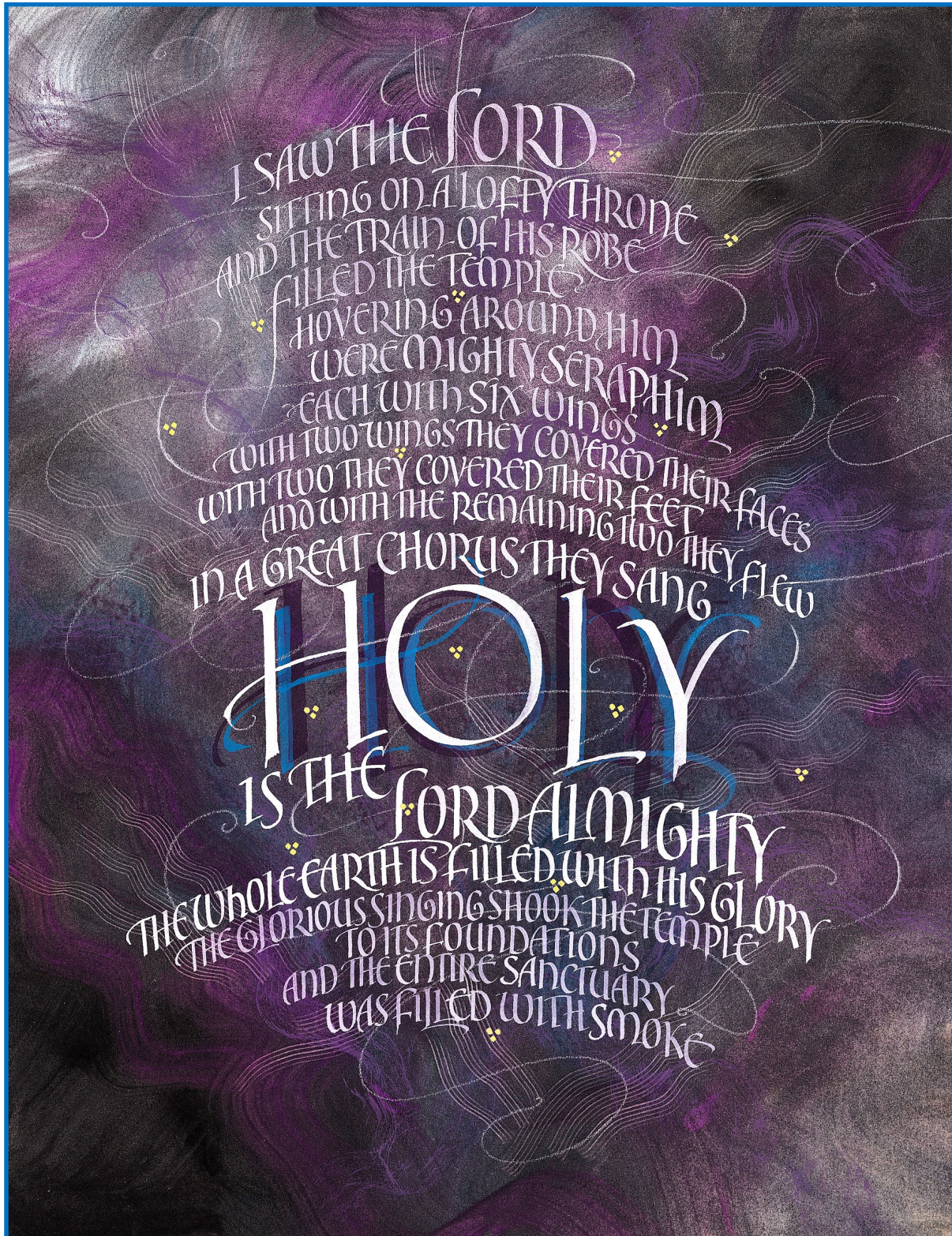


KIRK IN THE HILLS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)
HOMECOMING SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 8, 2024





*I was glad when they said to me,
'Let us go to the house of the Lord!' (Psalm 122:1)*

"Home is where the heart is," is a great phrase because it captures something important. As I begin preaching this Sunday as your new Senior Pastor, I reflect on this: a home is more than just a house- it's more than a roof, doors, floors, and furniture. A sense of home is about belonging, it's about family. And that's exactly what can be so hard about home. Maybe you were blessed to grow up in a stable and healthy household, but we know not everyone has such an opportunity. "Where is home?" can be a complicated question for some. Is it your childhood home, your birthplace, or the new home via unexpected circumstances?

