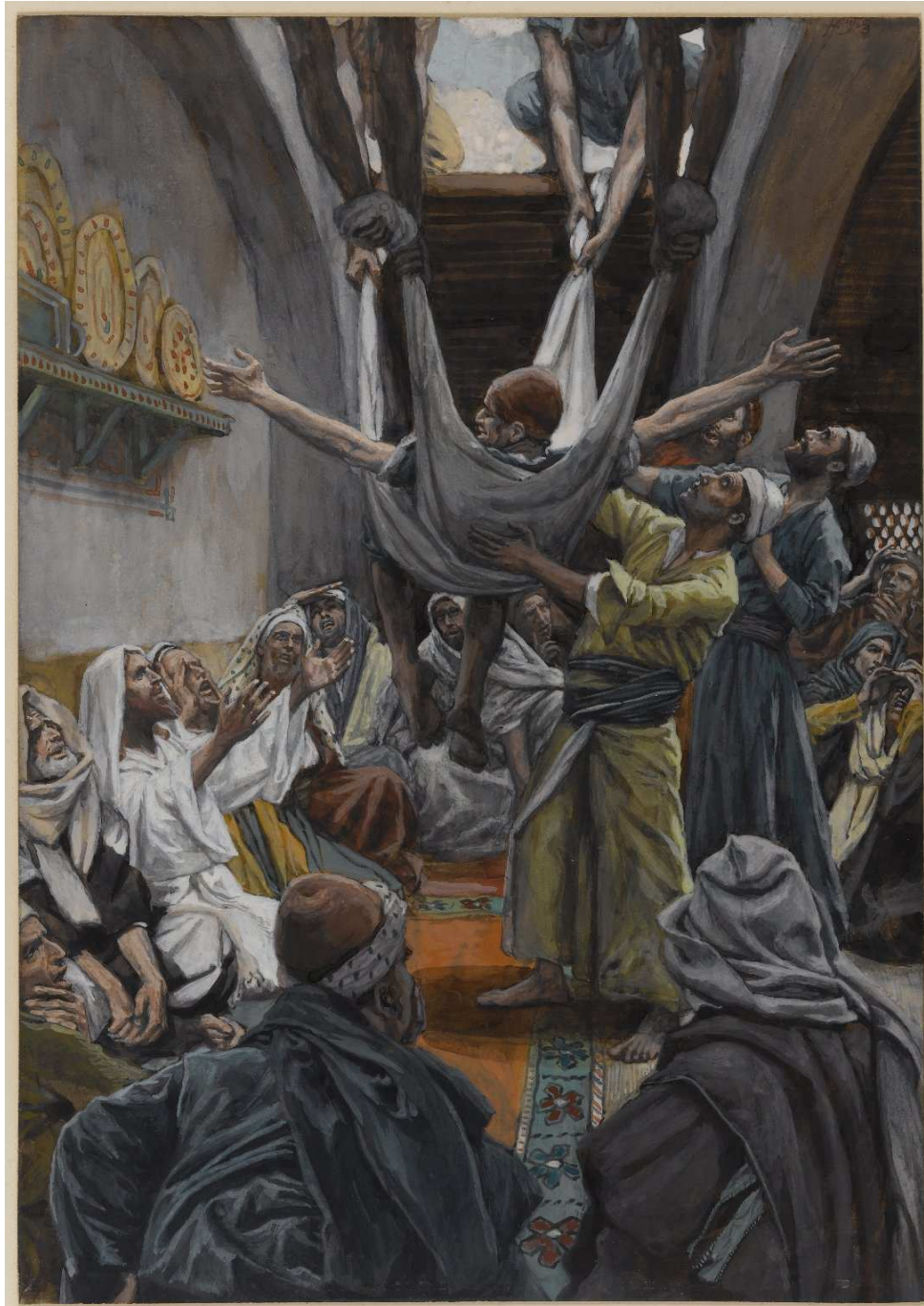


KIRK IN THE HILLS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
OCTOBER 10, 2021



*Compassion is knowing your own darkness well enough
that you can sit in the darkness with others.*

— Pema Chodron



The first sermon I preached at the Kirk was on Confirmation Sunday in 2020. I reflected on my own Confirmation experience where I was handed a Bible and charged to “not keep the Bible looking pretty.” I didn’t quite understand what the pastor meant until two years later when my church challenged me to read through the whole Bible cover to cover. I did, and kept reading, and today the cover is disconnecting from the spine with highlights and post-its marking up all of the pages.

