

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



CELEBRATING THE KIRK'S 74TH ANNIVERSARY
COMMITMENT SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 21, 2021



*You cannot do a kindness too soon,
for you never know how soon it will be too late.*

— Ralph Waldo Emerson



Happy Anniversary!

How do you celebrate a wedding anniversary? With a nice dinner out? Perhaps a bouquet of flowers or a small gift? On major anniversaries people are known to take big trips.

Today we celebrate the Kirk's 74th anniversary and its 74th birthday with a special day of worship. During Pastor Nate's time with us, The "Kirkin' o' the Tartan" has become an annual tradition that I hope we keep. It is said that the great New York Avenue Presbyterian pastor Peter Marshall gave a sermon entitled "the Kirkin' o' the Tartans" to help raise funds for British war relief during WWII. The legend was born as a result and these services happen annually in churches across the nation as it's a US phenomenon, not a Scottish one.

I absolutely love these kinds of nuggets from church history as many of you know, and I also love hearing the stories from so many of you about this place's history. You have shared personal anecdotes, past sermons, true pillars of this place over its first 74 years, how the chandeliers came to be "rusty" in the Refectory and on it goes. Thanks to all of you who have regaled me with those stories. I hope that we continue to share them with one another as a way to celebrate our anniversary.

We have been blessed with so much with our building, campus, our pastors, and our programs. Let us celebrate, too, the way that God has brought us together as a special group of friends. A good friend of mine told me that we are writing the next page in our history right now. He is absolutely right. Someday someone will tell stories about us - let's make them joy-filled and faithful ones!

Bob Beck

Architectural Drawings - historical files



9/23/1951 Laying of the Cornerstone - historical files

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

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

Come, for everything is ready now! —Luke 14:17

GATHERING

THE CARILLON

VOLUNTARY (9:00 a.m.)

Witness

spiritual, arr. Mark Patterson

Who'll be a witness for my Lord?
Now Daniel was a Hebrew child,
he went to pray to his God awhile.
The king at once for Daniel did send,
he put him right down in the lions' den.
God sent angels, the lions to keep,
so Daniel laid down and went to sleep.
Daniel was a witness for my Lord.

There was a man of the Pharisees,
his name was Nicodemus and he didn't believe.
Christ told Nicodemus as a friend,
"Man, you must be born again.
Marvel not, man, if you want to be wise,
repent, believe, and be baptized."
Who'll be a witness for my Lord?
I'll be a witness for my Lord.

Combined Children's and Youth Choirs

VOLUNTARY (10:30 a.m.)

Be Thou My Vision

Charles Callahan

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

* **CALL TO WORSHIP**

from Lamentations 3:21-26

Let us call to mind the reason for our hope:
Because of the Lord's great love, we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.
They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion;
therefore, I will wait for him."

**The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him,
to the one who seeks him;
it is good to wait quietly
for the salvation of the Lord.**

Come, let us worship God –
praising God and thanking God with our voices united in song!

* **PROCESSIONAL HYMN 39**

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Faithfulness

* **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

from God of Our Life (Hugh Thomson Kerr)

God of our life, through all the circling years, we trust in thee.
In all the past, through all our hopes and fears, thy hand we see.

**With each new day, when morning lifts the veil,
we own thy mercies, Lord, which never fail.**

God of the past, our times are in thy hand. With us abide.
Lead us by faith to hope's true promised land. Be thou our guide.
**With thee to bless, the darkness shines as light,
and faith's fair vision changes into sight.**

God of the coming years, through paths unknown we follow thee.
When we are strong, Lord, leave us not alone. Our refuge be.
**Be thou for us in life our daily bread,
our heart's true home when all our years have sped. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now we pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray...

**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.**

*** GLORIA PATRI**

In gratitude to the faithful God of our life, we now give thanks with joy!
**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, *Greatorex*
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.**

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PASTORAL CONCERNS

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (9:00 a.m.)

Eli EdwinEstevez

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

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.**

ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS (10:30 a.m.)

Al Bean, Judy Bean, Kevin Kijewski, Mike Sorge

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.**

THANKSGIVING

ANTHEM

Be Thou My Vision

arr. Alice Parker

The ushers will distribute pledge cards during the anthem.

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee, and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my great Father, I thy true son,
thou in me dwelling and I with thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise;
thou mine inheritance, now and always.
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Combined Children's Choirs (9:00 a.m.)

Chancel Choir (10:30 a.m.)

DISMISSAL OF CHILDREN TO SUNDAY SCHOOL (9:00 a.m.)

