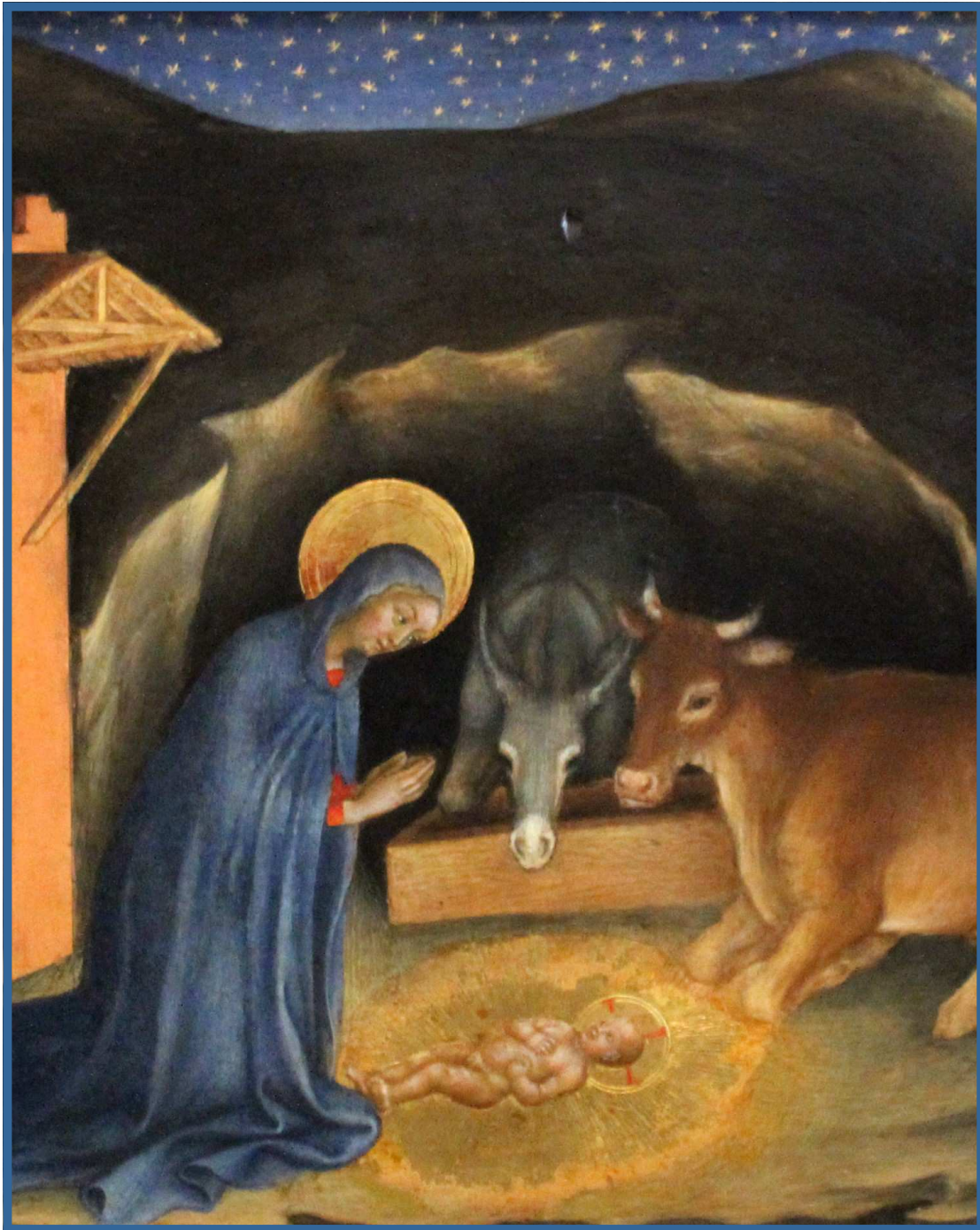


KIRK IN THE HILLS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

HOLY NIGHT SERVICE
CHRISTMAS EVE 2020



Storms make trees take deeper roots.

— Dolly Parton

Welcome to worship. Welcome to the Kirk. Welcome home.

Here at the Kirk, our vision statement is *We envision a world where every heart experiences God's transforming love*. This statement was born from months of congregation-wide listening sessions and years of prayer and discernment. We are already seeing it take root.

We envision a world. In one of Jesus' most famous moments, he feeds the multitudes with five loaves and two fish. In another story, Jesus helps his frustrated disciples to secure a net full of fish by inviting them to cast their nets on the other side of the boat. They catch so many fish that there are too many to eat on their own! Ours is a church that hopes to look beyond our own needs to do what Jesus and the disciples did—share our **fish** with the world.



Where every heart experiences. Jesus reminds us in his birth, his ministry, and in his promise of the Holy Spirit, that God is near! Throughout the pages of the gospels, we see people following him to shorelines and meeting him there. Jesus was standing on the shore when he called his first disciples, Peter and Andrew. The **shore** is where the crowd listened to him preach and where the disciples met him after the resurrection. We hope to be a church that comes to shore to meet the living Christ! For us, this starts in **worship**. We hope through our worship, mission, and formation, we will have your eyes lighting up with the reminder of how you and how our community are made well (created), are being made well (healed), and will be made well (saved) into eternity.



