

Searching for thin places.

The Celtic Christians believed every aspect of life was infused with the Divine and God was evident in the everyday details of life. Therefore, any moment or place where the presence of God was intensified, narrowing the distance between the sacred and the commonplace, was regarded as a thin space.

Our Pilgrimage to Scotland provided several opportunities to experience thin places. The ruins of Melrose Abbey soared heavenward in majestic architecture, so familiar to us who worship in our beautiful Kirk. We stood in the shadow of the ruins and remembered in prayer those who were prevented from traveling with us due to illness or personal concerns. The battlefield of Culloden in the slight drizzle of a Scottish afternoon reminded us of the needless loss of lives repeated again and again throughout history and especially in current events. The Abbey on the Isle of Iona was a beautiful monument to the courage, faith, and tenacity of Columba who brought Christianity to Scotland in 563AD.

These were wonderful experiences as we sought God in these beautiful places but for me, my thin space was revealed in observing and experiencing the kindness and compassion of my fellow pilgrims. People who barely knew each other before the Pilgrimage were sharing not only physical possessions but intimate details in a safe place at dinner or during daily devotionals. The Holy Spirit was very evident as people allowed themselves to be vulnerable with each other knowing they were loved.

As we prepare to travel to Egypt, we will be searching for God in thin places through ancient history and the amazing architecture. We will study Scripture to discover the important role Egypt has played in both the Old and New Testaments. We will share our faith and listen to our fellow believers as they describe their lives as a minority group in a predominantly Muslim country. However, I have no doubt that, just as we search for God in these thin places, He will also reveal himself to us in ways we cannot imagine and we will be overwhelmingly blessed once again. Registration and further details for the 2023 Pilgrimage to Egypt can be found on our website by typing **“Egypt”** into the search bar.

Ruth Reading

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

9:00 a.m. Outdoor Worship

The Lord is near to the broken-hearted and saves the crushed in spirit. — Psalm 34:18

GARDEN CLUB FOR CHILDREN

(parents may drop their children, ages 3 to grade 5, at the garden upon arrival to outdoor worship.)

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Draw Me Close

Kelly Carpenter

Draw me close to You.
Never let me go.
I lay it all down again
To hear You say that I'm Your friend.
You are my desire.
No one else will do,
'Cause nothing else could take Your place
To feel the warmth of Your embrace.
Help me find the way.
Bring me back to You.

You're all I want.
You're all I've ever needed.
You're all I want.
Help me know You are near.

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PASTORAL CONCERNS

OUR FAITH IN ACTION

Interim Pastor Nominating Committee

Kay Maxwell

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 100

May a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!
Serve the Lord with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing!
Know that the Lord, he is God!
It is he who made us, and we are his;
We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
And his courts with praise!
Give thanks to him; bless his name!
For the Lord is good;
His steadfast love endures forever,
And his faithfulness to all generations.

* HYMN

I Will Bless the Lord At All Times

Jeannie Clattenburg

I will bless the Lord at all times;
I will bless the Lord at all times;
His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

I will bless the Lord at all times;
I will bless the Lord at all times;
His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

adapted from Psalm 130

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.

Lord hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,

Lord, who could stand?

But there is forgiveness with you,

so that you may be revered.

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,

and in his word I hope;

my soul waits for the Lord

more than those who watch for the morning.

Silence is held.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord, Have mercy.

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

People of God, hope in the Lord!

For with the Lord there is steadfast love,

And with him is great power to redeem.

It is he who will redeem us from all our iniquities.

Friends, believe the Good News:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 34

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

SOLO

Precious Lord

Thomas Dorsey

Precious Lord, take my hand,

Lead me on, let me stand,

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;

Through the storm, through the night,

Lead me on to the light
Take my hand, precious Lord,
Lead me home.

When my way grows drear,
Precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call,
Hold my hand lest I fall:
Take my hand, precious Lord,
Lead me home.

Rebecca Eaddy, soprano

SERMON

Psalms for the Summer: Psalm 34

Rev. Edwin Estevez

SENDING

* HYMN

There Is a Place of Quiet Rest

McAfee

There is a place of quiet rest,
Near to the heart of God,
A place where sin cannot molest,
Near to the heart of God.
*O Jesus, blest Redeemer,
Sent from the heart of God,
Hold us, who wait before thee,
Near to the heart of God.*

There is a place of comfort sweet,
Near to the heart of God,
A place where we our Savior meet,
Near to the heart of God.
O Jesus, blest Redeemer...

There is a place of full release,
Near to the heart of God,
A place where all is joy and peace,
Near to the heart of God.
O Jesus, blest Redeemer...

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

CARILLON RECITAL

Eva Albalghiti, Ann Arbor, MI

Carillon programs are available from the ushers or in literature racks.

Garden worshippers are encouraged to drop off donations in the baskets located at the Celtic Cross near the exit as you depart.

Please see notes on page 11.

WORSHIP NOTES

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

11:00 a.m. Sanctuary Worship

The Lord is near to the broken-hearted and saves the crushed in spirit. — Psalm 34:18

THE CARILLON

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Prelude

Henry Purcell

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

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 100

May a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

Serve the Lord with gladness!

Come into his presence with singing!

Know that the Lord, he is God!

It is he who made us, and we are his;

We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,

And his courts with praise!

Give thanks to him; bless his name!

For the Lord is good;

His steadfast love endures forever,

And his faithfulness to all generations.

* INTROIT

Barry Rose

God is Love,

And he who abides in love abides in God,

And God abides in him.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 645

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

Mit Freuden Zart

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

adapted from Psalm 130

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.

