

KIRK IN THE HILLS  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)  
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY  
JANUARY 21, 2024





## Jonah, The Reluctant Prophet

The Bible is filled with stories of the faithful who are called by the Lord, say, "Here I am Lord. Send me." And then there is Jonah, the defiant prophet. When God calls, Jonah turns tail, and sails away.

This short book takes 10 minutes to read. Take a few minutes and read it before worship on Sunday.

The book of Jonah is filled with humor.

the unbelieving sailors who act like believers.

The evil Ninevites who, are more faithful than the faithful.

The King who issues a decree that all the kingdom must put on the sackcloth and ashes of repentance, even the animals! Animal and all show signs of being sorry for their misbehavior.

The big fish who should terrify and devour, but who ends up being an agent of God's salvation.

And the biggest joke of all is the prophet Jonah, stuck in resentment of his call. Jonah loved his wrath more than loving God's love. He fumes as he sits under his withered plant. It is such irony -- a worm is stronger than Jonah's faith.

You can read the book of Jonah as satire, irony, derision, wit, and humor but it is all for a serious purpose. It assumes God calls the faithful, but it is a drama. How will the faithful respond? Faith can turn the world around, but do the faithful want the new world God envisions? In all its humor, the book of Jonah asks, how willing are we to answer God's call and bring God's vision of a new world into being?  
Join us as we journey with Jonah, the reluctant prophet.

# THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

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

## OPENING VOLUNTARY

**Cantilena**

*Frederik Matthison-Hansen*

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

## \* INTROIT

**Love the Lord Your God**

*Great Commandment*

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart.  
Love the Lord your God with all your soul.  
Love the Lord your God with all your mind.  
Love the Lord your God with all that you are.*

## \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Edwin Estevez

God alone is my rock, my salvation, my fortress;  
I shall not be shaken.  
On God rests my deliverance and my honor;  
My mighty rock, my refuge is God.

**Trust in God at all times;  
Pour out your heart before the Lord;  
God is a refuge filled with steadfast love.**

## \* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 35

**Praise to the Lord, The Almighty**

*Lobe den Herren*

## \* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Edwin Estevez

**Almighty God, we confess that we have sinned against you  
In thought, word and deed;  
We have not loved you  
With all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength;  
We have not loved our neighbor as ourselves.  
Deepen within us our sorrow for the wrong we have done,  
And the good we have left undone.  
Restore to us the joy of life lived in your presence.  
In the spirit of Jesus Christ, we pray.**

## \* 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

Rev. Edwin Estevez

God is full of compassion and grace,  
Slow to anger, and overflowing with mercy.  
The Lord binds up the broken, gives light to our minds,  
Strengthens our wills, and gives rest to our souls.  
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**

Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald

**OUR FAITH IN ACTION**

Organ Update

Keith Peters

**ANTHEM**

**We Are Not Alone**

*Pepper Choplin*

*We are not alone, God is with us. (Refrain)*

*We are never alone, for God is with us.*

*Now, through all our days, always, forever and ever,  
we are never alone. And God will make us strong,  
for God is with us. (Soloist)*

**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** (*verses 1 & 3*)

*Nettleton*

**CALL TO OFFERING AND DEDICATION**

Rev. Edwin Estevez

*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**

**All Beautiful the March of Days**

*arr. Austin Lovelace*

All beautiful the march of days,  
As seasons come and go.  
The hand that shaped the rose has wrought  
The crystal of the snow,  
Has sent the hoary frost of heav'n,  
The flowing waters sealed,  
And laid a silent loveliness  
On hill and wood and field.

O'er white expanses, sparkling pure,  
The radiant morns unfold;  
The solemn splendors of the night  
Burn brighter through the cold.  
Life mounts in ev'ry throbbing vein,  
Love deepens round the hearth,

And clearer sounds the angel hymn,  
"Good will to all on earth."

O Thou, from whose unfathomed Law  
The year in beauty flows,  
Thyself the vision passing by  
In crystal and in rose,  
Day unto day shall utter speech,  
And night to night proclaim,  
In ever changing words of light,  
The wonder of thy name.

