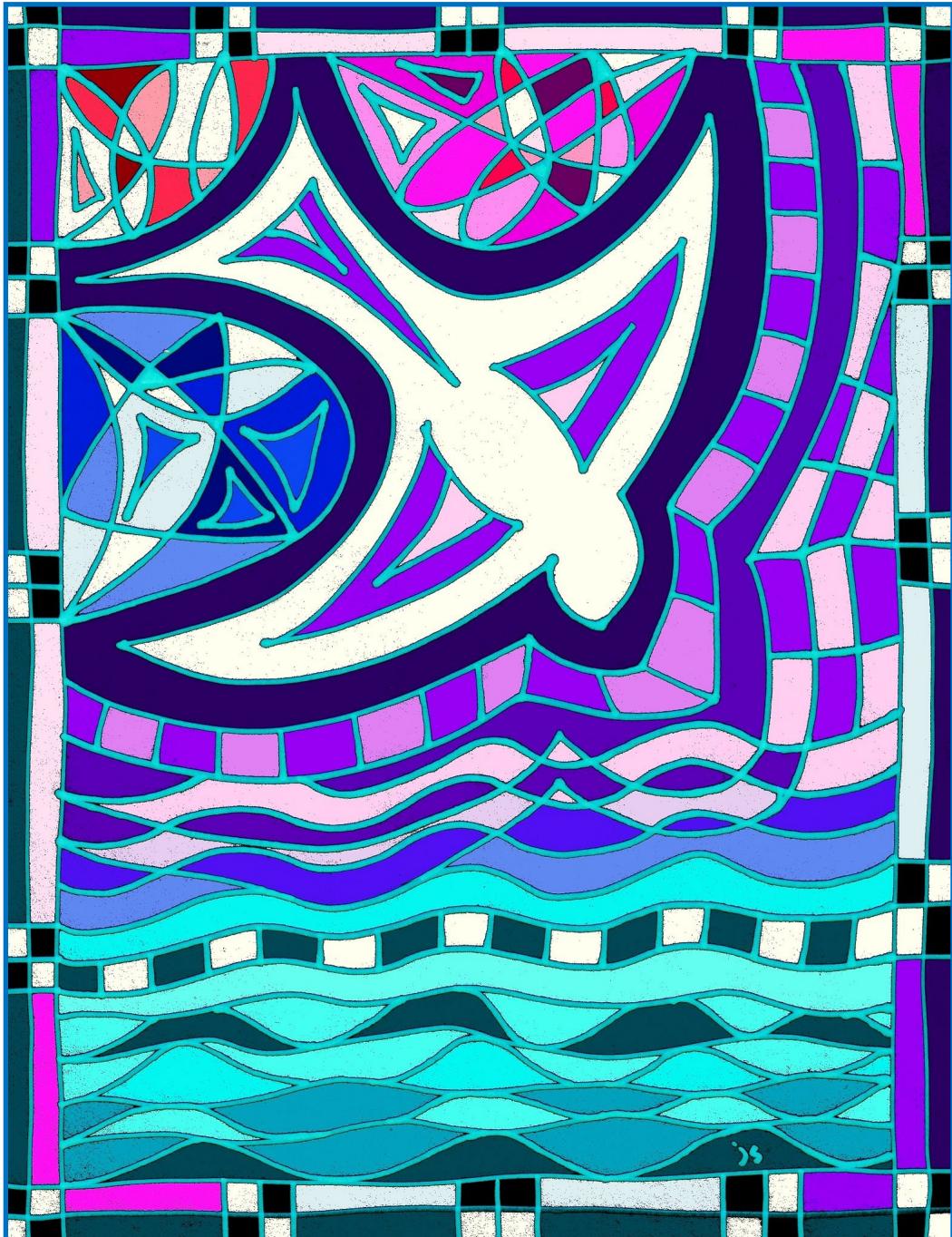


KIRK IN THE HILLS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)
BAPTISM OF THE LORD
JANUARY 7, 2024



**CHURCH OFFICER NOMINATING COMMITTEE
NOMINEES TO THE GOVERNING BOARDS
CLASS OF 2026**

Elders

Jennifer Fickel
Lee Gardner (two-year term)
Jeffrey Haynes
Jill O'Hara
Carole Pearl
Jeff Reitmeyer

