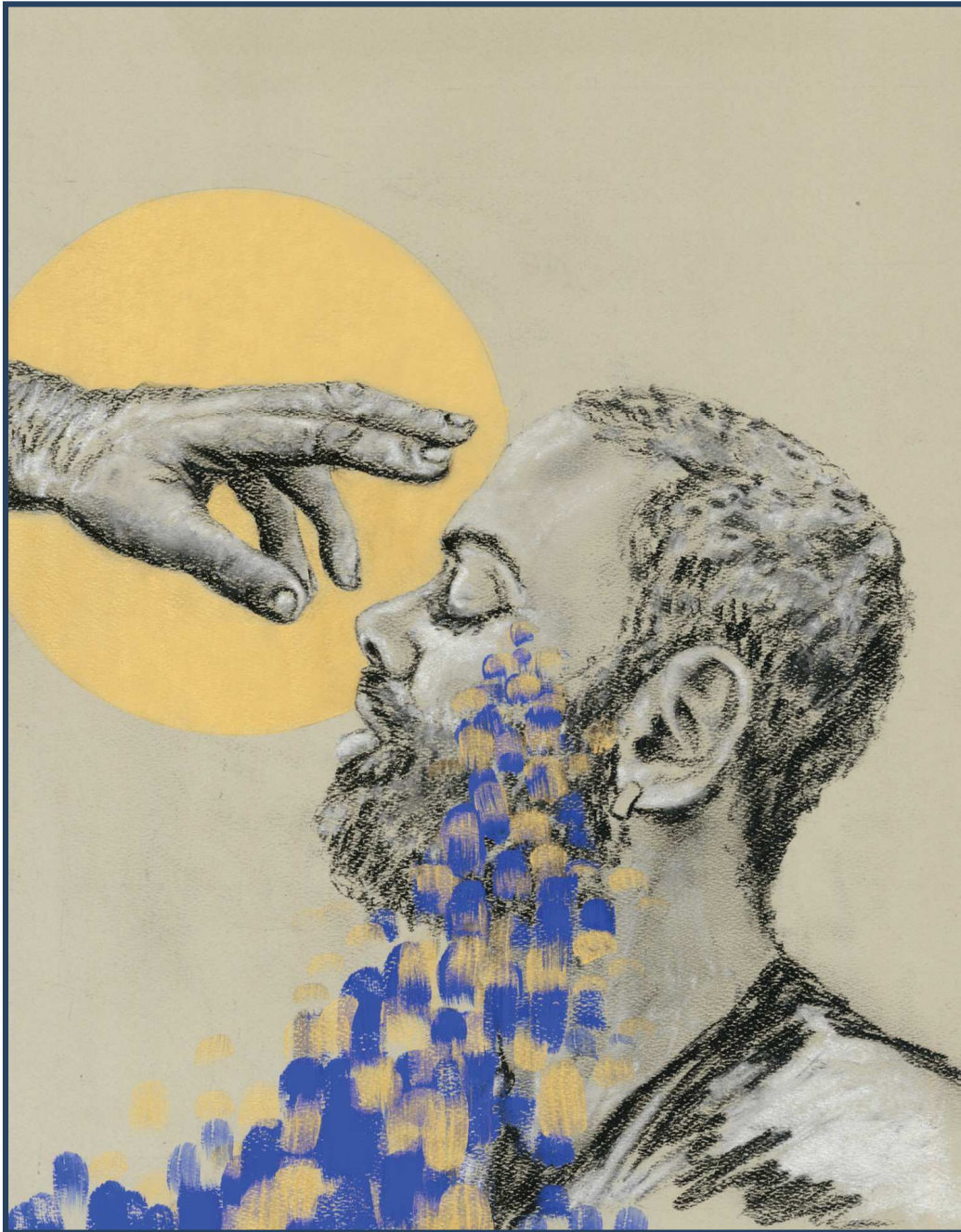


KIRK IN THE HILLS  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)  
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER  
MAY 1, 2022



*Use me, God. Show me how to take who I am, who I want to be,  
and what I can do, and use it for a purpose greater than myself.*  
— Martin Luther King, Jr.



Some years back, Krista Tippett, the host of a public radio program and podcast, *On Being*, did an interview with the late Irish poet, John O'Donohue. The way O'Donohue described the word "threshold" was both helpful and meaning for me. Here's what he said:

*If you go back to the etymology of the word "threshold," it comes from "threshing," which is to separate the grain from the husk. So the threshold, in a way, is a place where you move into more critical and challenging and worthy fullness. There are huge thresholds in every life...So the given world that we think is there and the solid ground we are on is so tentative. And a threshold is a line which separates two territories of spirit, and very often how we cross is the key thing.*

As I prepare to leave the Kirk and move to Indiana to be a Transitional Senior Pastor at Westminster Presbyterian Church, I can't help but to think I'm standing on a threshold—"a place where [I] move into more critical and challenging and worthy fullness." I'm not sure what new life is waiting for me in Indiana, but I'm about to find out!