Service schedule:

9:00 a.m. - Pre-recorded online broadcast on our website and facebook

11:00 a.m. - Radio broadcast 92.7 FM Faith talk

11:00 a.m. - Kirk West (Fox Run) broadcast

God's transforming love. *The Lord is my shepherd*, says the 23rd Psalm and the 100th Psalm reminds us that we are his flock. Jesus uses similar imagery in the New Testament when he assures us that the shepherd will find the lost sheep. Our **Christian formation** ministries are meant to gather us as a **flock** and to be led by the shepherd. Small groups, Bible studies and special events continue over Zoom—you can find all of the links and materials for our groups in our weekly e-newsletter or at kirkinthehills.org on the Worship From Home website page.



Stay warm!
Pastor Nate

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Stream from Home Service

And it came to pass in those days... — Luke 2:1

A CHRISTMAS PRELUDE

What Sweeter Music

John Rutter, arr. Patti Masri-Fletcher

Patti Masri-Fletcher, harp

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Nate Phillips

THE PLACING OF THE MISTLETOE BOUGH AT THE ALTAR

Interlude from Ceremony of Carols

Benjamin Britten

In Medieval times in York Minster, at the festival of the Nativity, a bough of mistletoe gleaming with berries was carried into the church on the shoulders of the celebrants and placed at the high altar, as symbolic of the Guidhel of "All-heal" of the Gospel of incarnate grace, an effective cure for every root of bitterness.

CAROL

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste Fideles

**O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him,
Born the King of angels:
 *O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him:
 Christ the Lord.***

**Sing, choirs of Angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God
In the highest:
 *O come...***

**Yea, Lord we greet thee,
Born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory given.
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:
 *O come...***

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Kelsey Sorge

This year, we dreamed of world peace.
We dreamed of deep breaths and restful sleep.
We dreamed of love that lasts and suffering that passes.
We dreamed of doors open wide and a cure to disease.
We dreamed, because to dream is to believe.
For to dream is to hope; to dream is to see.
So make room in your being to dream yet again,
Of a world without fear, and a God that draws near.

For it is almost Christmas.

Love is almost here.

May we dream to see, and hope to believe.

Let us worship Holy God.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Forest Green

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord, Emmanuel.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Mike and Rev. Kelsey Sorge

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Angela Ryo

Ever-present God,
from time to time we dream radical dreams.
**We dream of freedom for the imprisoned,
food for the hungry, and equality for all.**
We dream bold, radical dreams,
until the world tells us that these dreams are impossible.
**And when that happens,
we are tempted to tuck our dreams into coat pockets
and let them collect dust on the shelves of our hearts.**
Forgive us for giving up so easily.
Forgive us for giving up so easily,
for on this night we remember and celebrate a radical dream—
that you dwelled among us.
**Give us the courage to dust old dreams off the shelf
with the confidence that with you, the impossible is possible.**
With you, a light always shines in the darkness.
**With you, even an unwed teenage couple and a band of shepherds
can bring joy to the world.**
Thanks be to God for a dream like that. Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Rev. Angela Ryo

We believe in hope.
We believe that to hope is to dream with our eyes wide open.
We believe in peace.
We believe that peace is not found by accident. Prepare the way.
We believe in joy.
**We believe that joy is angel choruses and gifts from the Magi,
as well as soul food, big tables, open doors, candle lights, fireside,
singing in the shower, and the body of Christ gathered as one.**

We believe in love.

We believe that God loves us so much that God could not stay away.

So God showed up as a child.

We believe that that love is real,

and we know that that changes us.

Therefore, we believe in the power of dreams,

and we believe that nightmares, which are all too real here and now, will have no place in God's promised day.

Therefore, we believe in passing the light,

in showing up, in doing the work,

in listening for angel choruses, and in learning

from the youngest among us.

CHORAL RESPONSE

The First Nowell

Then let us all with one accord

Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,

That hath made heaven and earth of naught,

And with His blood mankind hath bought:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,

Born is the King of Israel.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Nate and Lucy Phillips

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Rev. Marjorie Wilhelmi

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-14

Rev. Marjorie Wilhelmi

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

HOMILY

When I Was Your Age

Rev. Dr. Nate Phillips

LIGHTING OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CANDLES

CAROL

Christmas Night

John Rutter

Softly through the winter's darkness shines a light,

Clear and still in Bethlehem on Christmas Night

Round the stable where a virgin mother mild

Watches over Jesus Christ the holy child.

Choirs of angels sing to greet his wondrous birth:

Christ our Lord in human form comes down to earth.

"Glory to God in highest heaven" their joyful strain:

"Peace on earth, goodwill to men" the glad refrain.

Lullaby! the child lies sleeping: sing lullaby!

Safe in Mary's tender keeping: sing lullaby!

Guardian angels keep their watch till break of day:

Lullaby! sweet Jesus sleeps among the hay.