Lord hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,

Lord, who could stand?

But there is forgiveness with you,

so that you may be revered.

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,

and in his word I hope;

my soul waits for the Lord

more than those who watch for the morning.

Silence is held.

* KYRIE ELEISON

Healey Willan

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

*** ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

People of God, hope in the Lord!
For with the Lord there is steadfast love,
And with him is great power to redeem.
It is he who will redeem us from all our iniquities.

Friends, believe the Good News:
In Jesus Christ we are 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

OUR FAITH IN ACTION

Interim Pastor Nominating Committee

Kay Maxwell

PRAYER

CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER

In Heavenly Love Abiding

arr. William Whitehead

In heavenly love abiding,
No change my heart shall fear;
And safe is such confiding,
For nothing changes here:
The storm may roar without me,
My heart may low be laid;
But God is round about me,
And can I be dismayed?

Wherever He may guide me,
No want shall turn me back;
My Shepherd is beside me,
And nothing can I lack:
His wisdom ever waketh,
His sight is never dim,
He knows the way He taketh,
And I will walk with Him.

Green pastures are before me,
Which yet I have not seen;
Bright skies will soon be o'er me,
Where the dark clouds have been;
My life I cannot measure,
My path to life is free;
My Savior has my treasure,
And He will walk with me. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.**

THANKSGIVING

* HYMN 739

O for a Closer Walk with God
Stanza 1

Caithness

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.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SOLO

Precious Lord

Thomas Dorsey

Precious Lord, take my hand,
Lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
Through the storm, through the night,
Lead me on to the light
Take my hand, precious Lord,
Lead me home.

When my way grows drear,
Precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call,
Hold my hand lest I fall:
Take my hand, precious Lord,
Lead me home.

Rebecca Eaddy, soprano

* 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

Spirit of the Living God

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.

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 34 (*Pew Bible, OT. page 508*)
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Psalms for the Summer: Psalm 34

Rev. Edwin Estevez

SENDING

* **RECESSIONAL HYMN 824**

There Is a Place of Quiet Rest

McAfee

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION (*Seated*)

CHORAL ORISON

Caithness

So shall my walk be close with God,
Calm and serene my frame;
So purer light shall mark the road
That leads me to the Lamb.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Basse et Dessus de Trompette

Louis-Nicolas Clérambault

CARILLON RECITAL

Eva Albalghiti, Ann Arbor, MI

Carillon programs are available from the ushers or in literature racks.

Worship/Music Notes

In today's service, we are focusing on Psalm 34, as a part of our summer series, Psalms for the Summer. In the Garden service, we open with the prelude Draw Me Close, a contemporary worship song by Kelly Carpenter, written to reflect the moment when a weary soul needs the reviving closeness with God. Our opening hymn comes from the first verses of Psalm 34, "I will bless the Lord at all times. His praise shall continually be in my mouth." The gospel feel of this song gives a reserved exuberance to these words.

As we focus on what it means to seek God and for God to draw near, the soloist sings deep and longing prayer of Precious Lord. In this song words of Thomas, Dorsey set to music by George N. Allen that Dorsey arranged, is one of deep assurance in the most troubling of times. When the soul is crushed, and "life is almost gone" we can ask the Lord to "linger near, take my hand and lead me home." Our final hymn There is a Place of Quiet Rest is one that speaks to a safe and intimate place "near to the heart of God."

In the sanctuary, we open with an affirmation of God is Love from 1 John 4:16. With our opening hymn, we Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above, in a hymn that extols the greatness of God in giving all good things to His people and calls on us to continue to give God the praise He so richly deserves. The Choral call to prayer is a setting of In Heavenly Love Abiding arranged by William Whitehead. This text speaks to the assurance of God's salvation and protection. "In heavenly love abiding, no change my heart shall fear...my Savior has my treasure, and He will walk with me" is echoed by the offertory hymn O For a Closer Walk with God.

After the soloist prays to be close to God with Precious Lord, we hear the word of God proclaimed and sing our final hymn, There is a Place of Quiet Rest. As we close, the choir confirms our collective prayer for the promise of God's nearness that we find in Jesus singing the final stanza of Hymn 739. "So shall my walk be close with God...so purer light shall mark the road that leads me to the Lamb."

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 11:00 a.m. service. See an usher for direction or further details.

Join us for coffee and fellowship on the patio after the 9:00 a.m. worship service!

A garden memorial is presented to glory of God in loving memory of Robert H. Fredericks by his wife, Teresa Fredericks and family.

About today's cover art

Acts of St. Eliaz | Julia Stankova | Used with artist's permission

The artwork by Julia Stankova is an example of her symbolic art on wooden panels inspired by Biblical texts. Julia Stankova's art style is influenced by her knowledge of Byzantine pictorial heritage of the 18th and 19th century Bulgarian iconographers.

Copyright Information

Draw Me Close Kelly Carpenter © 1994 Mercy / Vineyard Publishing.

I Will Bless the Lord At All Times Jeannie Clattenburg © 1989 Bud John Songs, Inc.

In Heavenly Love Abiding William Whitehead © 1976 Triune Music, Inc.

Precious Lord George N. Allen, arr. Thomas Dorsey, © 1938 Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp.



Worship Times

8:00 a.m. - Cedarholm Chapel

9:00 a.m. - Outdoor Worship

11:00 a.m. - Sanctuary

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. Edwin Estevez

revedwin@kirkinthehills.org



Choirs and Music Events

Nicole Joseph

njoseph@kirkinthehills.org



Baptisms, Memorials, Weddings

Jennifer Morris

jmorris@kirkinthehills.org



Small Groups

Jennifer Morris

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