And I can't help but to think the Kirk is also standing on a threshold. Having installed Pastor Edwin last Sunday and awaiting Pastor Jeffery, the new Interim Senior Pastor, it feels like there's new life waiting to be born just around the corner.

There are many "threshold" stories in the Bible: Noah in the ark for 40 days, Jonah in the belly of a big fish for 3 days, Israelites in the desert for 40 years, Saul going blind for 3 days at the time of his conversion to Paul, and Holy Saturday where we must wait before we can witness the empty tomb and new life of Jesus Christ.

Many of us are leery and weary of changes and transitions. But what if we looked at changes as standing on a threshold—on a cusp--of new life that is waiting to be born in and through us? What difference would it make if we reframed "transition" as "threshold"? Would it help us to think of transitions any differently?

After O'Donohue describes the meaning of threshold, Krista Tippett asks him, "And where is beauty in that?" Where is the beauty in the threshold? And this is O'Donohue's response:

*Where beauty is—beauty isn't all about just niceness, loveliness. Beauty is about more rounded substantial becoming. And when we cross a new threshold worthily, what we do is we heal the patterns of repetition that were in us that had us caught somewhere. So I think beauty in that sense is about an emerging fullness, a greater sense of grace and elegance, a deeper sense of depth, and also a kind of homecoming for the enriched memory of your unfolding life.*

Wherever I am, Kirk in the Hills, I will be feeling your "emerging fullness, a great sense of grace and elegance, a deeper sense of depth." Knowing Jesus Christ has risen from the grave, let us move from Holy Saturday to Easter Sunday with a newfound hope and wonder at what lies ahead for all who believe. As you and I both stand on the threshold of something new, may we cross over with gratitude, awe, and wonder at God's transforming love that will hold us together and never let us go. Amen.

Pastor Angela Ryo  
Associate Pastor for Christian Formation

# THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary

*"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.*

*"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting", he replied.*

*"Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." — Acts 9:5-6*

## GATHERING

### THE CARILLON

#### OPENING VOLUNTARIES

**Suite Médiévale**

*Jean Langlais*

**Prélude**

**Tiento**

**Improvisation**

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

#### \* OPENING SENTENCES

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

**And also with you!**

#### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

*Psalm 47:1-2, Psalm 92:1*

Clap your hands, all you peoples;

**Shout to God with loud songs of joy.**

For the Most High is awesome,

**A great sovereign over all the earth.**

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

**To sing praises to your name, O Most High.**

#### \* INTROIT

**I Believe This Is Jesus**

*Undine Smith Moore*

I believe this is Jesus;

Come and see, come and see.

The light of God shines in his face,

He offers all his pard'ning grace;

Come and see, come and see.

#### \* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 35

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty**

*Lobe den Herren*

#### \* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*1 John 1:8, 9*

If we say that we have no sin,

we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

But if we confess our sins,

God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins

and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

In humility and faith let us confess our sin to God.

**Almighty God, by water and your Holy Spirit**

**you baptized us to be your own and called the church into being.**

**We confess that we hold back the love of your Spirit among us.**

**We do not listen for your word of grace,**

\* *Please rise in body or spirit.*

**Speak the good news of your love,  
or live as a people made one in Christ.**

*Silence is kept for personal confession.*

**\* KYRIE ELEISON**

*Healey Willan*

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

**\* ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

*Ephesians 2:4, 5a, 6a, 8*  
God, who is rich in mercy,  
out of the great love with which God loves us,  
even when we were dead through our sin,  
made us alive together with Christ and raises us up with him.  
For by grace you have been saved through faith,  
and this is not your own doing;  
it is the gift of God. **Amen.**

**\* 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**

**OUR FAITH IN ACTION**

Adoption and Foster Care

*Sheri Falvay*

**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**

**Love Divine, All Loves Excelling**

*Howard Goodall*

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down,  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
All thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesu, thou art all compassion,  
Pure unbounded love thou art;  
Visit us with thy salvation,  
Enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,  
Let us all thy life receive;  
Suddenly return, and never,  
Never more thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve thee as thy hosts above;  
Pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,  
Glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation:  
Pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see thy great salvation,  
Perfectly restored in thee;  
Changed from glory into glory,  
Till in heav'n we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before thee,  
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

## THANKSGIVING

\* HYMN 450

**Be Thou My Vision**  
*Stanzas 1 & 2*

*Slane*

## 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. Today's loose offering will support Foster Care and Adoption ministries. (See note on page 7.)*

\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

ANTHEM

**Jubilate Deo in C**

*Benjamin Britten*

O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands;  
Serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song.

