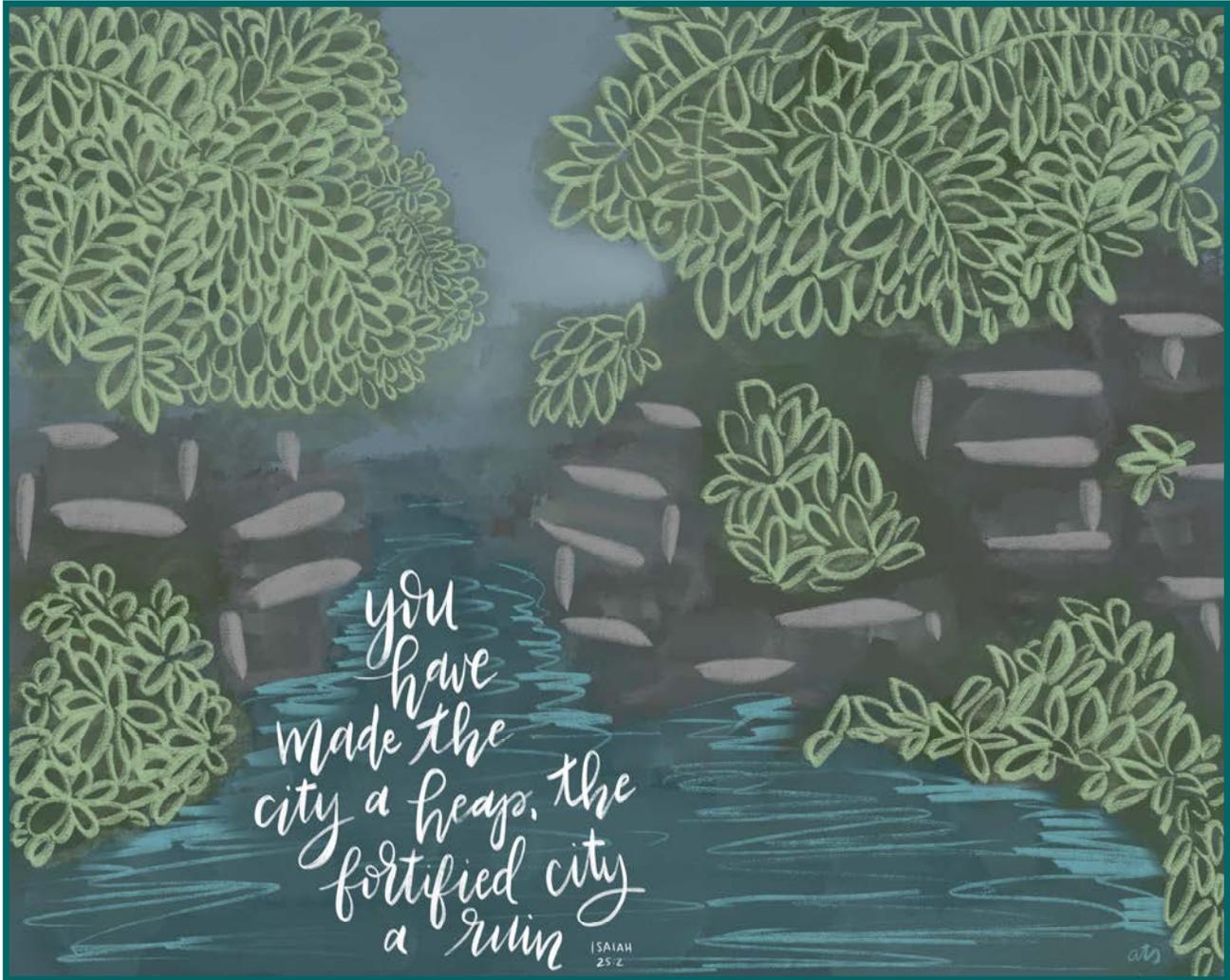


KIRK IN THE HILLS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

10:30 A.M. SANCTUARY WORSHIP
SEPTEMBER 26, 2021



The only cure for grief is to grieve.

— Earl Grollman



This week I was surprised by the kindness of a stranger.

