

KIRK IN THE HILLS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 5, 2021



*Little pig, little pig, let me come in.
No, not by the hairs on my chinny chin chin.*
— English Fairy Tale



A few Sundays ago at Coffee Hour, I met a young family that's been coming to our church for little over a month. I was delighted to meet this beautiful family and asked how they started coming to the Kirk. The mom told me that they had never gone to church before, but when they moved to the area, she and her husband really wanted their three little children to be brought up in faith. They somehow found our magnificent church and started coming to our Sunday services and Sunday school. And she said, "The last six weeks have been transformative for us. It has totally changed our lives." Wow. It was everything for me to hear those words!

For me, the season of Advent has always been that time of transformation. I can look back on my life and see how a certain Advent Bible study or gathering had formed and shaped my faith. The memories of going to church as a family and participating in Christmas pageants as a little girl sit prominently in my heart as some of the most powerful transformative moments of faith. The nativity scene always evokes a sense of awe and gratitude at God's insistence that Jesus—the King of Kings—be born in a manger amongst the lowliest of humans and animals.

I hope you get to experience the transformative power and joy of being church together this Advent season as we eagerly await the birth of Baby Jesus. There are so many opportunities for you to do so, and this Sunday afternoon is a perfect example of that. We have the Festival of Carols and Lights where we will sing carols and worship together at 3 p.m. in the sanctuary. After that, there will be many festivities taking place in Heritage Hall, ending with the lighting of Christmas trees outside at 5 where you can place your angel tree gifts. These delightful moments that you spend exploring and learning about the true meaning of Christmas with your family are the moments that will form and shape our faith as well as the faith of our children. The continued exposure and interaction with sounds, lights, prayers, stories, songs, laughter, tears, warmth and faithfulness of God's people shape and form our faith and especially the faith of our little ones.

Do you want transformation in your life and in the life of your family? I hope you'll join us as we live out our identity as a beloved family of God and find out for yourselves how powerfully transformative that can be. Especially during this beautiful season of Advent, may you take every opportunity to encounter Christ who longs to be born in you, your family and in our world today and discover the wonder of transformation that comes through such encounters. Amen.



THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

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

She entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. — Luke 1:40

GATHERING

THE CARILLON

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Albert Travis

CANDLE LIGHTING LITANY

from Awake, Transform, Reveal, Be Born Anew

Michael Burkhardt

The Litkouhi family, 9:00 a.m. ~ The Heritage family, 10:30 a.m.

At every beginning there is a yearning.

O Emmanuel, wake us up to your coming.

Transform our hearts and comfort us with your peace.

O Emmanuel, wake us up to your coming.

Soloist:

Christ the Lord is coming to this weary land!

Rise, repent, proclaim the Kingdom is at hand!

Please join the choir singing the refrain:

All:

"No - ël" sing with glad - ness, "No - ël" sing with cheer, put a -
way all fear and sad - ness, Christ the Son of God is near!

"No - ël" sing with glad - ness, "No - ël" sing with cheer, put a -
way all fear and sad - ness, Christ the Son of God is near!

Let us pray.

We welcome your presence now with the lighting of these candles whose flames brings warmth to winter and fill this place with the glow of hope and peace. **Amen.**

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

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 347

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Picardy

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

from Isaiah 64:5b-7

Prepare the way of the Lord!
Let us make our confession to God.

**God-with-us,
even in Advent,
we confess you can seem far away.
You are hidden when we need you near.
In our hurt, doubt, and fear,
we do not try to draw closer to you;
instead, we lash out –
against you, our neighbor, even those we love.
Forgive us, we pray, and come to save us!
Let your face shine until our tears are dried,
our sins are faded, and our hope is restored.
After all, we belong to you,
and in your hands, we can be made new.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

* KYRIE ELEISON

Please sing Hymn 551 with the choir:

**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 Corinthians 1:4, 8, 9

The grace of God, given to us in Christ Jesus,
strengthens us to the end
so that we may be blameless when Christ comes again.
**Thanks be to God, who is faithful
and has called us into the fellowship of the Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord!**

* GLORIA

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORD WITH CHILDREN AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (9:00 a.m.)

