

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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 14, 2021



*Resentment is like taking poison
and waiting for the other person to die.*

— Malachy McCourt

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:

8:00 a.m. - Cedarholm Chapel, with organ, congregational humming/light singing (masked), and sermon (25% capacity, 15 people)

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

10:00 am - Sanctuary, with organ, staff singers, congregational humming/ light singing (masked), and sermon (33% capacity, 175 people) Registration is required. Go to kirkinthehills.org.

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 | 10:00 a.m. Live Sanctuary Service

So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul... — Acts 9:17

THE GATHERING

THE CARILLON

OPENING VOLUNTARY
(10:00 a.m. Sanctuary Service)

Adagio, from Symphony II
Chorale prelude on Liebster Jesu

Charles-Marie Widor
Johann Sebastian Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS *(9:00 a.m. Livestream)*

Rev. Dr. Nate Phillips

* *Those who are able are invited to stand at the ringing of the tower bell.*

* INTROIT

Leo Sowerby

Eternal Light, shine into our hearts,
Eternal Goodness, deliver us from evil,
Eternal Power, be our support,
Eternal Wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance,
Eternal Pity, have mercy upon us,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* OPENING BLESSING

You are invited to take in this blessing with your eyes on your hands.

Blessed be the works of your hands. Rev. Angela Ryo
Blessed be the hands that have touched life.
Blessed be the hands that have nurtured creativity.
Blessed be the hands that have held pain.
Blessed be the hands that have embraced with passion.
Blessed be the hands that have tended gardens.
Blessed be the hands that have closed in anger.
Blessed be the hands that have planted new seeds.
Blessed be the hands that have cleaned, washed, mopped, scrubbed.
Blessed be the hands that are wrinkled and scarred
 from doing justice.
Blessed be the hands that have reached out and been received.
Blessed be the hands that hold the promise of the future.
Blessed be the works of your hands. Amen.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Kelsey Sorge

In the beginning, God made the world;
Made it and shaped it;
Filled it with seed, life, song, and fertility,
And tends to it now with His very good hands.
All that is well and all that is in want,
God's is the hand that created you.
All that is in motion and all that has slowed down,
God's is the hand that created you.

All that speaks, sings, cries, laughs, or keeps silence,
God's is the hand that created you.
All that yearns for yesterday and all that wishes for tomorrow,
God's is the hand that created you.
The world belongs to God,
The earth and all its people.

* HYMN 395

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

Liebster Jesu

The congregation is invited to hum or sing very lightly and quietly the hymns, with masks on.

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word
We have come again to hear You;
Let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
And in glowing faith be near You.
By Your gospel true and holy,
Teach us, Lord, to love You solely.

All our knowledge, sense, and sight
Lie in deepest darkness shrouded,
Till Your Spirit breaks our night,
Filling us with light unclouded.
All good thoughts and all good living
Come but by Your gracious giving.

Glorious Lord, Yourself impart,
Light of Light, from God proceeding.
Touch our lips and ears and heart;
Help us by Your Spirit's pleading.
Hear the cry You Church now raises;
Hear, and bless our prayers and praises.

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Angela Ryo

Gracious God,
Our sins are too heavy to carry,
too real to hide, and too deep to undo.
Forgive what our lips tremble to name,
what our hearts can no longer bear,
and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment.
Set us free from a past that we cannot change;
open us to a future in which we can be changed;
and grant us grace to grow more and more
in your likeness and image;
through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

Silence is kept for personal confession

* KYRIE ELEISON

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

Christopher Pardini

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Angela Ryo

Fellow travelers on the road to Easter,
always remember that there is much more forgiveness
in God's good hands than we could ever exhaust.
Receive from God, through the grace of Christ,
the blessing of sins forgiven and a right relationship restored.

* GLORIA PATRI

**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.**

Greatorex

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS *(10:00 a.m. Sanctuary Service)*

Rev. Dr. Nate Phillips

STEPHEN MINISTER COMMISSIONING *(10:00 A.M. Sanctuary Service)*

*The following have completed Stephen Ministry Training:
David Haugh, Curtis Hay, Ginny Llope, Patrice Lockwood, Terri Miller, Rev. Kelsey Sorge*

WORD WITH THE CHILDREN *(9:00 a.m. Livestream)*

Nate & Lucy

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

THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Rev. Marjorie Wilhelmi

Acts 9:1-19

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Marjorie Wilhelmi

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 THANKSGIVING

ANTHEM

Seek Ye the Lord

John Varley Roberts

Seek ye the Lord while He may be found,
Call ye upon Him while He is near:
Let the wicked forsake his way,
And the uprighteous man his thoughts,
And return unto the Lord,
And He will have mercy,
And abundantly pardon. Amen.

