

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



FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
FEBRUARY 6, 2022



*A divine promise doesn't just point forward to some far-off future,
which we have to wait for; the promised future is already present in the promise itself,
and mobilizes the people concerned through the hope it awakens.*

— J urgen Moltmann



Getting out of our comfort zones is a difficult thing to do, and yet it is often where God calls us: taking the first step in repairing a relationship, standing up for what we believe in, stepping into another's shoes in an unfamiliar place. We get a glimpse of this in Ruth and Naomi's story today when Ruth accompanies Naomi to an unfamiliar land for an unforeseeable amount of time. This story encourages me when it comes to us stepping out and entering uncomfortable situations when we serve in unfamiliar places.

Ruth does not travel alone, and neither do we.

This summer members of our church family will be traveling to Kentucky to assist with tornado disaster recovery, and some will also be spending a week serving with partner organizations in Pontiac. Mission trips are almost always incredible experiences of growth, relationship building, and encounters with the living God amongst people we meet and travel with, but the preparations and decisions that lead up to the trips can be met with anxiety. Where will I sleep? Who will I sit next to in the van? What about my work or friends I'm leaving at home? Will I be safe? Leaving our comfort zones is a difficult thing to do.

Yet, we do not travel alone.

Our fellow siblings in Christ take the journey with us, forming lifelong bonds along the way. Even more secure than that is God's continued presence. When we step out of our comfort zones, we are never truly alone.

I encourage you to consider this week what comforts hold you back. Maybe it is about a decision to attend an intergenerational mission trip, or maybe it is about serving in your community. Either way, be reminded that God calls us to participate in God's work *with* God and often with others. We never take the journey alone.

In light of taking journeys together, join us today for fellowship and good food at our Souperbowl Chili Cookoff! The cookoff will begin at 12:00 in Heritage Hall and we will all have the chance to vote for our favorite chili while youth perform during the halftime talent show. This shared meal is a fund raiser for the youth summer mission trips.

TODAY!!



THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

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

*Where you go, I will go;
where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people,
and your God my God — Ruth 1:16*

THE GATHERING

THE CARILLON

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Communion

Jean Langlais

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

* CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

This is the day that the LORD has made,

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Let us worship the Living God!

* INTROIT

Lead us, heavenly Father,

Dulce Carmen

Lead us o'er the world's tempestuous sea;

Guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,

For we have no help but thee,

Yet possessing every blessing,

If our God our Father be.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 35

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

Lobe den Herren

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God,

**We confess that we have taken Your commandments
and turned them into rules.**

**We have criticized those who have fallen short
and selfishly proclaimed ourselves righteous.**

**We have failed to understand the spirit of the commandments
and the Way that was shown by You to live,
loving God and loving our neighbors.**

**Forgive us for turning Your law into burdens
for others and ourselves,**

instead of a way to love and freedom in you.

In the name of Christ,

who has given us the Way and leads us on, we pray. Amen.

* KYRIE ELEISON

Orthodox

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

*** ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Hear the good news!
You are loved.
Know that in God's love there is forgiveness,
healing, and reconciliation.
We are all forgiven!

*** GLORIA PATRI**

**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.**

Greatorex

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.*

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

*Eve DeMeester, Judy and Waller Harris, Kathryne Karibo
Eduardo and Nicole Perdomo, and Alec Yanosy*

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.**

WORD

CHORAL PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (10:30am)

Gauntlett

Lead us to Christ, the living Way,
nor let us from his pastures stray.
Lead us to holiness, the road
That we must take to dwell with God,

SCRIPTURE READING

**Ruth 1:6-18; John 1:6-14
The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Where God Leads: Ruth

Rev. Kelsey Sorge

THANKSGIVING

*** HYMN 306**

Blest Be the Tie That Binds
Stanzas 1, 2 and 5

Dennis

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

OFFERTORY

Entreat Me Not

Herman Berlinski

And Ruth said:
"Entreat me not to leave thee
Or to return from following thee,
For whither thou goest I will go,
And where thou lodgest I will lodge.
Thy people shall be my people and thy God my God."

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 up to the Lord.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

SANCTUS

Harold Friedell

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts,
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

Harold Friedell

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,
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

Communion Prayer

Allen Pote

We place upon your table, Lord,
The food of life, the bread and wine,
As symbols of our daily work,
According to your grand design.
Within these simple things there lie
The height and depth of human life;
Our pain and tears, our thoughts and toils,
Our hopes and fears, our joy and strife.
Accept them, Lord, they come from you.
We take them humbly from your hand.
These gifts of yours for higher use
We offer up as you command.

Spirit Seeking Light and Beauty

Janet Stuart

Spirit seeking light and beauty,
Heart that longest for thy rest,
Soul that asketh understanding,
Only thus can ye be blest.
Thro' the vastness of creation,
Tho' your restless thought may roam,
God is all that you can long for,
God is all His creatures' home.

Taste and see Him, feel and hear Him,
Hope and grasp His unseen hand;
Tho' the darkness seem to hide Him,
Faith and love can understand.
God who lovest all Thy creatures
All our hearts are known to Thee;
Lead us thro' the land of shadows
To Thy blest Eternity.

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

SENDING

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* CHORAL ORISON

He leadeth me: O blessed thought!
O words with heavenly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be,
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.
He leadeth me, he leadeth me;
by his own hand he leadeth me:
his faithful follower I would be,
for by his hand he leadeth me.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Chorale Prelude on 'Lobe den Herren'

Max Reger

Worship/Music Notes

Today we continue with our sermon series "Where God Leads". We sing our opening hymn, *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty*, and after hearing the word proclaimed about the journey of Ruth and Naomi, we sing together *Blest Be the Tie that Binds*, that tells of our connections with one another, identifying with the struggles of life and our unity in Christ. The offertory anthem *Entreat Me Not*, by Jewish American composer Herman Berlinski, depicts the alto soloist as Ruth delivering her famous words to Naomi, that are then echoed and affirmed by the choir. In the harmonic structure you'll hear the tinges of uncertainty and longing, as well as a sense of triumph in the face of affliction that is found in much of Berlinski's music. As we come again to the Lord's Table, we are led there by the Youth Choir with *Communion Prayer*, a simple setting that invites us to see the sacred in ordinary elements of bread and wine. An introspective hymn about wisdom, *Spirit seeking light and beauty*, calls us to meditate on God's love for us through his sacrifice, as we "taste and see him" at the communion table. And in our final hymn, we give thanks for the sweet taste of this meal in the singing of *For the Bread Which You Have Broken*.

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 Don and Helen Stewart by their children, Tom and Ilene, and their families.

About today's cover art

Ruth and Naomi | Ary Scheffer | Public Domain

Ary Scheffer was a Dutch-French Romantic painter most known for his painting based on literature as well as religious subjects. He began his career as a portrait artist and later was a court painter for the king.

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

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Spirit Seeking Light and Beauty © 1953 McLaughlin and Reilly Co.

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.



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