

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

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
OCTOBER 3, 2021



We may ignore, but we can nowhere evade the presence of God.

The world is crowded with Him.

He walks everywhere incognito.

— C. S. Lewis



In the Gospels, Jesus was always on this way, returning from, or participating in a meal. Some parables and miracles feature food, after baptism, Jesus is tempted while fasting, then nourished miraculously, echoing how Israel was fed in the wilderness. He is accused of being “at table” with outcasts,” a euphemism for sharing a meal. He’s even accused of eating and drinking too much! His disciples are accused of plucking grain to eat on the Sabbath when they should refrain from activity. And the most important meal of all, the Lord’s Supper (also known as Communion, the Eucharist, and the Holy Meal) is given to us by Jesus as a commandment to be followed: “drink and eat in remembrance of me,” serving as one of two sacraments we

recognize, along with baptism. Jesus offers a farewell (see **Gospel of John 14-17**) to his disciples at the Last Supper, the Passover shared with his disciples, which he institutes as the Eucharist. *Did you know that he prayed for us at that meal?*

“I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one.” (**Gospel of John 17:20-23a**)

Today, these words hold up a mirror to a world divided, by politics, race, gender, denomination, language and cultural norms, by hunger and wa.. The words of Jesus seem ever-more distance, and yet, on World Communion Sunday, we recognize that by the great mystery of God’s love in Christ Jesus, him crucified and raised from the dead, we are united beyond all our differences through the Holy Meal. Our tradition proclaims this in the liturgy, “By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.” All history has been affected by the reconciling work of God in Christ and is moving toward the heavenly banquet where we eat and drink, no longer out of need or wealth, but out of the abundant joy of our Lord. Today, we join churches around the world to confess this mystery and this hope.



In the Early Church, a strong argument can be made that the faith spread so quickly in the Roman Empire, especially among the poor, because the Christians shared their meals with anyone and everyone, accused of eating too much and inappropriately mixing—Jews and Gentiles, rich and poor, learned and uneducated, good and ill-repute, rebels and soldiers, old and young, men and women. The Holy Meal in remembrance of Jesus, spread to all their eating and sharing of meals. What would that look like for each of us today, and everyday of our lives? I pray that we would feast on the Bread of Life, that we would share this Bread for the world, and feed people who are hungry for bread and for righteousness.

Pastor Edwin

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary Service

"I have loved you," says the Lord. — Malachi 1:2

GATHERING

THE CARILLON

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

Charles Callahan

Please read the text of Hymn 529 as this voluntary is played.

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

* SONG OF GATHERING

Come All You People

Uyai Mose

This song is Hymn 388. Please sing joyfully!

**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.**

* CALL TO WORSHIP

The God of creation makes us one body!

Let us join hearts and voices in praise of the Lord!

The God of Christ makes us one Spirit!

Let us join hearts and voices in praise of the Lord!

As God calls us to live in unity with each other,

let us worship God!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 14

For the Beauty of the Earth

Dix

* CALL TO CONFESSION

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND KYRIE ELEISON

This prayer is Hymn 764. Please sing when indicated.

For the troubles and the sufferings of the world,

God, we call upon your mercy:

the whole creation's laboring in pain!

Lend an ear to the rising cry for help

from oppressed and hopeless people:

Come! Hasten your salvation, healing love!

Please sing:

We pray for peace,

**the blessed peace that comes from making justice,
to cover and embrace us. Have mercy, Lord!**

We pray for power,

**the power that will sustain your people's witness:
until your Kingdom come, Kyrie eleison!**

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

People of God,

all of us together have received God's mercy in Christ.

In Christ we are forgiven, redeemed,

and made to be a community united in faith.

Thanks be to God!

*** CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!

Halle, Halle

This song is Hymn 591. Please sing when indicated.

Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUR FAITH IN ACTION

Anniversary and Annual Giving Campaign

WORD WITH CHILDREN (9:00 a.m.)

Following the Word with the Children, children and youth ages 4 through grade 8 will be dismissed for Sunday School.

WORD

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy, Holy, Holy – Santo, santo, santo

Argentine Santo

This prayer is Hymn 595. Please sing in English when indicated.

Santo, santo, santo. ¡Mi corazón te adora!

Mi corazón te sabe decir: ¡Santo eres, Señor!

