

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



BAPTISM OF THE LORD SUNDAY/EPIPHANY
JANUARY 9, 2022



*But the sower going forth to sow sets foot into time to come,
the seeds failing on his own place. He has prepared a way for his life to come to him,
if it will. Like a tree, he has given roots to the earth, and stands free.*

— Wendell Berry



It was the weekend of February 5th, 2017 that the Phillips family was introduced to the Kirk, and Pastor Nate “preached for the Call.” In a sanctuary filled with joy and thanksgiving, we voted to call Nate as the Kirk’s 5th Senior Pastor, recognizing God’s continuing blessing upon this congregation.

Over these almost 5 years, the Kirk has experienced Pastor Nate’s contagious love for Jesus, through his preaching, his approach to mission and in his joyful enthusiasm for the work of Christ’s church. The team of pastors he created has worked together to ignite our understanding of formation and mission. Small groups are now

truly a part of our fabric, along with adult classes and youth opportunities. The 2K Challenge has grown into a multi-church November Service Challenge that spills over into year-round involvement.

Our life together has been enriched as the 8:00 a.m. Sunday Communion Service, Homecoming Sunday (formerly Kirk fest) and Devotions for Lent and Advent were all reintroduced. The Kirkin’-O- the Tartan has become a beloved Anniversary Sunday tradition. And we have learned that “life together” is wider than our walls: developing Kirk West at Fox Run, participating in the local council of churches, and collaborating with our Pontiac neighbors. Life together includes the addition of live-streaming worship, and the Kirk FAM membership opportunity.

Pastor Nate’s creative and tireless leadership through the Pandemic is one of the many things that will linger in our hearts. He really was building the plane while flying it. Creating the Covid Response Team and asking the staff to be flexible, creative and willing, Pastor Nate kept us worshipping together and experiencing community, even as we were isolated. Remember how the prerecorded services came together seamlessly? Didn’t you love the Pastors leading worship from their homes and the choir singing from their homes, the Children’s choir, the Zoom Communion services, and Zoom small groups & committee meetings? And how wonderful to be able to gather for Dennis Curry’s drive-in carillon concerts! Even those without internet were included with the addition of the 11:00 a.m. radio broadcast on Sunday mornings. And when it was possible to really gather again, the Garden Service was a wonderful option – even bundled up & under the new heaters! Reservations in the Sanctuary took a while to figure out, but we did and were able to worship in person **and** maintain social distance. Nate asked us to respond to the needs around us, and we did. Some have said that Nate was called to be at the Kirk “for a time such as this.” His leadership during COVID has truly been a gift.

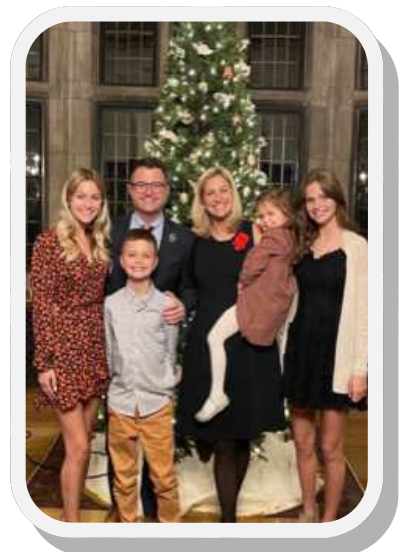
There is no better ending to a chapter than that which draws you into what happens next ... and that is what Nate has given us with the 75th Anniversary Campaign. He challenged us to dream big, and we did. He challenged us to be generous, and we have – pledging 4.1 million, which is well beyond what we have managed in the past. The work to make this vision a reality is now beginning, and that is another incredible gift that Nate leaves with us.

Today as we conclude our official relationship with Pastor Nate, we sincerely thank you, Ari and Nate, for your time with us: we could not have asked for a more enriching and fulfilling time together. Be assured that our love and prayers go with you and with Grace, Lily, Max and Lucy as you live into the Call that God has for you in this next chapter. On this day, let us again recognize and give thanks for God’s continuing blessing upon the Phillips family and upon this congregation.

Stay Warm!

Nate’s Pastor Nominating Committee:

Bob Beck, Jayne Dodge, Nancy Lau,
Barbara Littleton, Rick Llope, Ford Meiser,
Ryan Webb, and Wendy Myers



THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

*It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground,
is the smallest of all the seeds on earth. —Mark 4:31*

THE GATHERING

THE CARILLON

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Carillon of Westminster

Louis Vierne

* GATHERING SONG

Kum ba Yah (Hymn 472)

Kum ba Yah

First stanza sung by Children's and Youth Choirs

Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah!

Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah!

Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah!

O Lord, kum ba yah!

Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah!

Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah!

Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah!

O Lord, kum ba yah!

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

* CALL TO WORSHIP

The world belongs to God,

The earth and all its people.

How good and how lovely it is to live together in unity.

Let us worship God together.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 301

Let Us Build a House

Two Oaks

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Source of hope, whose word began and sustains all life, we confess that there have been times when we have not lived as those who have heard the voice of God.

Shaper of hope, in whose living and loving God's intention was realized, we confess that there have been times we have not lived as those who know the love of God.

Inspirer of hope, whose challenge and call are insistent and strong, we confess that there have been times when we have not lived as those who have felt the touch of God.

Triune God, we offer ourselves afresh to you: Inspire, enlarge and energize us that now, and always, our lives may serve as a sign of Yours.

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear now the words of Jesus for all who are truly sorry and seek to renew their lives: Your sins are forgiven. Go in peace.

Lead us now, O God, to acknowledge your costly generosity by living as forgiven people, until heaven and earth rejoice and the whole earth cries "Glory!" Amen.

