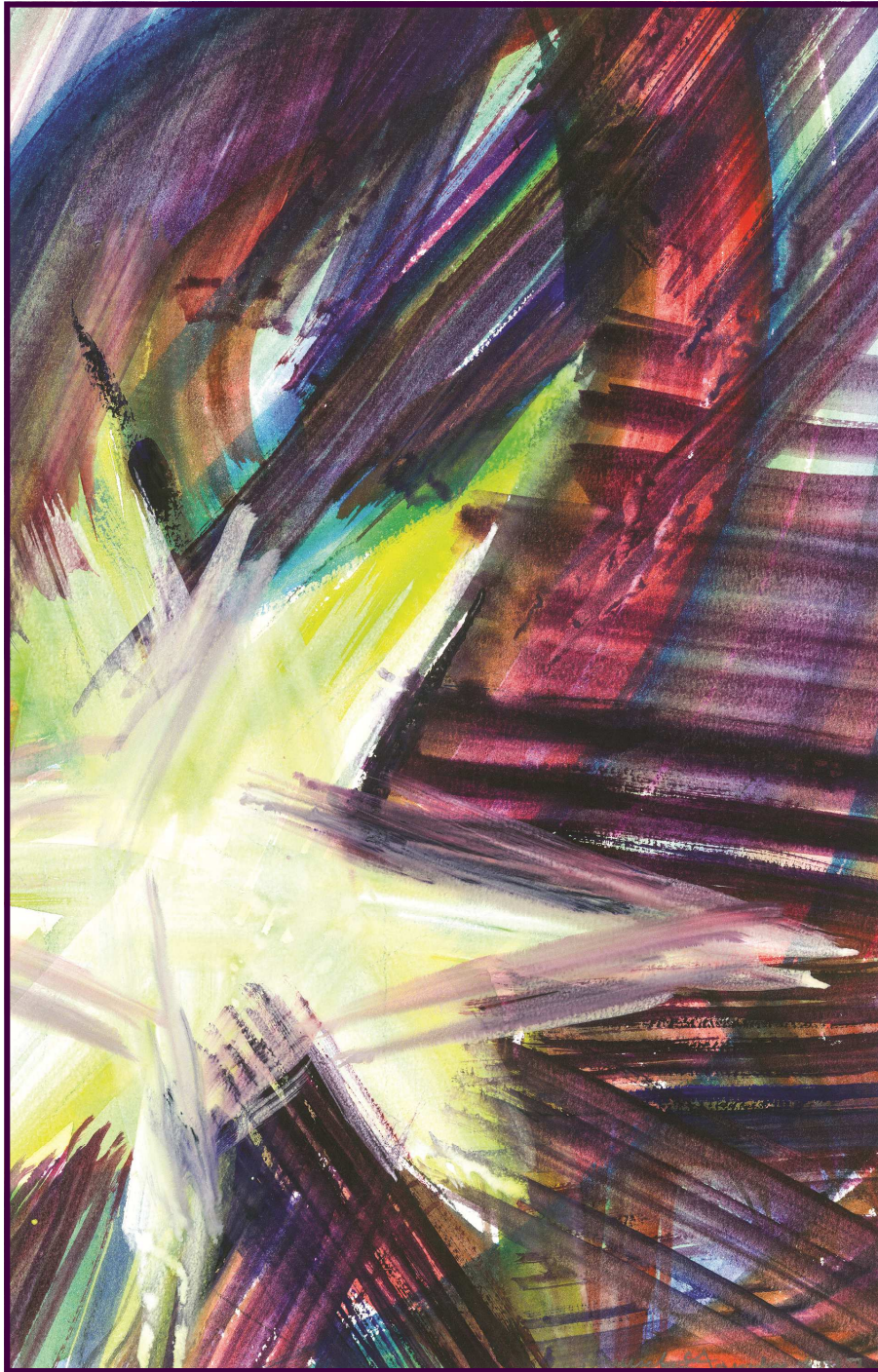


KIRK IN THE HILLS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
JANUARY 3, 2021



*A cold coming we had of it,
just the worst time of the year
for a journey, and such a long journey.*
— T. S. Eliot, *The Journey of the Magi*

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.



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

When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy! —Matthew 2:12

THE GATHERING

THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Angela Ryo

INTROIT

Was lebet

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
Bow down before Him, His glory proclaim;
With gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
Kneel and adore Him, the Lord is His Name.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Kelsey Sorge

God of gold, we seek your glory:
**The richness that transforms our drabness into color
and brightens our dullness with vibrant light;
your wonder and joy at the heart of all life.**
God of incense, we offer you our prayer:
**Our unspoken and unspeakable longings,
our questioning of truth,
our search for your mystery deep within.**
God of myrrh, we cry out to you in our suffering:
**The pain of all our rejections and bereavements,
our baffled despair at undeserved suffering,
our rage at continuing injustice;**
and we embrace you, God-with-us,
**in our wealth, in our yearning,
in our anger and loss, we worship you.**

HYMN 150

As with Gladness Men of Old

Dix

As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we
Evermore be led to Thee.