Youth Elder
Hannah Jakubiak

Deacons

Gloria Chon
Jenny Gallo
Gretchen Jakubiak
Kim McGlynn
Richard Morris
Leslie Sikes
Dan Tomlinson
Chris Yousif

Youth Deacons
Sadie Douglass
Pryanka Skilton

Trustees

Kelley Klein (one-year term)
Steve Briggs
Jay Cooke
Steve Fogle
Bethney Kerr
Ford Meiser
Bruce Miller

CONC Members-at-Large

Scott File
Glenda Herb
Brian Sliwinski

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary Worship

OPENING VOLUNTARY

"Noel; Grand Jeu et Duo," *Livre de Noëls*

Louis-Claude Daquin

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

• INTROIT

O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

*O sing a song of Bethlehem, of shepherds watching there,
And of the news that came to them from angels in the air.
The light that shone on Bethlehem fills all the world today
Of Jesus' birth and peace on earth the angels sing alway.*

*O sing a song of Nazareth, of sunny days of joy,
O sing of fragrant flowers' breath and of the sinless boy.
For now the flowers of Nazareth in every heart may grow,
Now spreads the fame of his dear name on all the winds that blow.*

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald

The hour is coming, and now is, when true worshipers

Will worship God in spirit and in truth.

At the name of Jesus every knee should bow

And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

The kingdom of the world has become

the kingdom of our Lord and his Christ,

And he will reign forever and ever.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 143

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Regent Square

* PRAYER OF CONFESION

Almighty God, who sent a star
to lead wise ones to the Christ child:
We confess that we have not
followed the light of your word,
nor searched for signs of your love in the world.
We have expected little, hoped for less,
and failed in discerning the truth.
Help us to hear again the good new of our Savior,
And to worship him in spirit and in truth.

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE



Lord, have mer-cy up-on us; Christ, have mer-cy up-on us; Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God has given us the Light of the World in Jesus Christ.
Grace and truth come through him.
Believe and share the good news!

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation!**

* GLORIA PATRI (*Hymn 581*)

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 & THE LORD'S PRAYER (9:00 a.m.)

Sarah Ford

Following the Word with the Children, children and youth ages 4 through grade 8 will be dismissed for Sunday School.

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 475

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (vss 1&3)

Nettleton

CALL TO OFFERING AND DEDICATION

Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald

Our giving is an offering to God. All offerings are part of our worship of God and support the Kirk's ministry. Text "KITH" to 73256 to give using your mobile device.

OFFERTORY

The Holly and the Ivy

Matthew Owens

*The holly and the ivy when they are both full grown,
of all the trees that are in the wood the holly bears the crown.*

*Refrain: The rising of the sun and the running of the deer,
the playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir.*

*The holly bears a blossom, as white as any flower,
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, to be our sweet Saviour. [Refrain]*

*The holly bears a berry, as red as any blood,
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to do poor sinners good. [Refrain]*

*The holly bears a prickle, as sharp as any thorn,
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ on Christmas day in the morn. [Refrain]*

*The holly bears a bark, as bitter as any gall,
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ for to redeem us all. [Refrain]*

WORD

SCRIPTURE READING **Matthew 2: 1-12 (NT, page 2)** Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON **"The Fight for Truth in Herod's Kingdom:
What's So Wise About the Wise Men?"**

* **HYMN 141** **On This Day Earth Shall Ring** *Personent Hodie*

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION Rev. Kelsey Sorge

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

SANCTUS (*Hymn 562*) **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.** *Schubert*

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.**

AMEN (*Hymn 564*) **Amen** *Schubert*
Amen, amen, amen.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING IN THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

This morning the congregation is served in procession. Please remain seated until you are prompted by an usher to be served. 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.

We receive the bread with "Amen" after the server says, "This is the body of Christ."