PRESENTATION OF PLEDGES AND OFFERINGS

Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow has been the theme for our combined 75th Anniversary Campaign and our Annual Giving Campaign for 2022. Please fill out the card distributed by the ushers (including duplication) and bring the card and any other offering forward and deposit in the basket. Ushers will indicate when it is time for you to go forward in the same fashion as communion. Your generosity will support Kirk programs for next year (Strength for today) and the four fields identified in the Anniversary Campaign (Bright hope for tomorrow).

ANTHEM

Awake, My Heart

Jane Marshall

Awake, my heart, and render to God thy sure defender,
thy maker, thy preserver, a song of love and fervor.

Confirm my deeds and guide me: my day with thee beside me,
beginning, middle, ending, will all be upward tending.

My heart shall be thy dwelling, with joy and gladness swelling;
thy word my nurture, given to bring me on toward heaven.

You may remain seated to sing as you continue to bring forward your pledge cards.

* 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 OF DEDICATION

KIRKIN' O' THE TARTAN**KNOCK AT THE DOOR****PROCESSION OF THE TARTANS AND PIPER**

Tartans were originally associated with various regions and locales, though over time came to be used to identify individual families or institutions. Some of these tartans were in our first procession. In 1997 the Kirk commissioned a tartan as part of its 50th anniversary celebration, and today this tartan is being worn as our clergy's stoles. The colors in this tartan, as in all tartans, are symbolic: blue for the Presbyterian denomination and the Shield of Melrose, purple for the thistle (the national flower of Scotland), scarlet for theology, yellow for hope, and royal blue for the Church of Scotland.

BLESSING OF THE TARTANS

We thank you, God, for your Word which has ordained a rich heritage of faith and sacrifice from our ancestors: from Adam to Noah, from Noah to Abraham, from Abraham to David, so onward to the incarnation of Jesus Christ, to the establishment of his Church: our brothers and sisters in Christ everywhere. Never let us forget that a heritage of faith is a joy to be shared.

Bless us that we may be a blessing, O Lord.

Thank you, O God, for the blessing of family; the warmth, comfort, and security of family love. Never let us forget that our family love is a gift to be shared, that the stranger may be as welcome as the sister or brother.

Bless us that we may be a blessing, O Lord.

We praise you, O God, for those who have lived and died in Christ that we might have the freedom to dwell in a community of faith. Never let us forget that the days of sacrifice are not yet over, that we, too, have lives to live in faith.

Bless us that we may be a blessing, O Lord.

We are mindful, O Lord, of the blessing you call us to be, to the sick, hurting, lonely, and depressed. Hear us now as we pray for all those in need in our community, our country, and the world. Never let us forget our calling to serve You in charity in all avenues of our daily life.

Bless us that we may be a blessing, O Lord.

On behalf of all clans, families, and nations, we present these tartans before You, Almighty God, in gratitude for our heritage, and we pray God's blessing on His beloved children in all lands. Bless, we pray, these tartans, that they may be to us and to all people a token of the faith of our ancestors, and a sign of our service to You. Never let us forget that we stand on the foundation of their faith as we bear witness in the world to Your redeeming love.

Bless us that we may be a blessing, O Lord.

O Lord, You have promised that in all places where You record Your Holy Name, You will meet with Your servants and bless them. Fulfill now Your promise, and make us joyful in our prayers, so that our worship, being offered in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, and by the guidance of Your Holy Spirit, may be acceptable to You.

We proclaim that we are all united in the covenant of Jesus Christ, for there is but one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all.

WORD

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**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.**

This response is Hymn 459.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 14:15-24

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

SERMON

Too Late

Dr. Nate Phillips

SENDING

* **HYMN 649** (*Stanzas 1-4*)

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

Amazing Grace

Please remain standing

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

* **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

Please sing enthusiastically with the choirs:

**When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.**

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Copyright information

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

Witness African American spiritual, arr. Mark Patterson. © 2008 Choristers Guild.

Be Thou My Vision Charles Callahan. © 1990 Concordia Publishing House.

Great Is Thy Faithfulness Text by Thomas O. Chisholm. Music by William Marion Runyan. © 1923, ren. 1951 Hope Publishing Company.

God of Our Life Text by Hugh Thomson Kerr. © 1928 F. M. Braselman, ren. 1956 Presbyterian Board of Christian Education (Admin. Westminster John Knox Press).

Be Thou My Vision arr. Alice Parker. © 1976 Hinshaw Music Inc.