Holy, holy, holy. My heart, my heart adores you!

My heart knows how to say to you: you are holy, Lord!

SCRIPTURE READING

Malachi 1:1-5

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

SERMON

Malachi the Messenger

Dr. Nate Phillips

THANKSGIVING

*** HYMN 525 (Stanzas 1-2)**

Let Us Break Bread Together

Let Us Break Bread Together

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**

ANTHEM

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

Harold Friedell

This text is Hymn 529.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION - Celebrating World Communion Sunday

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT 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.

SANCTUS

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy (Santo, santo, santo, santo)

Cuéllar

This congregational response is Hymn 594 (Refrain).

Please sing when indicated.

**Holy, holy, holy, holy, holy, holy is our God,
God, the Lord of earth and heaven. Holy, holy is our God.
Holy, holy, holy, holy, holy, holy is our God,
God, the Lord of all of history. Holy, holy is our God.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

In observance of World Communion Sunday, the congregation is encouraged to recite the Lord's Prayer in the language of your choice.

**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 WORDS OF INSTITUTION

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God

Agnus Dei (Farlee)

This congregational response is Hymn 604. Please sing with the choirs.

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy upon us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy upon us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
grant us peace; grant us peace.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD, SHARING OF THE CUP

This morning the congregation is served in procession. Those seated in the pews at the rear of the sanctuary begin the procession. For those unable to process forward, stay seated and a server will bring the sacrament to you. Gluten-free bread is available in the center of the bread trays. Empty glasses are placed in the baskets provided near the communion servers. During the 9:00 a.m. service, it is appropriate to remove your mask to partake in the elements and then replace it as you return to your seat.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Please sing when invited.

Taste and See (Hymn 520)

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 (Hymn 507)

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 . . .**

For Everyone Born (Hymn 769)

For Everyone Born

Soloists will sing the stanzas and the congregation is invited to sing the Refrain.

**. . . and God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**God, who nourishes us for the journey,
it is strengthening to know that
as we have gathered at your table today,
your people throughout the world
are offering praise and thanksgiving
as bread and wine are shared.
May the mystery of your presence, experienced in our worship,
bind us together into one worldwide community. Amen.**

SENDING

HYMN 853

We Are Marching in the Light of God

Siyahamba

The congregation will remain seated and rise in body or spirit when indicated.

Singers: Siyahamba . . .

We are marching in the light of God . . .

Please rise in body or spirit and join in singing:

All: We are marching in the light of God . . .

We are singing in the light of God . . .

We are praying in the light of God

Siyahamba . . .

*** CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Please remain standing.

*** CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

All: We are marching in the light of God . . . *Dresden Amen*

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

About today's music and worship

"[T]he unity of the church is a theme that needs constant attention. In a day of embarrassing fractures, congregations must step back from the own local concerns and highlight the unity of the body for which Jesus himself prayed (John 17:20-21). Such observances also give the church an opportunity to recommit itself to a life of unity." *The Worship Sourcebook*

Today's focus on global unity also gives us the opportunity to explore some of the resources of the hymnbook *Glory to God*, a wonderful resource of 853 hymns, songs, and responses. We are drawing primarily from African (Zimbabwe and South Africa) and Latino/Hispanic (Brazil, Caribbean, Argentina, and El Salvador) sources. Another time we will focus on Asian sources.

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 by Alex and Evelyn McKeen in loving memory of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. John N. McKeen and Mr. and Mrs. Paul P. Feldkamp.

Coffee Hour - Join us for fellowship in Heritage Hall 10:00-11:00 a.m. each Sunday!

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

Titled *Vineyard Parable* this digital painting by artist Anna Strickland is inspired by Matthew 2-0:1-16. It depicts a welcoming chalice where all are invited to participate. Use of this image has been granted by sanctifiedart.org.

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Holy, Holy, Holy (Santo, santo, santo), traditional Argentine

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We Are Marching in the Light of God (Siyahamba), South African text translated by Gracia Grindal, South African music arr Freedom Is Coming, English Translation and Music Arr. © 1984 Utryck (admin. Walton Music Corp.)

From left to right: Rev. Kelsey Sorge, Rev. Dr. Nate Phillips, Rev. Angela Ryo, Rev. Edwin Estevez



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