

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



SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
FEBRUARY 13, 2022



*" 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved..."
"Jesus sought me when a stranger
Wandering from the fold of God..."
...Here's my heart, oh take and seal it
Seal it for Thy courts above."*

— From *Amazing Grace and Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*



"Reflection on the Parable of the Prodigal Son" by Director for Outreach and Mission, Julie Walker

There is always a lot to learn from the story of the Prodigal Son. But it has never really sat well with me. Perhaps due to the self-reflection it takes me through. I TOTALLY appreciate the extremely powerful example of the Father's love. I am so very grateful that God, like the Father, will always take us back if we are truly sorry, no matter what we have done, because He loves us so much. But to be honest, sometimes I feel for the older brother. The one who says "For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends." Somehow I've always thought life **should** be fair. It doesn't seem fair that the younger brother leaves them with all the family chores to do, takes half the family's wealth, lives the high life, and then when all the money runs out, returns to his Father asking for forgiveness and the Father throws a party for him and has never thrown a party for the older brother to celebrate all he has done for him! I can understand how the older brother could feel upset about this. It is obvious that the older brother is harboring a lot of hurt over this. It is not easy to forgive him for what he has done nor get excited upon his return. But Jesus says forgive 70 x 7 times. He knew forgiveness was going to be hard. To see through the lens of love when hurt is extremely difficult.

The Pharisees Jesus was telling this story to were hurt because some of the people were not following the commandments God gave to Moses. This made them become very self-righteous. They had been trying to teach the "sinners" Jesus was eating with about the 10 commandments and how to follow the law of the Lord. They were angry Jesus would sit at the table with sinners. They felt that they were doing more things right and therefore were more chosen by God. I wonder if sometimes we feel like we are better than others? Perhaps better than some of the people we serve? It's probably realistic to think that some of them have made poor decisions like the younger son had. But look at how the Father responds in the story. He has been hurt by his younger son, even humiliated, but he still runs out to greet him. God comes out to meet us wherever we are in life, even when we make poor decisions and sin against Him. He forgives us for our shortcomings. In fact, He sent His only son Jesus to save us from those sins. He LOVES us ALL just the same! Through this story, Jesus is urging the Pharisees and ALL of US to find it within our hearts to forgive those who have made poor decisions and hurt us and to love all people as God loves all of us. So it makes me ask myself: Is there someone I need to forgive today? Or someone I feel self-righteous over? What is hardening my heart and preventing me from seeing life through the lens of God's glorious love?

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

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

So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. — Luke 15:20

THE GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARIES

Softly and Tenderly

Will L. Thompson/ arr. By Van Denman Thompson

With One Heart

Mark Patterson

With one heart and one voice we will glorify the Lord
As we learn together to sing with one accord.
Though each one here is different in so many ways,
We can all join together in one song of praise.
With one heart and one voice we come now to sing,
Raising one alleluia to Christ our King.

Lord, you have shown us your mercy,
You've shown us forgiveness each day.
Now help us to love one another
And show the world your spirit of grace.

With one heart and one voice we will glorify the Lord
As we learn together to sing with one accord.
So come every nation with voices raised.
We can all join together in one song of praise.
With one heart and one voice we come now to sing,
Raising one alleluia to Christ our King.

Junior Girls Choir

* *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,
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.

Dulce Carmen

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 620

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

Lauda Anima

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God,
For being so prideful, so self-sufficient, so self-aggrandizing
That we forget how to be humble, how to learn,
and how to seek help;

**For being so smug, so anxious, so mean
That we forget we are not always right, or in control, or good;
For being less than what you created us to be:
Forgive us and make us whole.
This we pray in Jesus' strong name. Amen.**

*** KYRIE ELEISON**

Orthodox

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

*** ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Sisters and brothers in Christ, hear the Good News:
At some time each one of us has been lost in many different ways.
But now we are indeed found, and not simply found,
but rejoiced over, and cherished, and beloved.
You have come home.
**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God!**

*** GLORIA PATRI**

Greathorex

**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

ANTHEM (9:00 a.m.)

Teach Me Your Way, O Lord

Mark Sedio

Teach me Your way, O Lord,
and I will walk in Your paths,
Knit my heart to You that I may fear Your name,
I will thank You, O God.

Fill me, O Lord, with Your wisdom,
Show me the light of Your truth.
Day by day my faith grows stronger in Your word;
Guide me in everything I do.

Teach me Your way, O Lord,
And I will walk in Your paths;
Knit my heart to You that I may fear Your name,
I will thank You, O God.
Treble Boys' Choir

OUR FAITH IN ACTION

Organ Renovation Update

Keith Peters

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.*

ORDINATION/INSTALLATION *(Make-up Date—10:30 a.m.)*

*Walter Lorang, Trustee; Katherine Herb, Deacon;
Camille Breen & Calvin Ford, Elders*

Litany of Service *(based on 1 Corinthians 12)*

There are different gifts,

But it is the same Spirit who gives them.