Awake, My Heart Jane M. Marshall. © 1958 The H. W. Gray Co., Inc.

Spirit Text and Music by James K. Manley. © 1978 James K. Manley

About today's music and worship

Today's worship invites us to look for ways we are responding as individuals, as the congregation of Kirk in the Hills, and as the church universal to God's call to God's love and grace. For each element of worship, consider how you individually are being called by God and how you are responding.

The Treble Boys' Choir sings Mark Patterson's arrangement of the African American spiritual *Witness*, which gives us several examples of Biblical figures who have been a witness to God's love and grace, and they enthusiastically answer a question with "I'll be a witness for my Lord."

Our Call to Worship and processional hymn, *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*, are taken from Lamentations, the book in the Old Testament that is a composition of songs of sorrow or laments about the sad state of Jerusalem. We have used the phrase from the hymn during this capital campaign: "strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow." Perhaps this phrase is a reminder of one of the ways we can respond to God's love and grace during our most challenging times as individuals, as a congregation, and as a nation. We then respond in the same vein with our spoken prayer of the day based on the hymn *God of Our Life*. This text was written by Hugh Thomson Kerr in 1916 for the 50th anniversary of Shadyside Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and is an engaging opportunity for us to respond to the Lamentations text of the Call to Worship and celebrate the Kirk's 74th anniversary. We continue in prayer with the Lord's Prayer and then respond with thanks and gratitude to the faithful God of our lives with the traditional *Gloria Patri*.

Our responses to God's love and grace continue with the 9:00 a.m. baptism of Eli Estevez and new members joining at the 10:30 a.m. service.

Our worship transitions to another way we can respond to God's love and grace: our presenting our pledges and offerings. Following up on the passages of life presented earlier in the spoken text *God of Our Life*, we pray to God with *Be Thou My Vision*, ending with our acclamation "High King of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!" The Chancel Choir anthem's second stanza reads "Confirm my deeds and guide me: my day with thee beside me, beginning, middle, ending, will all be upward tending." As we call on the Holy Spirit, we look at the history of the world, beginning with creation in Stanza 1, singing of Christ's birth in Stanza 3, and looking toward the future in Stanza 4: "With bold new decisions your people arise." What bold decision might you make this week?

We transition into the Kirking of the Tartans, or Church-ing of the Tartans. Read more below about how the Kirkin' represents a way of responding to God's love and grace.

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound resonates with many people as they consider how they, too, might respond to God's love and grace. Many Christians feel like they cannot totally express and experience God's grace without a reminder of the sins of life; only by acknowledging their personal sin and our corporate sin (sin shared by humankind) can they fully experience God's saving grace. "Although modern readers and singers are more likely to look at this hymn for points of connection with Newton's own eventful history as a former sailor and slave trader turned Anglican priest and abolitionist, the author himself probably thought of what he had written as an outline of the typical spiritual journey from utter despair (1.2, 'a wretch like me') to confident faith (3.4, 'grace will lead me home'). That assumption of speaking to a general human condition accounts, at least partially, for the widespread use

of this hymn, as witnessed by the multiple translations printed here [in *Glory to God*]." *from Glory to God: A Companion*.

The Legend of the History of the Kirkin' of the Tartan

"In 1746, after the Battle of Culloden, The English Parliament banned all things Scottish: wearing tartan plaid, speaking Gaelic, and Scottish music, pipes, and dancing. Crimes were punishable by death or exile.

Legend has it that the Highlanders came up with a plan to hide a piece of tartan in their clothing during church. During the service, at a set time, they would hold the tartan and bless it. When the Scots were forced to fight for the British Army, legend has it that the women would take a piece of their tartan to their church, or kirk, to be blessed and pray for the protection of the clan. And thus, the Kirkin' O' the Tartan celebration was created." *from Palm Ceia Presbyterian Church, Tampa, Florida*.

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.



Coffee Hour - Join us for fellowship in Heritage Hall from 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. See an usher for direction or further details.

The flowers on the altar are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of their mothers, Janet Emerson and Louise Morian by Todd, Rosemary, Caitlin Emerson.

Poinsettias will be used to adorn the Kirk during the Christmas season. If you would like to donate flowers to this display, send a check made payable to Kirk in the Hills for \$25 along with your name and the person(s) you are memorializing. Send requests to Kirk in the Hills, Attn: Marsha Rogers, 1340 W. Long Lake Rd., Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302. Deadline is Nov. 30. Sign-up can also be done online.



WORSHIP NOTES

WORSHIP NOTES



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