\* DOXOLOGY (*Hymn 606*)

*Old Hundredth*

## WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

**Jonah 3:1-5, 10** (*OT, page 860*) Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald  
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

**The Reluctant Prophet**

\* HYMN 291

**Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness**

*Spirit*

## PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Kelsey Sorge

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*11:00 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.**

## SENDING

\* RECESSIONAL HYMN 700

**I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me**

*I'm Gonna Live*

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

**He Came Down**

*David Lasky*

## WORSHIP NOTES

## INFORMATION ON TODAY'S SERVICES

### Worship/Music Notes

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.

Pepper Choplin is a full-time composer, conductor and humorist. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of North Carolina and a Master of Music degree in composition from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Choplin incorporates varied styles into his compositions, such as folk, Gospel, classical, and jazz.

The text for the offertory anthem was written by the American poet Frances Whitmarsh Wile, (1878—1939). Her lovely hymn to be sung in winter, "All beautiful the march of days" was written about 1907 while she was a parishioner of Rev. William C. Gannett, in Rochester, N.Y., in consultation with him, and was included in Gannett and Hosmer's revised edition of *Unity Hymns and Chorals*, 1911, and then into *The New Hymn and Tune Book*, 1914, and *Hymns of the Spirit*, 1937. Austin Lovelace arranged the tune, named FOREST GREEN, and found in our hymnal set to a different text (see Hymn 712). Austin C. Lovelace (1919-2010) was called by many the Dean of American Church music. He worked at a number of Methodist and Presbyterian churches in Colorado, North Carolina, Illinois, and Nebraska. He also worked at Union Theological Seminary in N.Y.C. and Garrett Theological Seminary in Evanston, Ill.

Musicians: Chantel Woodard, soprano; Regis Haynes, tenor; Merideth Estevez, oboe; David Enos, carillonist; Marilyn Biery, organist and director

Copyright acknowledgements: The following is used with permission, OneLicense.net License No. 717156-A: "Love the Lord Your God" text © 1991 Desert Flower Music

**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.



**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** in Heritage Hall after the 9:00 a.m. worship service!

**About today's cover art—*Jonah Preaching to the People of Ninevah*** | Vaccaro, Andrea, 1604-1670. From *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN

### Here is the status of our 2024 Pledge Campaign:

Campaign target: \$1,700,000

Pledges received to date: \$1,408,597

% of target achieved: 82.9%

Number of pledges received: 406

Number of families who have not yet pledged: 644

% change in pledges from 2023 for those who pledged both years: 9.1%

Number of new pledges: 49 (from anyone who did not pledge in 2023)

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

You can pledge by turning in a pledge card, pledging through the Realm App or calling the church office. Please pray for us to have a successful campaign.





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



**Membership**

*Rev. Edwin Estevez*  
 revedwin@kirkinthehills.org



**Serve**

*Julie Walker*  
 jwalker@kirkinthehills.org



**Congregational Care**

*Rev. Kelsey Sorge*  
 revokns@kirkinthehills.org



**Preschool**

*Sandy Jewel*  
 sjewel@kirkinthehills.org



**Youth**

*Rev. Kelsey Sorge*  
 revokns@kirkinthehills.org



**Children & Family**

*Sarah Ford*  
 sford@kirkinthehills.org



**Choirs and Music Events**

*Marilyn Biery*  
 mbiery@kirkinthehills.org



**Baptisms, Memorials, Weddings**

*Jennifer Morris*  
 jmorris@kirkinthehills.org



**Small Groups**

*Rev. Edwin Estevez*  
 revedwin@kirkinthehills.org



**Give**

*Jayne Zellers*  
 jzellers@kirkinthehills.org



**Questions/Information**

*Erica Ginter*  
 eginter@kirkinthehills.org



**Church Leadership**

*Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald*  
 drmc@kirkinthehills.org



1340 West Long Lake Road   
 Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302  
 (248) 626-2515   
 kirkinthehills.org   
 facebook.com/kirkinthehills 