Be ye sure that the Lord he is God:  
It is he that hath made us and not we ourselves;  
We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.  
O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving,  
And into his courts with praise.

Be thankful unto him and speak good of his name.  
For the Lord is gracious, His mercy is everlasting;  
And his truth endureth from generation to generation.  
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.

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.

## WORD

### CHORAL PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

*Birmingham*

Tell out my soul the glories of his word!  
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
To children's children and for evermore!

### SCRIPTURE READING

**Acts 9:1– 22** (*Pew Bible, NT. page 127*)  
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### SERMON

**SENT!: Paul's Gift of Vision**

Rev. Angela Ryo

## SENDING

### \* RECESSIONAL HYMN 485

**We Know that Christ is Raised and Dies No More**

*Engelberg*

### CHARGE AND BENEDICTION (*Seated*)

### CHORAL ORISON

**Peace I Leave with You**

*Amy Beach*

Peace I leave with you,  
My peace I give unto you.  
Not as the world giveth, give I unto you.  
Let not your heart be troubled.

### CLOSING VOLUNTARY

**Fugue in D Major, BWV 532**

*Johann Sebastian Bach*

[Join us for coffee and fellowship](#) in Heritage Hall after the 9:00 a.m. worship service for a reception/  
send-off for Pastor Angela!

### [About today's cover art](#)

*Restored* | Lisle Gwynn Garrity | Used with permission from Sanctified Art LLC

In the image "Restored", the artist shares, "a halo hovers around the hand of Ananias, nodding to the sacred courage required to melt the hatred of his oppressor with intimacy and connection. Scales pour out of Saul's eyes, purging him, cleansing him, igniting him with a new and particular mission: to pour out God's grace wherever humans try to limit it."

## Worship/Music Notes

Our scripture reading this morning tells the miraculous story of conversion, in which the zealot Saul who had adamantly persecuted Jesus was stricken blind, accepted Christianity, was baptized, and began his new life as St. Paul. As such, today's choral music reflects upon the themes of finding new belief and accepting Jesus's Greatest Commandment: to love one another.

The introit, the spiritual *I Believe this is Jesus* — arranged by Undine Smith Moore, a Black American composer and eminent music educator — is a joyous proclamation of faith where each section of the choir, one after another, invite us to “come and see” the marvels of our faith, particularly in this Eastertide season.

After The Lord's Prayer, the choir sings a gentle anthem by the English contemporary composer Howard Goodall; his setting of Charles Wesley's theologically rich hymn *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* masterfully weaves together beautiful, lyric lines while also creating a gradual yet powerful buildup over the course of the piece, echoing the poem's description of a life journey in faith.

The anthem following the Prayer of Dedication is a setting of Psalm 100 from the 1662 *Book of Common Prayer*, which is sung even today in Anglican churches in the morning prayer service of matins. British composer Benjamin Britten's setting is largely a dialogue between two groups of the choir: the sopranos and tenors, and the altos and basses. They, as Paul and Ananias may have done after witnessing the miracle of regaining Paul's sight, echo the praises of God back and forth. Notably, the piece was commissioned by Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh and husband of Queen Elizabeth II, and was sung at his funeral just over a year ago.

The choral orison is a setting of John 14:27 by Amy Beach, who in the early twentieth century was one of the most respected American composers on both sides of the Atlantic. Her brief yet elegant anthem echoes the first words Jesus spoke to his disciples following the Resurrection: “Peace be with you.”

Together, these works by four distinguished composers demonstrate that, around the world and throughout different periods of history, the expression of faith is more than a personal endeavor; it is fundamentally a communal act, brought about through combining the labors, skills, and arts of many individuals — singing, composing, writing, meditating, and of course praying. In music, this manifests through the joining of voices, no matter one's skill; this morning, it is my hope that you, like St. Paul for his entire life following his conversion, will lift your voices together in praise as we celebrate this joyful Eastertide.

Christopher Holman, Oxford

**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 Curtis G. Rundell by his wife, Yvonne and sons.

**About today's offering:** Loose offerings collected today will support Foster Care and Adoption ministries. You can make note of that on your check, envelope, or online gift to show your support.

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*Jubilate Deo* Benjamin Britten © 1961 Oxford University Press.

*Peace I Leave With You* Mrs. H. H. A. Beach © 1992 Hendon Music, 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.*



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