**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.**

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

WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:26-45 (*selected verses*) incorporating:

To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary

To a maid whose name was Mary, the angel Gabriel came.
"Fear not," the angel told her, "I come to bring good news;
good news I come to tell you, good news, I say, good news."

"For you are highly favored by God the Lord of all,
who even now is with you. You are on earth most blest;
you are most blest, most blessed; God chose you, you are blest!"

But Mary was most troubled to hear the angel's word.
What was the angel saying? It troubled her to hear,
to hear the angel's message, it troubled her to hear.

"Fear not, for God is with you, and you shall bear a child.
His name shall be called Jesus, God's offspring from on high.
And he shall reign forever, forever reign on high."

"How shall this be?" said Mary, "I am not yet a wife."
The angel answered quickly, "The power of the Most High
will come upon you shortly, your child shall be God's child."

As Mary heard the angel, she wondered at his words.
"Behold, I am your handmaid," she said unto her God.
"So be it; I am ready according to your word."

This sung scripture is Hymn 98.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Hometowns: The House in Nazareth

Rev. Dr. Nate Phillips

THANKSGIVING

HYMN 92

While We Are Waiting, Come

Waiting

Please remain seated as the soloist sings Stanza 1.

Please rise in body or spirit to sing Stanzas 2-3.

PRESENTATION OF PLEDGES 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

OFFERTORY

O Come, Emmanuel

arr. Alice Parker

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine Advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

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.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

SANCTUS

Please sing Hymn 552 with the choir:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. hosanna in the highest.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (10:30 a.m.)

**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

Please sing Hymn 555 with the choir:

**O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world;
have mercy on us, Lamb of God, and grant us your 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

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Anne Krentz, Organ

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Gabriel's Message

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail," said he, "O lowly Mary,"

Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

"For know a blessed mother you shall be,
all generations praise continually,
your Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold."

Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
"To me be as it pleases God," she said.
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name."

Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn.
And Christian folk through the world will ever say:

Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

Michael Burkhardt

Please join the choir singing the refrain when indicated.

Come, O long-expected Jesus, born to set your people free;
from our fears and sins release us; grant us peace and liberty.

Refrain

Born your people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king:
born to reign in us forever, now your gracious kingdom bring.

Refrain

Refrain

A - wake our hearts to re - ceive you, trans -
form our hearts by your grace, through our lives re -
veal your mer - cy, in this and ev - 'ry place.

Wait for the Lord

Wait for the Lord

Please sing Hymn 90 with the choir several times:

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious and abundant God,
even as we wait for the fulfillment of your creation,
you meet us in Christ at this table, in this meal.

**We thank you for feeding us with the bread of life
and quenching our thirst with the cup of salvation.**

**Now send us out into the world by the power of your Holy Spirit
to share your life and salvation with all whom we meet. Amen.**

SENDING

* HYMN 93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Truro

During the extended introduction, please stand with the choir.

Stanza 1 - unison - full sound

Stanza 2 - harmony - full sound

Stanza 3 - unison - sung reflectively and more softly

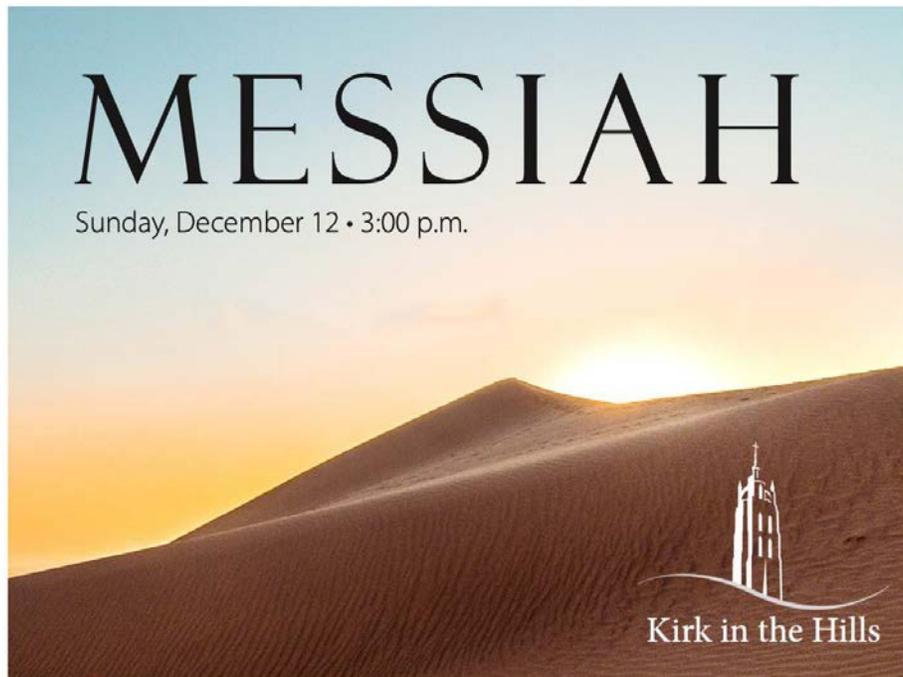
* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Musicians providing worship leadership this morning include the Youth Ensemble, Chancel Choir, Nicole Joseph, Sara Ball, Regis Haynes, Kurt Frank, and Merideth Estevez.