Looking back, there are so many parts of this story that remind me of what Confirmation is, and what it isn’t. It is an ongoing process; it isn’t a completion of faith. It is communal; it isn’t something we

are meant to do on our own. It is ultimately a profession of faith that is a reaffirmation of our baptism. In the PC(USA) we promise a version of the following when we baptize anyone from infant to adult:

Parents/sponsors promise: Relying on God’s grace, do you promise to live the Christian faith, and to teach your faith and to teach that faith to your child?

Congregation: Do you, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture this child by word and deed, with love prayer, encouraging them to know and follow Christ and to be faithful members of his church?

In our church today it is our incredible joy to walk alongside one another as we journey through our faith. Confirmation is a process that is very intentional: we meet every week and ask questions, we build mentoring relationships, we serve together and laugh together and try to understand how to love and serve God better in this world. The time flies by, and before we know it we are welcoming new members into the church. After that meaningful day, I don’t want their Bibles looking pretty, either.



Just like we promise to guide and nurture those who are baptized into our church, let us do so not just for the baptized, or even just for Confirmation students. Let us uphold that promise for one another. Matthew 28:17 reminds us that even after the disciples spent months following Jesus and he was resurrected from the dead, “When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.” Let us be a community that supports one another even amongst the doubt. Perhaps some of you remember your own Confirmation and the statements you professed on that day. I wonder what doubts and revelations you have had since then? Confirmation is not the end. It is only the beginning. The beginning of a difficult and beautiful journey with God.

Pastor Kelsey



THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

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

When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven." — Luke 17:20

GATHERING

THE CARILLON

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Tina Rowan, Violinist and Executive Director of Accent Pontiac

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

* SONG OF GATHERING

Gathered in God's Name

Michael Burkhardt

See insert and please sing when indicated.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 8 and John 16:13

O Holy Trinity, One God in Three Persons,
**we behold in the splendor of creation
your majesty and our responsibility.**

O Holy Trinity, One God in Three Persons,
**we behold in the face of Jesus Christ
your divinity and our humanity.**

O Holy Trinity, One God in Three Persons,
**we behold in the Spirit of truth
your glory and our calling.**

Bound to you forever, we will ever praise your name!
Come, let us worship the Triune God.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 4

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

Grosser Gott, Wir Loben Dich

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Triune God,

**within your own life there is mutuality,
equality, and unity in diversity.**

Though we are made in your image,

we confess that we distort the triune life.

Instead of seeking mutual welfare and the common good,
we seek our own gain.

Instead of living in equality, justice, and respect,
we construct systems that are unjust.

We devise ways to elevate ourselves over others,
**and disrespectful thoughts, words,
and actions still surface in us.**

We allow differences to divide us and lead to brokenness.

Holy God, forgive us.

Restore in us, and in our life together,
the divine image you intend.

Make us tender in mutuality.

Make us generous in equality.

Make us grateful in diversity.

**We pray to be one with you and one another,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

* **KYRIE ELEISON**

This response is Hymn 551.

**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 Romans 8

Friends, we are still standing in the grace of Christ.
Because God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit,
we are set free to love God and neighbor,
and to work for the reconciliation of the world.
**We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
Thanks be to God!**

* **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.**

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.*

ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS (10:15 a.m.)