I was headed home after a long commute from work, and I stopped to get gas at a station about two miles from my house. I was thinking of other things, getting home and eating dinner, relaxing, so I must have been more distracted than usual. The next day my husband and I went to run errands; and I realized I didn't have my wallet. I didn't think anything of it at first—maybe I had lost it in the car, or brought it into the house and set it somewhere. When we returned from shopping and began looking in earnest, I realized it was nowhere to be found. Only when prompted

to retrace my steps did I realize I had gone to get gas the night before... and I must have placed my wallet on top of my car after paying. I began to get disheartened, knowing the annoyances ahead of me: canceling the cards, going to the SOS office to get a new license... but my husband Jonathan thoughtfully went to the mailbox, and came back triumphant. A nice stranger must have driven to the house and placed it there, leaving a note that said, "I hope everything is still in there. I found it in the middle of the road. Have a good weekend!" Everything was still there. How surprising that a stranger would anonymously be so kind and not take advantage of the situation.



I am so grateful this happened as I begin fellowshiping with members who live in the Fox Run Retirement Center, or "Kirk West." I can tell they offer one another this kind of kindness on a daily basis, without recognition or expectation of reward. There is an awareness that all of them have gone through *something*; whether it is a loss of a spouse, a child, or other close family member; loss of ability and freedom due to illness and aging; or the sense of loss that comes from feeling you no longer have a purpose after leaving the workforce. Because everyone has that vulnerability, they are so good at empathizing with one another, and supporting one another any way they can. I see it in their small groups as they share life together. I saw it in the joy they had returning to worship last week in a communal way so that they could lift one another up with kind words and through their corporate singing.



It is such a gift to be able to come alongside this community and support them in the way they minister to one another. Let us all be inspired to do small (or large!) acts of kindness for one another, without expectation of reward, and even without any acknowledgement. Let us surprise one another with goodness and love.

Pastor Jasmine

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

10:30 a.m. Live Sanctuary Service

How lonely sits the city... — **Lamentations 1:1**

GATHERING

CARILLON

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Paul Manz

* *Please rise in body or spirit at the ringing of the tower bell.*

* INTROIT

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

Lobe den Herren

Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near;
join me in glad adoration!

* CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 145:1-3, 10

I will exalt you, my God and king,
and bless your name forever and ever.
Every day will I bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.
Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised!
There is no end to your greatness.
All your works shall praise you, O Lord,

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 611

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Hymn to Joy

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Even though we continually turn away from God,
the Lord is eager to forgive.
Trusting in the promise of grace,
let us confess our sin.

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

from Luke 16 and Psalm 79:9

**Gracious God, you know our sin:
We have squandered the gifts you have given us.
We have failed to forgive our debtors
as you have forgiven us.
We have been unfaithful and dishonest
in small things and great things alike.
We are shrewd in seeking wealth
and foolish in following your way.**

**Forgive our sins, O Lord, for your name's sake.
Make us faithful stewards of the grace you have given
and generous in forgiving others;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

* KYRIE ELEISON

Music for this response is Hymn 551.

Choir:

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

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

Congregation:

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

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

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

from 1 Timothy 2:4

Our loving God desires everyone to be saved

and to come to the knowledge of truth.

Hear the good news!

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

* GLORIA PATRI

Greatorex

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.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUR FAITH IN ACTION

75th Anniversary Campaign

ANTHEM

Come Dwell in Solomon's Walls

Z. Randall Stroope

When the final timber lay 'gainst the measure stones,
with the doorposts in their place overlaid with gold,
the Lord appeared to Solomon, blessing all the house,
also the temple of the ark of God, pure and whole.

Come dwell in Solomon's walls.

Come and dwell in the house of the Lord
where the humble bow down, seeking wisdom and strength,
for the Lord dwells within and heals their land.

Come dwell in Solomon's walls.

Come and dwell in the house of the Lord
where wisdom and righteousness, justice and holiness,
join at the feet of God.

When the people of the house kneel and humbly pray,
when they turn from dark to light and your will obey,
O Lord of Heaven and Lord of Earth, show favor on this house,
and heal, restore, forgive, and bless, Lord, we pray.

PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Congregational Response:

God of grace in this place, hear now our prayer.

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.**

THANKSGIVING

HYMN 795

Healer of Our Every Ill *Healer of Our Every Ill*

Please remain seated until invited to rise in body or spirit.

Please sing the refrain when indicated.