We receive the cup with "Thanks be to God" after the server says, "This is the cup of the new covenant"

COMMUNION MUSIC

ANTHEM

Coventry Carol

arr. Martin Shaw

1 O sisters too, how may we do for to preserve this day this poor youngling, for whom we do sing by by, lully lullay?

2 Herod the king, in his raging, charged he hath this day his men of might, in his own sight, all young children to slay.

3 That woe is me, poor child for thee! and ever morn and day, for thy parting neither say nor sing by by, lully lullay! [Refrain]

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, in this sacrament, we receive Christ by faith,
That he may live in us, and we in him.
Fed by Christ's Spirit, may we grow in joyful minds and hearts.
Unite us in faith,
Encourage us with hope,
Inspire us to love
And strengthen us to serve
In the ever-new and life-giving ways of Jesus Christ. Amen.

SENDING

* RECESSIONAL HYMN 134 Joy to the World

Antioch

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION (*seated*)

CHORAL RESPONSE

He Came Down

Cameroon Melody

*He came down that we may have love....; hallelujah forevermore.
He came down that we may have joy...; hallelujah forevermore.*

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

In Thee Is Gladness, BWV 615

J.S. Bach

(11:00 a.m.)

INFORMATION ON TODAY'S SERVICES

Worship/Music Notes

The Kirk Chancel Choir is off today, and our quartet sings music of the Christmas season and the Baptism of the Lord. The introit is based on a text from 1899 by Louis FitzGerald Benson set to a familiar tune (*KINGSFOLD*) arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams. The motet is by Irish composer Matthew Owens (b. 1971), Director of Music at Belfast Cathedral where he leads the professional, all adult choir of Northern Ireland's national cathedral. During communion the quartet sings the Coventry Carol, which dates from the 15th century, here arranged by Martin Shaw.

The Kirk Choir is looking for new members, and interested musicians are welcome to join for Lent and Easter, if they are not able to make the year-round commitment. Please contact Marilyn Biery for more information on how to join the Kirk Choir. For more information on the youth choirs, contact Bobby DeLisle and Carol Beth Litkouhi.

Musicians: Leslie Mason, soprano, Chantel Woodard, alto, Regis Haynes, tenor, Daniel Paradowski, baritone; David Enos and Marilyn Biery, organists.

Stephen Ministers are available for personal, confidential prayer in Melrose Chapel immediately following each service Sunday. If you or someone you know is in need of prayer please contact Nancy Lau at 248-835-6691.



The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held between worship services today.

The flowers on the altar are presented to the glory of God by Kathleen Block in loving memory of her husband, Dr. Duane L. Block, their daughter, Susan Rupe, her sister Marian Kline and her niece Beth Kline.

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.

About Today's Cover Art—Baptism of the Lord 2023 by John Stuart, used with permission. Originally from Scotland, John Stuart has served as a Presbyterian pastor for almost forty years. His work has been used by churches all over the world and has been featured on covers of religious magazines. John's artist name is Stushie which is a Scottish nickname for people called Stuart.

Here is the Status of our 2024 Pledge Campaign:

Campaign target - \$1,700,000

Pledges received to Date - \$1,375,647

% of target achieved – 80.7%

Number of Pledges Received – 393

Number of Families who have not yet pledged – 657

% change in pledges from 2023 for those who pledged both years – 8.4%

Number of new pledges – 46

**MAKE
LOVE
YOUR
GOAL**
1 Corinthians 14:1

If you have pledged – thank you.

If you haven't, please do as soon as possible. You can pledge by turning in a pledge card, pledging through the Realm App, or calling the church office.

Please continue your prayers for a successful campaign.



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



Membership

Rev. Edwin Estevez

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Serve

Julie Walker

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Congregational Care

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Preschool

Sandy Jewell

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Youth

Rev. Kelsey Sorge

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Children & Family

Sarah Ford

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Choirs and Music Events

Marilyn Biery

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Baptisms, Memorials, Weddings

Jennifer Morris

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Small Groups

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Give

Jayne Zellers

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Questions/Information

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Church Leadership

Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald

Interim Senior Pastor

drmcd@kirkinthehills.org