* KYRIE ELEISON

This response is Hymn 551.

Land of Rest

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy upon us.

* GLORIA PATRI

Glory to God (Vasile)

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE WORD

WORD WITH THE CHILDREN

Children will remain in the sanctuary today.

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

Mark 4:26-34

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

SERMON

The Seed

Rev. Dr. Nathaniel D. Phillips

THE THANKSGIVING

* HYMN 36

For the Fruit of All Creation

Ar Hyd Y Nos

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

This Little Light of Mine

John W. Work

This little light of mine, I'm gonna to let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine...

All through the night, I'm gonna let it shine...

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

Holy, Holy, Holy. Lord God of hosts

Healy Willan

Heaven and earth are full of thy glory:

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High. Amen.

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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

AGNUS DEI

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, *Healy Willan*

Have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

Have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

Grant us thy 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

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.

Let Us Break Bread Together

arr. David Hurd

Let us break bread together on our knees;
Let us break bread together on our knees;
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees...

Let us praise God together on our knees...

Trio Sonata

George Friedrich Telemann

We Gather Here in Jesus' Name (Hymn 510) *Come, Share the Lord*

*The soloist will sing the first stanza,
please join the choir on stanzas two and three.*

Soloist: We gather here in Jesus' name...

**All: He joins us here; he breaks the bread;
The Lord who pours the cup is risen from the dead;
The one we love the most is now our gracious host:
Come, take the bread; come, drink the wine; come, share the Lord.**

**We are now a family, of which the Lord is head.
Though unseen, he meets us here in the breaking of the bread.**

**We'll gather soon where angels sing;
We'll see the glory of our Lord and coming King;
Now we anticipate the feast for which we wait:
Come, take the bread; come, drink the wine; come, share the Lord.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**In your body broken and in your blood shed for all of us, Lord,
we have tasted and seen that you are good. In this meal, we have
experienced again your deep love for your world. May the sweet
taste of this meal strengthen us for living for you and remind us
that we are called to live according to your will and to love as you
love. Help us to yearn for your coming again, we pray in Jesus'
name. Amen.**

THE SENDING

*** RECESSIONAL HYMN 475**

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Nettleton

*** CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

*** CHORAL ORISON**

A CLARE BENEDICTION

John Rutter

May the Lord show his mercy upon you;
May the light of his presence be your guide;
May he guard you and uphold you;
May his spirit be ever by your side.
When you sleep may his angels watch over you;
When you wake may he fill you with his grace;
May you love him and serve him all your days,
Then in heaven may you see his face.

The annual congregational meeting will take place immediately following worship.

This meeting is called to elect the class of 2024 officers for the Session, the Deacons and the Board of Trustees; to approve updated church Bylaws; to approve the Pastor's Terms of Call; and to dissolve the pastoral relationship with the Rev. Dr. Nathaniel D. Phillips.

Join us for a reception in Heritage Hall honoring Pastor Nate and Ari immediately following the meeting!

Participating in today's worship: members of Junior and Senior Boys' and Girls' Choirs, Rebecca Eaddy, soloist, Amy Tully, flute, Merideth Hite Estevez, oboe. Many thanks to Tom Granum for his faithful and vibrant ministry among us during this interim period – we are so grateful!

Copyright information

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

Liturgy from

This Little Light O' Mine arr. John W. Work © 1948 Galaxy Music Corporation.

The Eyes of All Wait Upon Thee Jean Berger © 1959 Augsburg Fortress.

Let Us Break Bread Together arr. David Hurd © 1986 GIA Publications.

A Clare Benediction John Rutter © 1998 Oxford University Press.

Worship/Music Notes

Today's worship is centered on growth and transition as we say goodbye and thank you to Senior Pastor Rev. Dr. Nate Phillips for his 5 years of joyful and heartfelt ministry and service. Our children lead us inviting God's presence in what has become a well-known camp song *Kum ba Yah* (Come by Here), and we find our community together as we sing *Let Us Build a House*, as truly "all are welcome here." To the familiar tune of All Through the Night, we sing *For the Fruit of All Creation* to offer thanks for the seed of faith that God has planted in each of us, and for God's promise (Mark 4:26-34) that what God has in store for us will grow beyond what we can imagine. In response to this promise, we hear *This Little Light of Mine*, a prayer of faith that we will "let our light so shine before men," (Matt. 5:16, also our November Service Challenge theme this year).

As we come to the communion table in worship today, we come with anticipation (*The Eyes of All Wait upon Thee*) and again, a sense of communing with Christ and each other (*Let Us Break Bread Together*). There is a moment of mediative reflection during the instrumental *Telemann Trio Sonata*, after which we join collectively to sing, *We Gather Here in Jesus' Name*, to confirm all that we have experienced in the meal together.

We are sent out with the reminder of our baptism, that in Christ we can be made new; that we can grow to all that God hopes for us, if we "bind our wandering hearts" to him. And in thanks for the many ways in which he has reminded us of this, and just how much God loves us, we send Pastor Nate and Ari off with a blessing, "may you love him and serve him all your days, then in heaven may you see his face."

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.



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

Spark of Divinity | Hannah Garrity | Used with permission, *A Sanctified Art*

Artist Hannah Garrity uses this paper lace creation to illustrate heavenly stars while the fig tree in the central circle represents the circle of life. Garrity states that "The stars in this image depict that divine spark we are born with—that hope, those stars that have fallen from heaven and lodged themselves in each of us. Let us not be found asleep in this moment, this moment. Let us live into our spark. Let us seek it in each person we meet."

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.



KIRK IN THE HILLS
1340 WEST LONG LAKE ROAD
BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MICHIGAN 48302
(248) 626-2515 • kirkinthehills.org