Here, at Kirk in the Hills, we know something about this. This was once the home of Col. Edwin S. George (a name I'll never forget), who gifted it to serve as a local expression of the Church world-wide, to symbolize "the house of the Lord." On Homecoming Sunday, we celebrate a return "home," from the places we've traveled over the summer. We also celebrate with those looking for a church home, inviting them to become members of the family. We celebrate those who have come before, those we've lost along the way, and those yet to come. Yes, you are welcome home on this Sunday!

But make no mistake—home is where the heart is. As followers of The Way of Jesus, our hearts are for God and in Christ, enlivened by the Spirit, to love God with all of ourselves, and to love neighbor as ourselves. Yes, please get comfortable at home, but also be challenged to serve, to forgive, to strive for peace, to be generous givers of time, talent, and treasure. And like a family, we will not always agree, but we are always called to love. Blessings on this Homecoming Sunday, and let us worship God!

Rev. Edwin Estevez
Sr. Pastor | Head of Staff

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Prelude and Fugue in D minor, BWV 539 ("Fiddle")

J. S. Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Edwin Estevez & Rev. Dr. Philip J. Reed

OUR FAITH IN ACTION

Feed My Sheep

Carolyn Sloane & Tony Quiroga

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

*** INTROIT**

This is the Day

Marilyn Biery

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Dr. Philip J. Reed

This is the time when God's people gather together.

This is the time when we wait to hear God's word.

This is the time when we see friends, old and new.

This is the time when we remember that God makes us family.

This is the time we enter through the font and share at the table.

This is the time when we join our voices in prayer and song.

This is the time when we give thanks for all that is good.

This is the time when we are sent out to love and to serve.

This is the time to worship God.

*** PROCESSIONAL HYMN 1**

Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord God Almighty!

Nicaea

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Dr. Keith O. Provost

Holy God, all is not right. We are not right with you or with each other.

Anger, fear, and disappointment rest uneasily in our hearts. It is hard to trust, and it is even harder to forgive. Help us to turn to you to find the strength we need. Help us to look to the example of Jesus to see how to love. Help us look deep within ourselves for our own faults. We pray for your forgiveness, that we might receive it for ourselves and offer it to others. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Kyrie

Merbecke



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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, trusting in the pardon, mercy, and grace of God,
believe the Good News:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation.
Thanks be to God!

* GLORIA PATRI

Greatorex (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. Amen.

WORD

WORD WITH THE CHILDREN & PSALM 117

Sarah Ford

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

Psalm 117

Praise the Lord, all you nations.
Extol him, all you peoples.
For great is his love towards us,
And the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.
Praise the Lord!

As the children recess to Sunday School, all will sing...

HYMN 188 (*seated*)

Jesus Love Me!

Jesus Loves Me

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION **Gracious God**

Arabic Tune

*Gracious God you are the source of all light.
By your Word you give light to the soul.
Pour on us the source of your wisdom
that we may hear your Word through Jesus Christ. Amen.*

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 6:1-8 (OT, page 635)

Elder Andrew Clopton

Romans 1:16-20 (NT page 152)

Rev. Dr. Philip J. Reed

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

SERMON

Encountering God: The Holy and Powerful God

Rev. Edwin Estevez

* HYMN 625

O Lord My God

How Great Thou Art

THANKSGIVING

CALL TO OFFERING AND DEDICATION

Rev. Dr. Keith O. Provost

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

OFFERTORY

Gloria from the Twelfth Mass

attr. to W. A. Mozart

*Glorious is thy name, Almighty Lord.
All the angels stand about thy throne;
let all nations bow before thee,
and declare thy wondrous works.*

*We praise thee, we give thanks to thee.
 We glorify thee. Lord, we adore thee, we bless thee.
 We thank thee for thy great glory.
 Heaven is thy throne, and earth is thy footstool;
 thou art king over all the world.
 Blessing and honor be to God forever and evermore.*

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Edwin Estevez, Rev. Dr. Keith O. Provost,
 Rev. Jasmine Smart

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT 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

James Biery

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san-na in the
 high - est. Blest is the one who comes in the name of the
 Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est, ho - san-na in the high - est!