Alleluia! let the earth rejoice today!
Christ is born to take our sins and guilt away.
Praise the Lord who sent him down from heaven above:
Holy infant, born of God the Father's love.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 1:1-5

Rev. Dr. Nate Phillips

CAROL

Silent Night, Holy Night

Stille Nacht

**Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.**

**Silent night, holy night!
Wondrous star, lend they light;
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.**

COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

God our Father,
Whose glory is sung in the highest heaven,
And whose peace is offered to a hurt and broken world:
So fill us this day with the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
That all our thoughts and words and deeds
May be acceptable in your sight,
And all our lives bring honor to your name;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
One God now and forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

CAROL

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

**Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful all ye nations rise,**

Join the triumph of the skies,
With th'angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.

*"Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King!"*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come
Offspring of a virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

*Hark! the herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"*

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth,
Born to give us second birth.

*Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"*

CHORAL ORISON

Gustav Holst

In the bleak mid-winter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him: give Him my heart.

THE CARILLON

Poinsettia Memorials 2020



The flowers in Cedarholm Chapel are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of Bobby Tremain by the Tremain family.

The flowers in Melrose Chapel are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of Ned and Dee Heinzerling by their daughter, Lynne, and grandson, Christopher Stinson.

The wreaths, garlands, and poinsettias decorating the sanctuary and transepts are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of **Edgar and Mary Annette Flint** and **Howard Flint II**, by *Marilyn Flint and Mike Murphy, Martha and David Kistler, Heather and Mike Putz, Darcy and David Fischer Jr., and Mary and Chris Pardi.*

The wreaths by the Sanctuary doors are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of **Samantha Christine Reynolds** by *Robert and Christy Reynolds and Ryan and Stephanie.*

The wreaths on the Kirk House doors are presented to the glory of God by *Mr. and Mrs. David B. Littleton* in joyful gratitude for God's gift to all people of his Son, Jesus Christ.

The wreaths on the Heritage Hall doors are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of **Ken Pardonnet** by his wife, Judy and family.

The poinsettias throughout the church are presented to the glory of God in loving memory or in honor of . . .

In honor of the **Kirk Pastors** - beloved always but especially now, for faith filled and creative leadership during COVID, *by a very thankful Kirk Family.*

In honor of **Glenn, Dennis**, and the **choir** for keeping music in our hearts and homes *by the Kirk Family.*

In honor of the **Kirk staff** who have worked especially hard during COVID *by the Kirk Family.*

With praise and thanksgiving to God and to honor our **parents** and the **men and woman in the military services** *by Don and Grace Guthrie.*

John & Hette Block and **Marie & Donald Krenke** *by John and Donna Block.*

Douglas and Dorothy Booth *by Arnold Kummerow.*

Robert Booth *by Arnold Kummerow.*

Mark Brown *by Pam Brown.*

Harry "Bud" Buttorf *by the Lau Family.*

Harold and Alyce Chargot *by Pam Brown.*

Becky Davis *by Nathan and Kristi Schulz.*

John and Marian Dressler *by a friend.*

Janet Emerson *by Todd, Rosemary, Caitlin and Andrew Emerson.*

Bob Fredericks *by his wife, Terry Fredericks.*

Grandma Rose Goers *by Laura and Brian Ambrose.*

Ronald M. Hardison *by Jim and Amy Tully.*

Richard T. Hartzell *by his family.*

Poinsettia Memorials 2020 *(continued)*



Robert E. Hoisington *by the Hoisington Family.*

Phillip H. Kneen *by his family.*

Constance Booth Kummerow *by Arnold Kummerow.*

Arnold and Elizabeth Kummerow *by Arnold Kummerow.*

David F. Lau *by his family.*

Dr. John H. Libcke *by his wife, Jean and family.*

Louise Morian *by Todd, Rosemary, Caitlin and Andrew Emerson.*

Virginia Mosley *by Brian and Sally Carlson.*

Joel Pott *by his wife, Sandra Pott.*

Rhoda, Maynard, Irene and Mitch *by Mark and Carolyn Gier.*

Philip and Eloys Rothwell *by Laura and Brian Ambrose.*

Curtis Rundell *loving husband and father of 3 sons by Yvonne Rundell.*

M. Lynne Scheiber *by Dennis E. Scheiber, family, Jacquelyn, Logan and Kaitlynne.*

Mr. and Mrs. Shepherd Sikes *by Leslie Sikes.*

Terry L. Stinson *by his wife, Lynn, and son, Christopher Stinson.*

Elizabeth Caradine Tully *by Jim and Amy Tully.*

Gloria Watt *by Susan Jones.*

Mr. and Mrs. Don White, Sr. *parents of Yvonne Rundell.*

Henry and Mae Wolfe and **Emil and Esther Pyorala** *by Jim and Py Wolfe.*

Her husband, **Robert Larkin** and daughter-in-law, **Karen Larkin** *by Ann Larkin.*

Her mother, **Maxine Thompson** *by Jan Thompson.*

Bobby Tremain *by Karen and Scott Miller and Libby Miller Wilson.*

Their loved ones *by the Maynard Timm Family.*



Rev. Angela Ryo, Rev. Dr. Nathaniel D. Phillips, Rev. Kelsey Sorge



We envision a world where every heart experiences God's transforming love.



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