THE SENDING

* HYMN 688

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

Faithfulness

**Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
Wean it from earth; through all its pulses move;
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as Thou art,
And make me love Thee as I ought to love.**

**I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies,
No sudden rending of the veil of clay,
No angel visitant, no opening skies;
But take the dimness of my soul away.**

**Teach me to feel that Thou art always night.
Teach me the struggles of the soul to bear,
To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh.
Teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.**

**Teach me to love Thee as thine angels love,
One holy passion filling all my frame;
The baptism of the heaven-descended Dove,
My heart and altar, and Thy love the flame.**

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Nate Phillips

In the interest of everyone's health, please remain seated until your row is dismissed by an usher.

CHORAL ORISON

He leadeth me

He leadeth me, He leadeth me,
By His own hand He leadeth me;
His faithful follower I would be,
For by His hand He leadeth me.

TITHES AND OFFERING (10:00 a.m. Sanctuary Service)

Your offering for the Kirk's ministry will be received as you leave worship.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Chaconne

Louis-Claude Couperin

(10:00 a.m. Sanctuary Service)

THE CARILLON

About today's hymns

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word was written by Tobias Clausnitzer, a seventeenth century German Lutheran pastor and hymn writer. In his day he was a renowned preacher and was often called upon to preach at major national worship services. The text contains numerous scriptural allusions, including Acts 10: 33, Genesis 1: 1-3, John 8: 12 and 9: 5, and Romans 8: 26, as well as the epithet "Light from Light" in the Nicene Creed. The tune also is of German origin.

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart was written by George Croly, an Irishman who was ordained and served in the Church of Ireland before moving at age thirty to London, where he first devoted himself to writing before returning to active ministry. Scriptural allusions in this text included Mark 12: 30, Luke 10: 27, Jeremiah 29: 13, Matthew 7: 7, Luke 11: 9, Acts 17: 27, Matthew 3: 16, Mark 1: 10, Luke 3: 22, and John 1: 32. The tune was originally composed for the hymn "Abide with Me," and was named for Morecambe Bay not far from where the composer lived at the time the tune was created.

About today's choral music

The introit, **Eternal Light, Shine Into Our Hearts**, is a setting of a prayer attributed to Alcuin. Alcuin was born c. 735 in Northumbria and educated at the Cathedral school in York, where he spent most of his life. He became master of the school in 766 and at the time of his death was abbot of the monastery of St. Martin at Tours. Alcuin was a counselor and cultural adviser to Charlemagne and inspired the Carolingian Renaissance. He also revised the lectionary and is credited with the introduction of the Feast of All Saints (November 1) into the church calendar. The composer of this setting, Leo Sowerby, was a major figure in American church music in the mid-twentieth century, serving as Organist and Choirmaster at St. James' Cathedral, Chicago for thirty years. Sowerby was born in Grand Rapids, and early in his career as a composer he received international recognition, winning a major prize in Rome in composition. He composed this setting as a choral grace for a festival of music in 1958 which honored Dr. and Mrs. Clarence Dickinson, the founders of the Union Theological Seminary (NYC) School of Sacred Music. Dr. Dickinson was actually one of Sowerby's predecessors at St. James' Cathedral. In addition to his work at the School, Dr. Dickinson served for many years as Director of Music and Organist of the Brick Presbyterian Church, New York City.

The anthem, **Seek Ye the Lord**, is a setting of Isaiah 4: 6, 7. The composer, John Varley Roberts, was active as an organist and University professor in England during the second half of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth centuries. He dedicated this anthem to the wife of the vicar at the church where Roberts served in Halifax as organist and choirmaster.

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 in Melrose Chapel immediately following Service each Sunday. Masks will be worn and social distancing will take place.

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



Today's Cover Art - *Conversion of Saint Paul after Caravaggio* | © 2021 Wayne Forte | Eyekons

The piece is a contemporary interpretation of the Old Master painter Caravaggio. Forte studied art at University of California, Santa Barbara, is a member of the Christians in the Visual Arts, and wishes to updated classic paintings to resonate with a ore contemporary audience.

The flowers on the altar are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of Bill and Sally Singleton by their son, Dan Singleton and family.

Easter flowers will be used to adorn the Kirk on Easter Sunday. If you would like to donate memorial flowers to the display, send a check payable to Kirk in the Hills for \$25.00 along with your name and the person or persons you are memorializing or honoring. Send requests to Kirk in the Hills, Attn: Marsha Rogers, 1340 W. Long Lake Rd., Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302. The deadline is March 28, 2021. Donate electronically at <https://kirkinthehills.formstack.com/forms/easterlily2021>.





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

revmaw@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