Stanza 1 – soloist

Stanza 2 – soloist

Please rise in body or spirit to sing:

Stanza 3 – all

Stanza 4 – all

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Our giving is an offering to God. All offerings, whether made in the worship service or outside of it, are part of our worship of God and are used to support the Kirk's ministry here and in other parts of the world.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERATORY SOLO

There Is a Balm in Gilead

arr. Mark Hayes

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.
Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain,
but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.
If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,
go tell the love of Jesus and say, "He died for all."

* DOXOLOGY

Old Hundredth

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

WORD

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Music for this prayer is found at Hymn 288.

Please sing with the choir:

**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

Lamentations 1:1-7

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

SERMON

Jerusalem the Mourner

Dr. Nate Phillips

SENDING

*** HYMN 39**

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Faithfulness

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Please take your seats as the pastor gives the congregation a charge to live the life of faith and then speaks words of God's blessing on all gathered.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Dresden Amen

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Prelude in F Major

Johann Sebastian Bach

Copyright information

Music and text are reprinted and streamed with permission under One License A-717156. All rights reserved.

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee – Paul Manz © 1990, MorningStar Music Publishers

Lord, Have Mercy – music arr. Richard Proulx © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc.

Come Dwell in Solomon's Walls – Z. Randall Stroope © 2006 Birnamwood Publications

God of Grace – Paul Andress © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

There Is a Balm in Gilead – arr. Mark Hayes © 1998 Alfred Music Publishing Co., Inc.

Great Is Thy Faithfulness – Text by Thomas O. Chisholm and music by William Marion Runyan, © 1923, renewed 1951 Hope Publishing Company.

Liturgy is from The Worship Sourcebook © 2004 Faith Alive Christian Resources and Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion © 2014

About today's music

In today's liturgy and music, you will note the juxtaposition of joy and praise in Psalm 145 with the sadness and weeping of the Lamentations 1 passage. As we experience both the valleys and the mountain tops in our own personal and corporate lives, we are assured of God's faithfulness.

A Presbyterian minister, Henry van Dyke wrote the text for "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" with the melody from Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* in mind. The late Paul Manz was a Lutheran organist, director, and composer in Minneapolis, and he arranged many hymns for organ.

As we begin our preparations for celebrating the Kirk's 75th anniversary in 2022, including important stewardship opportunities, the Chancel Choir presents "Come Dwell in Solomon's Walls." Some say Solomon's temple was arguably the most magnificent structure ever built in the history of humankind. This anthem invites the congregation to come and dwell in a place where wisdom and righteousness, and justice and holiness join at the feet of God.

As we prepare to hear the Word proclaimed from Lamentations, we are guided by "Healer of Our Every Ill" and "There Is a Balm in Gilead." Our congregation sang "Healer of Our Every Ill" at our recent 9/11 service, and the text leads us to call on the Holy Spirit for comfort, vision, kindness, and compassion. Mark Hayes's arrangement of the spiritual "There Is a Balm in Gilead" answers the question posed in Jeremiah 8:22, "Is there no balm in Gilead?"

As our worship concludes, elements of joy, praise, weeping, and lament are woven together in "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" with the assurance that God will provide "strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow."

The congregation is invited to take an active role in our liturgical music today, including the Kyrie Eleison, the Prayers of the People, and the Prayer for Illumination, as well as our hymns.

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 (to the left, when facing forward in the sanctuary) immediately following Service each Sunday.

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



The flowers on the altar in the sanctuary are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of Monte Clark and their daughter, Shelly, by Charlotte Clark, their sons and families.

Coffee Hour - Fellowship time with coffee takes place after worship on the patio. Please join us!

Tour Kirk in the Hills each Sunday! Those interested in a brief tour are asked to meet in the Baptistry, to the right of the Chancel, after the 10:30 a.m. service ends. See an usher for direction or further details.

Today's Cover Art

Ruins, Anna Strickland, sanctifiedart.org, used with permission

The digital painting by Anna Strickland is her rendering of the ruins of Jerusalem. The accompanying verse expresses God's sorrow over the sinfulness that has caused the destruction of the holy city.

Permission to use the image was granted by A Sanctified Art LLC/ sanctifiedart.org.



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



Membership

Stephanie Sheak
ssheak@kirkinthehills.org



Serve

Julie Walker
jwalker@kirkinthehills.org



Congregational Care

Rev. Angela Ryo
revang@kirkinthehills.org



Choirs and Music Events

Nicole Joseph
njoseph@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