

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



SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY  
JANUARY 16, 2022



*"We may have all come on different ships, but we're in the same boat now."*

— Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



**Last Sunday, I sat through the annual congregational meeting while the congregation voted on the “dissolution” of pastoral relationship with Pastor Nate.** I reflected on that word, “dissolution.” I thought about how I disliked the term because it made it sound like he has disappeared from our midst. But then, another thought occurred to me that he hasn’t disappeared from us at all; he has simply “dissolved” into our congregation just like how salt dissolves into hot soup. When the salt dissolves into soup, it doesn’t just disappear; its properties change, and it adds flavor to your favorite soup. Likewise, as I thought about Pastor

Nate’s departure last Sunday, I was reminded of how he has been “dissolved” into our congregation. All of the seeds he had planted and traditions he had started will remain with us for many years to come in one form or another; his ministry practices and passions have “dissolved” into our congregation like salt into soup and seed into soil. And for that, I’m forever grateful.

In the last couple of months, many of you have shared your sadness for Pastor Nate’s departure as well as your confidence in our remaining pastoral team. Some of you have approached me and asked, “Are you now going to be the Senior Pastor of Kirk in the Hills? Will you be taking on Pastor Nate’s position?” While I appreciate your faith in me, that’s just not the way it works in our Presbyterian Church. In most presbyteries, including the Presbytery of Detroit, an Associate Pastor is not eligible to become the next installed Senior Pastor.

The Session, however, has asked me to take on the duties and responsibilities of the Senior Pastor with the exception of moderating Session and overseeing the support staff. (Currently, the presbytery has appointed a moderator for Session on a temporary basis, and our Interim Executive Director and Clerk of Session, Bob Beck, is supervising the support staff.) I will be retaining my title and role as the Senior Associate Pastor for Christian Formation while the Interim Pastor Nominating Committee (IPNC) works on the transitional plan. For me, taking on the duties of the Senior Pastor means working diligently and collaboratively with our staff to provide stability and momentum during this time of transition; I, along with Pastors Kelsey and Edwin, are committed to preaching and serving our congregation as the Spirit leads until an Interim Pastor comes. We are eager to start our new 6-week sermon series, “Where God Leads,” through which we will experience God’s abundant grace and powerful guidance as we continue our journey together as the church God has called us to be.

Just as Pastor Nate talked about in his last sermon, we’re a fertile patch of ground where seeds are planted and nurtured. We are a living and breathing Body of Christ with an incredible ability and potential to grow, adapt and transform. Let us faithfully continue to water the seeds and see how new life springs forth by the grace of God in the months and years to come. In the meanwhile, “Stay warm!”

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*Join us today at 10 in Upper Room or 11:30 in Heritage Hall (with lunch) for a class on Doctrine on Trinity with Pastor Marjorie!*

# THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

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

## THE GATHERING

### THE CARILLON

#### OPENING VOLUNTARY

**Prelude and Trumpetings**

*Myron Roberts*

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

#### \* INTROIT

*Iverson*

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me,  
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.  
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.  
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

#### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Sisters and brothers, rejoice.  
We live sustained by God's presence and love.  
**Thanks be to God.**  
As we mourn the wounds of God's children,  
**God weeps with us.**  
As we give thanks for brothers and sister who have lived in faith,  
**God gives thanks with us.**  
As we struggle for justice,  
**God struggles with us.**  
As we strive for peace,  
**God strives with us.**  
As we work to build the beloved community,  
**God works with us.**  
As we offer our gifts to all,  
**God blesses us.**  
Sisters and brothers, rejoice.  
**Sustained by God's presence and love, we worship God.**

#### \* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 409

**God Is Here!**

*Abbot's Leigh*

#### \* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*(Prayer by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.)*

O thou Eternal God, out of whose absolute power and infinite intelligence the whole universe has come into being.

**We humbly confess that we have not loved thee with our hearts, souls and minds and we have not loved our neighbors as Christ loved us.**

We have all too often lived by our own selfish impulses rather than by the life of sacrificial love as revealed by Christ. We often give in order to receive, we love our friends and hate our enemies, we go the first mile but dare not travel the second, we forgive but dare not forget.

**And so as we look within ourselves, we are confronted with the appalling fact that the history of our lives is the history of an**

eternal revolt against thee. But thou, O God, have mercy upon us.  
Forgive us for what we could have been but failed to be.

Give us the intelligence to know thy will.  
Give us the courage to do thy will.