*Elizabeth Belcher, Jack Belcher, Chris Fogle, Steve Fogle,
Carol Beth Litkouhi, Sahm Lithouhi, Katie Prokop, Kevin Prokop,
Mary Kay Sparre, Paul Sparre, Fred Steiner,
Jill Steiner*

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

**With joy and thanksgiving
we welcome you into Christ's church
to share with us in his ministry,
for we are all one in Christ.**

PRAYER

CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER

Hear My Prayer

Moses Hogan

O Lord, please hear my prayer in the mornin' when I rise.
It's your servant bound for glory.
O Lord, please hear my prayer; keep me safe within your arms.
It's your servant bound for glory.
O dear, Lord, please hear my prayer.
When my work on earth is done, and you come to take me home.
Just to know I'm bound for glory. And to hear you say well done:
done with sin and sorrow, have mercy. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

* HYMN 764

For the Troubles and the Sufferings

Pelas dores deste mundo

*The Chancel Choir will sing one time,
and then the congregation is invited to sing.*

THANKSGIVING

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

The Eyes of All Wait Upon Thee

Jean Berger

The eyes of all wait upon thee;
and thou givest them their meat in due season.
Thou openest thine hand,
and satisfiest the desire of every living thing. [Psalm 145:15, 16]

* DOXOLOGY

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.

PRAYER

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

This Congregational Prayer is Hymn 459.

O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:
we praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page,
a lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 5:17-26

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

SERMON

You've Got a Friend in Me

Rev. Angela Ryo

SENDING

* HYMN 39

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Faithfulness

*We sing this hymn in recognition of our congregation's
75th Anniversary and Annual Giving Campaigns.*

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

Randolph

Please sing with the choir. This response is Hymn 541.

**God be with you till we meet again;
loving counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd's care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again.**

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

March

Marc-Antoine Charpentier

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The Eyes of All Wait Upon Thee, © 1959 Augsburg Publishing House

Great Is Thy Faithfulness, Text and Music © 1923, ren. 1951 Hope Publishing Company

About today's music and worship

Building on our fall theme, A Place in This World, we sing *Gathered in God's Name* which emphasizes that we are gathered as one family in the name of love – gathered from near and far, gathered as strangers and friends, and gathered and gifted by grace. This text and music were written by Dr. Michael Burkhardt, a resident of Farmington Hills, for the 2021 Presbyterian Worship and Music Conferences. Gifted by grace and gathered in the name of love, each of us has a “place in this world.”

Our opening hymn, *Holy God, We Praise Your Name*, is based on a classic text of the church, “Te Deum Laudamus,” a staple item in many liturgies and used by most traditions of Christendom: Eastern, Roman Catholic, and Protestant. Dating from a 5th-century Latin text, the English text was loosely translated from German in the 18th century.

The late Moses Hogan (1957-2003) was an American composer and arranger of choral music, best known for his settings of spirituals. The Chancel Choir will sing his setting of *Hear My Prayer* as we are called to prayer.

The congregation sang the last half of *For the Troubles and the Sufferings* last Sunday for our World Communion Celebration. Today you can sing all of it after the Chancel Choir sings it. Carl Daw writes of this hymn: “This hymn is often known as the Brazilian *Kyrie*, partly because the final words quote that ancient Greek prayer, but also because the full text can be understood as an articulation of the many ways God’s mercy is needed in the world. It also echoes the sense of urgency in the apostle Paul’s description of the world’s anticipation of salvation as being like the pains of a woman in labor (Romans 8:22).” [*Glory to God: A Companion*]

As we give our tithes and offerings, the choir sings *The Eyes of All Wait Upon Thee*, a setting of Psalm 145:15, 16, reminding us that God opens God’s hand and satisfies the desire of every living thing. Jean Berger (1909-2002) was born in a Jewish family in Germany, moved to France, and then to the U.S. where he taught at Middlebury College, the University of Illinois-Urbana, and the University of Colorado.

During this stewardship season, we are singing *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* with its emphasis on “strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow.”

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 Robert “Bobby” A. Tremain, Jr. by Mason and Sharon Capitani.

The flowers in Melrose Chapel are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of Bobby Tremain by the Tremain family.

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 *The Palsied Man Let Down Through the Roof* is an opaque watercolor by artist James Tissot (1836-1902). Jesus receives numerous requests for healings, creating a crush of supplicants. Eager to reach him, after he has retired to the privacy of a home, four men lower a paralytic through the roof into the welcoming arms of Jesus—a powerfully dramatic image. Tissot heightens the sense of the sick man’s helplessness with his flailing, outstretched arms, a counterpoint to Christ’s controlled gesture of acceptance.

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.



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