

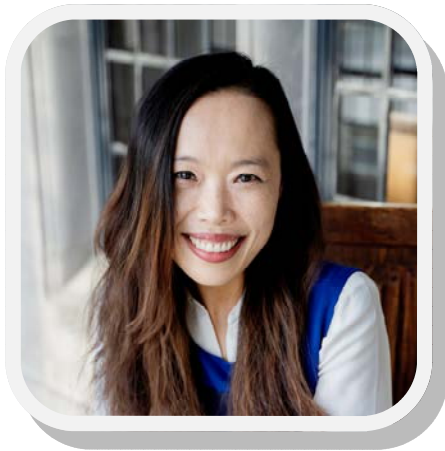
KIRK IN THE HILLS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

HOMECOMING | 10:00 A.M. WORSHIP
SEPTEMBER 12, 2021



*You are not an afterthought,
you are not an accident.*
— Desmond Tutu

Welcome Home!



“Welcome to worship, welcome to the Kirk, welcome home!” Hearing those words at the beginning of each and every Sunday worship service never gets old. In fact, it’s a constant reminder of three things I am proud of when it comes to our church: we’re a worshipping body, a welcoming community, and a home to many.

When I think of “home,” the Bible story that often comes to my mind is Jesus in the home of Martha and Mary in the Gospel of Luke. When I was younger, I resonated a lot with Martha. OF COURSE, she had to clean the house! I mean, that’s what my mom always made me and my sisters do before guests came to the house! My four sisters and I became busy complaining Marthas as we accused each other of being lazy slacking Marys. The guests would come and leave and the house would get messy again until the next time we had to entertain guests. Perhaps Martha saw Jesus as a guest to be entertained whereas Mary saw Jesus as a brother to be embraced.

Today is Homecoming Sunday and you are welcomed here! I hope you feel at home. Home in sharing the messiness of our lives; home in listening to each other’s stories of less than perfect lives; home in praying for one another and listening to stories of Jesus who found home in compassion, love and care for others. Our deacons, Stephen Ministers and other caring ministries can help you find that home. All you have to do is ask!

I hope you will also find your home at the Kirk by joining one of the many small groups that are open to you; find your home by coming to our 7-week fall series on the topic of belonging in the Bible and the world around us; find your home in the women’s retreat with Pastor Marjorie and the mission conference with Becca Stevens in October; find your home in Second Serving on third Sundays where we eat and serve together in Refectory right after the 9 a.m. service. May you find your home in our midst as we sit at the feet of Jesus together, hanging on to his every word.



And may all of the caring, loving and wonderful ways of finding a home at the Kirk ultimately translate into making our lives a home for Jesus who welcomed the sick, the poor, the brokenhearted, the downtrodden and gladly entered many messy homes and lives. I hope you see Jesus as a brother to embrace rather than a guest to entertain. Indeed, we’re a worshipping body, a welcoming community, and a home to many. Welcome to worship, welcome to the Kirk, welcome home!

Pastor Angela

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

10:00 a.m. Garden Service

*Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel,
and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." — 1 Samuel 16:10*

THE GATHERING

THE CARILLON

INTROIT

I Will Arise

arr. Alice Parker and Robert Shaw

I will arise and go to Jesus, he will embrace me in his arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior, Oh! there are ten thousand charms.
Teach me some melodious sonnet sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it, mount of Thy redeeming love.
Come, thou fount of every blessing. Tune my heart to sing thy grace.
Streams of mercy never ceasing. Call for songs of loudest praise.

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PASTORAL CONCERNS

MINUTE FOR MISSION

* SONG OF WELCOME

God Welcomes All

Themba Amen

**God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God's love is strong and it never ends.**

* CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 95:1-2, 6

Come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.
Come all you people, come and praise your Maker.
Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the Lord with psalms.
Come all you people, come and praise your Maker.
Come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the Lord our maker.
Come all you people, come and praise your Maker.

* SONGS OF GATHERING

Come All You People

Uyai Mose

**Come all you people, come and praise your Maker;
come all you people, come and praise your Maker;
come all you people, come and praise your Maker;
come now and worship the Lord.**

For the Beauty of the Earth

Dix

**For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**
**For thy church that evermore lifteth holy hands above,
off'ring up on every shore her pure sacrifice of love:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

*** PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

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 judgement.
Set us free from a past that we cannot change;
open to us 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. Amen.

*** ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Hear the good news!
Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our
Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this
grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the
glory of God.
Friends, believe the good news!
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

*** CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

**O for a thousand tongues to sing my dear Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of God's grace!
My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.**

WORD WITH CHILDREN

CHILDREN ARE DISMISSED *for Sunday School near the garden.*

THE WORD

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Samuel 16:4-13
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

The Afterthoughts: Eliab, Abinadab, And Shammah

Dr. Nate Phillips

THE THANKSGIVING

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

BREAKING OF THE BREAD, SHARING OF THE CUP

At the direction of the communion servers, please come to the nearest communion station to receive the sacrament.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Please sing when invited.

Taste and See

Taste and See

The congregation will join the choir on the refrain.

Taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

O taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord, of the Lord.

Come to the Table of Grace

Table of Grace

The soloist will sing the first phrase, and the congregation will join.

Soloist: Come to the table of ...

All: **Come to the table of ...**

This is God's table; it's not yours or mine.

Come to the table of ...

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, you have put gladness in our hearts;

you have satisfied our hunger with good things.

In giving all, you have not withheld from us your own dear Son.

How can we withhold anything from you, our Lord and our God?

Renew us day by day with the gift of your Spirit,

that we may give ourselves completely to your service

and walk with joy in the footsteps of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

THE SENDING

* CLOSING HYMN

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Nettleton

Come, thou Fount of every blessing;

tune my heart to sing thy grace;

streams of mercy, never ceasing,

call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet,

sung by flaming tongues above;

praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,

mount of God's unchanging love!

* BLESSING OF THE MEAL, CHARGE, AND BENEDICTION

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing

Sicilian Mariners

**Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing; fill our hearts
with joy and peace;**

let us each thy love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace.

O refresh us, O refresh us, traveling through this wilderness.

THE CARILLON

Garden worshippers are encouraged to drop off giving envelopes in the baskets located at the Celtic Cross near the exit as you depart.

Copyright information

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Spirit of the Living God – Text and music © 1935 Birdwing Music (admin. EMICMGPublishing.com)

Taste and See – Text and music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc.

Come to the Table of Grace – Text and music © 2008 Hope Publishing Company

About today's music

As we celebrate Homecoming and prepare to hear the Word proclaimed, note the many references to our responding to God's call as individuals and as a congregation.

In the Gathering section, God calls us to worship. The Chancel Choir sings an arrangement by Alice Parker and the late Robert Shaw that combines a traditional American text (including phrases from "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing") with an early American tune; on behalf of the congregation, the choir sings "I will arise and go to Jesus." The Song of Welcome, a South African song transcribed by John Bell of the Iona community, "God Welcomes All" assures us that God welcomes each of us, whether a long-time member or a first-time guest. "Come All You People," a song from Zimbabwe, is even more insistent that we are called to worship God, our Maker. Continuing with our gathering to worship our Maker, our Creator, we sing the hymn known well to many, "For the Beauty of the Earth," which includes our giving thanks for the universal church on this Homecoming Sunday.

The congregation responds with singing Charles Wesley's "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing," a fitting response to our being assured that God has forgiven us. The congregation also joins in the Prayer for Illumination, a time we pray that the Holy Spirit will illumine the reading, preaching and hearing of God's Word with the early 20th-century song, "Spirit of the Living God."

As we celebrate communion in response to hearing the Word proclaimed, the congregation is invited to sing with the choir as soloists lead us in "Taste and See" (inspired by Psalm 34) and "Come to the Table of Grace." These congregational songs can be sung as you move to and from your communion stations.

Our Sending includes the traditional early American hymn "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing," for which some of the text was included in the introit, and "Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing," a text written by a British Baptist pastor and set to a tune transcribed from Sicilian sailors in the late 18th century.

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 the Upper East Garden immediately following the Garden Service each Sunday. If you or someone you know is in need outside of the Garden Service, please contact Nancy Lau at 248-835-6691.

The flowers on the altar are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of Ross Robinson and John and Florence Robinson by Darlene Robinson and family.

Cover Art

Pieter Brueghel the Elder, *The Procession to Calvary*, 1564, public domain

Pieter Brueghel the Elder's composition in *The Procession to Calvary* adopts a well-known scheme for a solemn religious event. Christ's insignificance among the crowds is a familiar device of mannerist painting, as is the artificial placing of Mary and her companions in a rocky foreground. This oil painting was created in 1564 and is currently in the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna.



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



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