

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



TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
OCTOBER 17, 2021

Well done
my good and
faithful
servant
To those who use well
what they are given
even more will be given
and they will have
an abundance
But from those
who are unfaithful
even what little they have
will be taken away

You may encounter many defeats, but you must not be defeated.

In fact, it may be necessary to encounter the defeats,

so you can know who you are,

what you can rise from,

how you can still come out of it.

— Maya Angelou



Last week I had the opportunity to travel to North Carolina to sing with a choral group called *Exigence*, some of you may remember the concert we sang here at the Kirk in February 2020. For us, like so many professional ensembles, lay choirs, and children's choirs across the world, that was the last time we would sing together for over a year and a half. The reunion was sweet and full of beautiful music making, albeit in masks. Singing again with a professional ensemble like *Exigence* I realized also what an amazing blessing we have here at the Kirk! That we have had the opportunity to continue singing together throughout so much of the pandemic is incredible! Throughout covid our youth choirs have continued to meet virtually and in person. We have seen our kids take on the challenge of virtual choir videos, putting on a virtual-hybrid musical, singing in

masks when it's difficult to hear and blend, let alone see faces; as well as supporting one another through difficult times in each of their lives. This last piece is one of the most important, that as we go through this difficult time we do so together.

Some time ago, I had a chorister tell me that even years after being in choir, she still sings one of her favorite songs and remembers every word. Similarly, a pair of siblings told me of how they used a song of joy and assurance they learned in choir, to be of comfort to themselves and their family during a difficult time of loss. This last testimony struck me with how powerful a seemingly simple song can be. How at its foundation, music is this transcendent language that we use to speak from our heart to another's, from our soul back to God, and God speaks to us in return. And for many of us, this happens during an old hymn or song we've known since childhood or the beginning of our faith journey.

I believe this is part of what makes the youth choirs here at the Kirk so important. We have the responsibility and privilege to introduce our young people to music of the church, not just because it's beautiful and we love to sing, but also because this is part of building a foundation of faith, that we can stand on throughout life's challenges. Just as youth in Confirmation are learning about faith and what it means to follow Christ, the choirs are also learning about what it means to be reformed church and how our faith is rooted in Christ's love for us, as they are preparing to present "Reform(ed)(ing): A Reformation Celebration" for Reformation Sunday on October 31st.

The three pillars for the youth choir program have been faith, music, and community. We pray that our kids can deepen their knowledge and understanding of their faith in the music that they sing; that our kids learn about the fundamentals of music, and gain an appreciation and love for the music of the church; and that our kids find community in choir, with which they can share joys and sorrows, successes and failures, and lift one another up in Christian love. Music has the power to bring us closer to Christ, and I'm so grateful to God for that.

Nicole Joseph



THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

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

"Well done, good and trustworthy slave..." — Matthew 25:23

GATHERING

THE CARILLON

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Apparition de l'Église Éternelle

Olivier Messiaen

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

* INTROIT

Day by Day

Harold Friedell

Day by day, dear Lord, of thee three things I pray.
to see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly,
Follow thee more nearly, day by day.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

In the beginning, before time, before people, before the world began,
God was.

Here and now, among us, beside us,
clearer than air, closer than breathing,

God is.

In all that is to come,
when we have turned to dust
and human knowledge has been completed,

God will be.

Not despairing of earth, but delighting in it,
not condemning the world, but redeeming it
through Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit,

God was, God is, God will be.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 366

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Hyfrydol

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal Maker of the endless heavens,
lowly Christ, befriender of the changing earth,
Holy Spirit, wind over the flowing waters,
in earth, sea, and sky you are ever-present.

**O Hidden Mystery, sun behind all suns,
soul within all souls,**

in everything we touch,

in everyone we meet, you are there, and we give you thanks.

Were we have not touched but trampled you in creation,
where we have not honored but avoided you in one another,
where we have not received but rejected

your goodness and your calls for justice,
forgive us and hear our plea for your pardon.

Help us the treasure your costly generosity,
delight in your people, and safeguard your creation.

To you be all honor and glory, forever and ever. 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

Friends, believe the good news:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

* 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

Anniversary and Annual Giving Campaign

ANTHEM (9:00 a.m.)

Everywhere I Go

Natalie Sleeth

Everywhere I go, the Lord is near me,
If I call upon Him, He will hear me,
Never will I fear, for the Lord is near everywhere I go.
In the dark of night should things alarm me,
Ever in His sight, no ill may harm me,
I will be of cheer for the Lord is near, everywhere I go.

He is with me day by day,
He will be my strength and stay;
From His path I will not stray but follow in His way.
In the coming days of joy or sadness
I will praise His name with songs of gladness,
For to me it's clear that the Lord is near everywhere I go.

Everywhere God is there,
Tending all with loving care,
He is near me everywhere I go.
Dark of night, morning light,
I am ever in His sight;
He will keep me safe from harm I know.

Day by day my strength and stay,
I will follow in His way.
All my days I will raise
To His name glad songs of praise,
For the Lord is everywhere I go.
For the Lord is everywhere I go.

The Junior Girls' Choir

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.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Ava Mary Gammons, Mia Amber Mayo, Meredith Noelle Mills, Eric Thomas Riendl

CHORAL ORISON

Liebster Jesu

Dearest Jesus, we are here,
gladly Your command obeying.
With this child we now draw near
in response to Your own saying
that to You it shall be given
as a child and heir of heaven.

PRESENTATION

* THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

THE BAPTISM

WELCOME OF THE NEWLY BAPTIZED

**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

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 442

Just as I Am, Without One Plea

Woodworth

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

There's A Wideness in God's Mercy

Maurice Bevan

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea.

There's a kindness in His justice, which is more than liberty.

There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up
in heaven.

There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly
judgment given.

For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind.

And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.

But we make his love too narrow, by false limits of our own,
And we magnify His strictness with a zeal he will not own.

There is plentiful redemption in the blood that has been shed;

There is joy for all the members in the sorrows of the Head.

There is grace enough for thousands of new worlds as great as this;

There is room for fresh creations in that upper home of bliss.

If our love were but more simple, we should take him at his word;

And our lives would be all gladness in the joy of Christ our Lord.

* 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.

WORD

CHORAL PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gauntlett

The light of truth to us display,

And make us know and choose thy way.

Plant faith and love in every heart,

That we from God may ne'er depart.

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 25:13-30

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

ANTHEM

He Looked Beyond My Fault and Saw My Need

Dottie Rambo

Amazing Grace shall always be my song of praise,
For it was grace that bought my liberty.
I do not know just how He came to love me so.
He looked beyond my fault and saw my need.

*I shall forever lift mine eyes to Calvary,
To view the cross where Jesus died for me.
How marvelous the grace that caught my falling soul.
He looked beyond my fault and saw my need.*

If not for grace, my soul would be a drifting ship,
With no safe harbor from the angry waves.
But Calvary's cross shines brightly through the darkest storm,
And just in time, His mercy rescues me!

I shall forever lift mine eyes to Calvary...

SERMON

The Failures

Dr. Nate Phillips

SENDING

* **HYMN 649**

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

Amazing Grace

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Tu Es Petrus

Jeanne Demessieux

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 Lisa Marquardt by her mother, Diana Marquardt and Jerry Craig.

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

Matthew 25 : 23 © 2021 Timothy R. Botts | Eyekons

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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