There are different ways of serving God,

But it is the same Lord who is served.

God works through different people in different ways,

**But it is the same God who fulfills these purposes
through them all.**

Together we are the body of Christ,

And individually members of Christ.

PRAYER

CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER

The Road Home

Stephen Paulus

Tell me, where is the road I can call my own,
That I left, that I lost, so long ago?
All these years I have wandered, oh, when will I know
There's a way, there's a road that will lead me home?

After wind, after rain, when the dark is done,
As I wake from a dream in the gold of day,
Through the air there's a calling from far away,
There's a voice I can hear that will lead me home.

Rise up, follow me, come away, is the call,
With the love in your heart as the only song;
There is no such beauty as where you belong,
Rise up, follow me, I will lead you home.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THANKSGIVING

*** HYMN 418**

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling
Stanzas 1 and 3

Softly and Tenderly

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

Fight the Good Fight

John Gardner

Fight the good fight with all thy might,
Christ is thy strength, and Christ thy right;
Lay hold on life, and it shall be
Thy joy and crown eternally.

Run the straight race through God's good grace,
Lift up thine eyes and seek his face;
Life with its way before us lies,
Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.

Cast care aside, lean on thy guide:
His boundless mercy will provide;
Trust, and thy trusting soul shall prove
Christ is its life, and Christ its love.

Faint not, nor fear, his arms near;
He changeth not, and thou art dear;
Only believe, and thou shalt see
that Christ is all in all to thee. Amen.

*** 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

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

Luke 15: 1-2; 11-13; 17-26; 28-32 and Psalm 32:1-7
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Where God Leads: The Prodigals

Rev. Edwin Estevez

SENDING

*** HYMN 649**

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

Amazing Grace

*** CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

*** CHORAL ORISON**

He Leadeth Me

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

Les Carillons

Johann Philipp Kirnberger

Worship/Music Notes

Today we continue with our sermon series “Where God Leads” as we look at the parable of the Prodigal Son. Our children lead us in the prelude, with the Junior Girls’ Choir inviting us into worship singing *With One Heart*, by Mark Patterson, an adaptation of Romans 5:6 that invites a spirit of thankfulness and community as we give thanks for “God’s mercy and forgiveness shown to us each day.”

Our opening congregational singing echoes themes in the well-loved tale of the Prodigal Son, as we sing *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven*, a paraphrase of Psalm 103 which tells of God’s mercy and faithfulness, and the “Father-like” way God shows his unconditional love for us in spite of all our faults, to which we respond with a call for all beings to “praise with us the God of grace!”

We continue with a short prayerlike anthem by the Treble Boys, *Teach Me Your Way, O Lord*, a prayer we are always in need of asking. And our choral call to prayer is *The Road Home* by Stephen Paulus. This folk-choral arrangement is of a tune from The Southern Harmony Songbook of 1835, with new text by Michael Dennis Browne, in which he depicts “the consolation that can come to someone of faith, in times of great stress, as a result of prayer and an abiding belief in divine mercy.” As we meditate on the theme of coming home after being lost or wandering, hear God’s word calling to you: “Rise up, follow me, I will lead you *home*.” In response we sing *Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling*, which echoes the themes of the Prodigal, as we all have sinned, fallen short and need to “come *home*.”

As we give thanks for the offering, the choir sings *Fight the Good Fight*, one of John Gardner’s Five Hymns in Popular Style. The text by John S. B. Munsell is based on Paul’s letter 1 Timothy 6:12 and encourages us to stick to the path which Christ has set before us, because God’s mercy will provide. After the word proclaimed, we go out into the world giving thanks for God’s *Amazing Grace* that will bring us to *home* to be with him, where “we’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than when we’ve first begun.”

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 Robert Gustafson, her wonderful husband, by his loving wife, Sheri Gustafson.

About today's cover art

Return of the Prodigal Son | Hans Peter Feddersen | Public Domain

Hans Peter Feddersen was a German painter who was particularly drawn to things that were hard to depict such as the interaction of air and light. Over several decades he engaged in this struggle with unflagging intensity. His painting *Return of the Prodigal Son* is oil on canvas mounted on wood and was painted in 1907.

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

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The Road Home Stephen Paulus © 2005 Stephen Paulus.

Fight the Good Fight John Gardner © 1964 Oxford University Press.

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 Zellers

jzellers@kirkinthehills.org



Questions/Information

Erica Ginter

eginter@kirkinthehills.org



Church Leadership

Bob Heuer/Clerk of Session

kithclerk@kirkinthehills.org



Kirk in the Hills

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