Kirk in the Hills will present the Christmas portion of Messiah with orchestra members from Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings, the Kirk Chancel Choir and soloists, and directed by our Interim Chancel Choir Director and Organist, Tom Granum.

This will be an afternoon of beautiful music with congregational hymns and other anthems. Come enjoy the familiar sounds of your favorite holiday tradition, or if you've never experienced Messiah before, come join us and fall in love with this timeless work that tells of the coming of our Savior!

This event is offered free of charge. No registration required.

Sunday, December 12 • 3:00 p.m.
1340 W. Long Lake Rd. Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302

Masks are mandatory for all in attendance.

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O Come, Emmanuel Alice Parker © 1972, 1973 Carl Fisher, Inc.

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came Sabine Baring-Gould and arr. By Edgar Pettman & John Wickham © 1955 (renewed 1983) by E. H. Freeman Ltd. Admin. Glenwood Music Corp.

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Notes on worship and music

“The season of Advent, a season of waiting, is designed to cultivate our awareness of God’s actions – past, present, and future. In Advent we hear the prophecies of the Messiah’s coming as addressed to us – people who wait for the second coming. . . . A deliberate tension must be built into our practice of the Advent seasons. Christ has come, and yet not all things have reached completion. While we remember Israel’s waiting and hoping and we give thanks for Christ’s birth, we also anticipate his second coming at the end of time.” from *The Worship Sourcebook*

For our four Sundays of Advent we are using similar liturgy with subtle differences each week. Do you see the differences? Last week’s candle lighting emphasized *awaken* and this week we focus on *transform*. You might imagine the ways these texts (liturgy and music) are highlighting transforming darkness into light.

Perhaps you see the darkness in “the weary land,” “you (God) are hidden,” “fear not” (implying there is a reason to be afraid), “longing,” “yearning,” “captive,” “lonely exile,” “gloomy clouds,” “fear and sadness,” and “fears and sins.” But this darkness is setting the stage for the coming Messiah, the one who will save us: “Rise, repent, rejoice,” “transform,” “peace,” “gladness,” “cheer,” “warmth,” “glow,” “hope,” and “free.”

In addition to the dichotomy of the darkness and light, perhaps you feel a sense of movement – the continuum found in these sung texts as you are moving even today from darkness into light, from captivity to freedom.

Dr. Phillips continues with the *Hometowns* Advent series. Last Sunday we were at the hometown of Jerusalem in the Temple. Today we explore *Hometowns: The House in Nazareth*. We hear the scripture, sometimes referred to as the Annunciation, set to music using Hymn 98, *To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary*, before the sermon. We have it bookended with a similar hymn, *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*, as we celebrate communion.

Our closing hymn, *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*, triumphantly calls on the gates to open as we behold the King of glory. Note how the final stanza turns more inward and reflective as we sing pray that our hearts might also be open revealing grace and love in each of us.

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.

About today's cover art

The Annunciation by Henry Ossawa Tanner (1859-1937) | public domain

Tanner was the son of a minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. He specialized in religious subjects, and wanted to experience the people, culture, architecture, and light of the Holy Land. After a visit to the Holy Land, he created an unconventional image of the moment when the angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she will bear the Son of God.



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



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