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

James Biery

Remembering . . . Great is the mystery of faith....

Christ has died, Christ is ris-en, Christ will come a - gain.

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

James Biery



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

*(Choir will be served communion,
then will begin...)*

In This Still Room

Gwyneth Walker

*And so I find it well to come for deeper rest to this still room.
For here the habit of the soul feels less the outer world's control.
Light of God, the strength of human purpose
pleads more earnestly our common needs, in this still room.
And from this silence multiplied by these still forms on either side,
the world that time and sense have known falls off and leaves us God alone.
Light of God! The world that time and sense have known
falls off and leaves us God alone.
I find it well to come for deeper rest to this still room.
(Text by John Greenleaf Whittier.)*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**In your body broken and in your blood shed for all of us, Lord,
we have tasted and seen that you are good. In this meal,
we have experienced again your deep love for your world.
May the sweet taste of this meal strengthen us for living for you
and remind us that we are called to live according to your will
and to love as you love. Help us to yearn for your coming again,
we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

SENDING

* CLOSING HYMN 435

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

In Babilone

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Edwin Estevez

* CHORAL AND CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

The acolytes and choir will lead us all out the doors as we sing Hymn 853. Please join in singing the following verses, repeating them until we have all exited the sanctuary.

We Are Marching in the Light of God

Siyhamba

We are marching in the light of God

We are dancing...

We are praying...

We are singing...

INFORMATION ON TODAY'S SERVICES

Music Notes

Musicians: James Biery, organist; Marilyn Biery, director.

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The processional hymn is sung to the tune named *Nicaea*, one of the finest tunes composed by the Church of England clergyman John B. Dykes (1823-1876). The tune is named after the Council of Nicaea (A.D. 325) at which church leaders began to formulate the doctrine of the Trinity.

The Prayer for Illumination sung today is based on an Arabic tune found in the *Book of Spiritual Hymns for Evangelical Churches*, published in Beirut, Lebanon, in 1965. The source of the tune is unknown. Marilyn Biery set the tune to a traditional Prayer for Illumination found in the *Book of Common Worship* published by the Presbyterian Church USA.

Widely performed throughout the country, the music of American composer **Gwyneth Walker** is beloved by performers and audiences alike for its energy, beauty, reverence, drama, and humor. Dr. Gwyneth Walker (b. 1947) is a graduate of Brown University and the Hartt School of Music. She holds B.A., M.M. and D.M.A. degrees in Music Composition. A former faculty member of the Oberlin College Conservatory, she resigned from academic employment in 1982 in order to pursue a career as a full-time composer. For nearly 30 years, she lived on a dairy farm in Braintree, Vermont, before returning to live in her childhood hometown of New Canaan, Connecticut.

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. If you are interested in being connected with a Stephen Minister, please call Robin Brinks at 248-310-2034.



On the Cover — **Isaiah 6:1-4** © 2024 John August Swanson | Eyekons



Meet Our Membership Coordinator! Stop by the Visitor's Table in the Narthex after service to say hello to our new Membership Coordinator, Mercy Adams. If this is your first visit to the Kirk, Mercy would love to meet you and answer all your questions about being a member. If you're interested, she can sign you up for one of our upcoming New Member Classes.



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



Membership

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Serve

Carole Pearl & Amy Davis

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Baptisms, Memorials, Weddings

Jennifer Morris

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Give

Jayne Zellers

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Questions/Information

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Linda Juracek Lipa/Clerk of Session

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