Give us the devotion to love thy will.  
In the name and spirit of Jesus we pray. 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.**

\* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, hear the good news! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.  
By water and word, by the Spirit of God's redeeming grace, we are  
marked and sealed as God's beloved children. Thanks be to God!

\* 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.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORD WITH THE CHILDREN (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.*

PRAYER

ANTHEM

**Precious Lord**

*Thomas Dorsey, arr. Roy Ringwald*

Precious Lord, take my hand, Bring me home through the night,  
Through the dark, through the storm, To Thy light.  
I have been to the mount; I have seen the Promised Land:  
Precious Lord, precious Lord, take my hand.

Precious Lord, take my hand, Bring Thy child home at last,  
Where the strife and the pain all are past:  
I have dreamed a great dream That Thy love shall rule our land:  
Precious Lord, precious Lord, take my hand.

Precious Lord, take my hand, Take Thy child unto Thee,  
With my dream of a world that is free

For that day when all flesh  
Joins the glory Thou hast planned,  
Precious Lord, precious Lord, take my hand.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### THANKSGIVING

\* HYMN 691

**Lord, When I Came into This Life**

*Land of Rest*

### 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

**Offertory**

*John Ness Beck*

With what shall I come before the Lord,  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings,  
Shall I come before Him with yearling calves?  
Will the Lord be please with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousand rivers of oil?  
Shall I give Him my firstborn for my transgressions,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?  
He has shown you, O man;  
He has shown you what is good.  
And what does the Lord require of you  
but to do justice and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly before your God?  
*(Micah 6:6-8)*

\* 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.**

*Old Hundredth*

### THE 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

**Romans 1:16-17; 2:5-11; 3:9-12**

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

**SERMON**

**Hit the Reset Button: A Problem you Can't Solve**

The Rev. Dr. Flo Barbee-Watkins, Ed.D

**THE SENDING**

\* **RECESSIONAL HYMN 339**

**Lift Every Voice and Sing**

*Lift Every Voice*

*Choir sings stanza 1, congregation joins on stanzas 2 and 3.*

\* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

\* **CHORAL ORISON**

**Goodness is Stronger than Evil**

*John Bell*

Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate;  
Light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death.  
Victory is ours; victory is ours through God who loves us.

**CLOSING VOLUNTARY**

**Fanfare**

*Jean-Jacques Lemmens*

## Worship/Music Notes

Today's worship is focused on justice and mercy in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Our opening prayer (*Spirit of the Living God*) and hymn (*God Is Here!*) affirm our need for Christ to shape and mold us into people of faith and action.

As we pray, the choir sings *Precious Lord*, Dr. King's favorite hymn, with text adapted from Thomas Dorsey's original hymn that was born out of deep pain and loss. We then sing together the hymn *Lord, When I Came into This Life*, which bears the same hymn tune as our Kyrie this morning, looking for Christ to lead us in all of woes and doubts of life.

*Offertory* by John Ness Beck is the text from Micah 6:6-8, which is a reminder of what God wants most from us, that we love mercy, justice, and kindness. As we go out to love and serve the Lord, we sing together the hymn known as the Black National Anthem, *Lift Every Voice and Sing*. Written by brothers James Weldon Johnson and J. Rosamond Johnson, this song speaks to the journey of African-Americans – although the road has been watered with tears, we look to God for his strength, guidance and freedom in Christ. We close with *Goodness is Stronger than Evil*, a text written by the late Bishop Desmond Tutu, which "arose from the years of apartheid in South Africa" can be "read as a summary of Christ's Death and resurrection, the true basis of our hope that good will triumph over evil"

**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.

**The flowers on the altar** are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of Bill and Sally Singleton by their son, Dan Singleton and family.

## About todays cover art

*Romans 1:17* | Tim Botts | image usage permission granted by [eyekons.com](http://eyekons.com)

Historically, the tradition of calligraphy has been to celebrate the text by embellishing it. In addition to that worthy goal, I seek to portray the words so that the meaning is expressed visually - what I call word pictures." T. Botts.

**Join us for coffee and fellowship** in Heritage Hall after the 9:00 a.m. worship service!

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*Precious Lord* arr. Roy Ringwald © 1968 Shawnee Press, Inc.

*Offertory John Ness Beck* © 1987 Beckenhorst Press, Inc.

From left to right: Rev. Angela Ryo, Rev. Edwin Estevez, Rev. Kelsey Sorge



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**  
Jayne Zeller  
jzellers@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