As with joyful steps they sped,
Savior, to Thy lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before
Thee, whom heaven and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek Thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare
At Thy manger, rude and bard,
So may we with holy joy
Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to Thee, our heavenly King.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Kelsey Sorge

O holy God,
open to us light for our darkness,
courage for our fear,
hope for our despair.
O loving God,
open to us wisdom for our confusion,
forgiveness for our sins,
love for our hate.
O god of peace,
open to us peace for our turmoil,
joy for our sorrow,
Strength for our weakness.
O generous God,
open our hearts to receive all your gifts. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Dix

Holy Jesus, every day
Keep us in the narrow way;
And when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds Thy glory hide.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Kelsey Sorge

Friends, believe the good news.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

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

Rev. Angela Ryo

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

Matthew 2:1-12

Rev. Kelsey Sorge

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

SERMON

Travelers Together

Rev. Marjorie Wilhelmi

ANTHEM

Brightest and Best of the Sons of the Morning

Malcom Archer

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Cold on His cradle the dewdrops are shining;
Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall;
Angels adore Him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.

Say, shall we yield Him in costly devotion,
Odors of Edom, and offerings divine,
Gems of the mountain, and pearls of the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest, or gold from the mine?

Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
Vainly with gifts would His favor secure:
Richer by far is the hearts adoration,
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

THE THANKSGIVING

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Angela Ryo

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.
Bless is He who comes in the Name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Richard Proulx

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 151

**We Three Kings of Orient Are
We three kings of Orient are,
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.
*O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light!***

Kings of Orient

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign.
O star of wonder...

Frankincense to offer have I:
Incense owns a Deity night;
Prayer and praising we are raising,
Worshipping God Most High.
O star of wonder...

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
O star of wonder...

Glorious now behold Him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice;
Alleluia, Alleluia
Sounds through the earth and skies.
O star of wonder...

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Marjorie Wilhelmi

CHORAL AMEN

Vincent Persichetti

THE CARILLON

At the conclusion of worship today, please stay tuned for our annual congregational meeting.

You can also access the meeting via zoom using this link for a more interactive experience:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88526137620?pwd=b1FLSXdtNjh1Yi9pWkM0dVRSRERRUT09>

WORSHIP NOTES

About today's hymns

As with Gladness Men of Old was written by William Chatterton Dix after reading the Gospel lesson for the day while he was ill in bed. Dix was a manager of a maritime insurance company in Glasgow, Scotland, and was a prolific hymn writer. Another well-known hymn written by Dix is "What Child Is This." The tune is of German origin.

We Three Kings of Orient Are is a Christmas carol that was written by John Henry Hopkins Jr. in 1857. At the time of composing the carol, Hopkins served as the rector of Christ Episcopal Church in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, and he wrote the carol for a Christmas pageant in New York City. This carol takes the form of a narrative to be sung by the Magi. Drawing on the accumulated traditions surrounding the three Magi, stanza two presents King Gaspard bringing the gold (symbolizing the kingship of Christ), stanza three presents King Melchior bringing frankincense (symbolizing Christ's divinity), and stanza four presents King Balthazar bringing myrrh (which is a spice used for burial, therefore foreshadowing Christ's passion and sacrifice). Hopkins served several parishes but distinguished himself in the area of religious music, becoming the first professor of church music at General Theological Seminary, New York City. In addition, he designed stained glass windows.

About today's choral music

O Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness is an Epiphany hymn written by nineteenth century Irish Anglican clergyman John S. B. Monsell. He wrote about three hundred hymns, though only a few remain in common use today. The stanza of this hymn sung as today's introit connects various virtues with two of the gifts presented by the Magi, gold and incense.

Brightest and Best of the Sons of the Morning is an Epiphany text by Bishop Reginald Heber. Heber served as a parish priest in Shropshire, England, before being appointed bishop of Calcutta, India. As a hymn writer he wrote hymns for every Sunday of the church year, based on the Epistle and Gospel lessons appointed for each Sunday and feast day. This musical setting is by Malcolm Archer, who served as Director of Music at Wells Cathedral, St. Paul's Cathedral (London), and Winchester College.

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 - Light | Hannah Garrity | used with permission | A Sanctified Art LLC

Light is a watercolor on paper. It was inspired by Matthew 2:1-12. Hannah believes that in God's image we were each born to create. She is an artist and art educator working in a middle school, at a church and for Montreat Conference Center among other things.



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
jwalker@kirkinthehills.org



Congregational Care

Rev. Marjorie Wilhelmi
revmatw@kirkinthehills.org



Choirs and Music Events

Glenn Miller
gmiller@kirkinthehills.org



Baptisms, Memorials, Weddings

Jen Morris
jmorris@kirkinthehills.org



Small Groups

Rev. Angela Ryo
revang@kirkinthehills.org



Give

Karen Bowman
kbowman@kirkinthehills.org



Questions/Information

Erica Ginter
eginter@kirkinthehills.org



Church Leadership

Bob Beck/Clerk of Session
clerk@kirkinthehills.org



KIRK IN THE HILLS
1340 WEST LONG LAKE ROAD
BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MICHIGAN 48302
(248) 626-2515 • kirkinthehills.org