

KIRK IN THE HILLS  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)  
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
SEPTEMBER 15, 2024





Sunday, September 15, 2024

*"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."*

*--The Apostle Paul, Letter to the Colossians 3:16-17*

Music moves us. It stirs our souls, lifts up our hearts, and turns our attention to something beyond ourselves. Music is a part of our creation, as we hear it in the birds, the billowing waves, rustling leaves, the pitter-patter of the rain, and of course, the human voice. Music has been and continues to be central to our worship. The Apostle Paul even commands it: *thou shalt sing psalm, hymns, and spiritual songs to God and as an assembled people of God!*

After a challenging transition over the last several years, we are blessed to have our Music Ministry in place, by the grace of God, and today we get to celebrate that together! Dr. Marilyn Biery has felt the call to serve as our Director of Music, and we are grateful that she said yes. Today, we commission her into service to the Kirk. The choir helps lead us in contemplative and joyous singing. Bobby Delisle and Carol Beth Litkouhi are passionately leading our children and youth choirs, Dr. Merideth Hite Estevez will continue to support worship and the music ministry, David Enos is playing organ for our 8:00 a.m. Communion Service, weddings, and funerals, our carillonneur Eric Whitmer is continuing our legacy of the largest active carillon in the world, and our Artist in Residence, Jim Biery, is playing keyboard instruments for our 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. worship, as well as maintaining our instruments and supporting our special music events. What an exciting time! I ask for your prayers for our Music Ministry to continue to help us grow in faith, community, and impact, to the glory of God!

In Christ,

Rev. Edwin Estevez  
Sr. Pastor | Head of Staff

## THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

9:00 & 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary

### OPENING VOLUNTARY

**Sonata 1 in F Major**  
**Adagio ma non troppo: Allegro**

*Jan Dismas Zelenka*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Edwin Estevez

### A PRAYER TO PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

Rev. Jim Moseley

O gracious and holy God, give us diligence to seek you,  
wisdom to perceive you, and patience to wait for you.  
Grant us, O God, a mind to meditate on you; eyes to behold you;  
ears to listen for your word;  
a heart to love you; and a life to proclaim you;  
through the power of the Spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
*Amen. Attributed to Benedict of Nursia (c. 480-574)*

\* *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. Jim Moseley

This is the day that the Lord has made;  
**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**  
Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**Who made heaven and earth.**  
O come, let us sing to the Lord and shout with joy  
to the rock of our salvation!  
**Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving,**  
**singing joyful songs of praise.**

### \* PROCESSIONAL HYMN

**Joined Together As One Body**

*Nettleton*

*(see insert)*

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We  
humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not loved you  
with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves. We  
have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our  
God. Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light, and walk in  
your ways, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. 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

Hear this: the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good.

Friends, believe the Good News:

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

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

## \* 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 (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.*

#### **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 Loves Me!**

*Jesus Loves Me*

## COMMISSIONING

**Marilyn Biery, Director of Music**

Rev. Edwin Estevez,

Rev. Dr. Philip J. Reed & Elder Linda Juracek-Lipa

*Congregational response (at prompt):*

**We will, God being our helper.  
May God give us all grace  
to offer our music and our lives  
in faithful service, thanksgiving, and praise.**

**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**

**Micah 6** (OT, page 866)

Elder Linda Juracek-Lipa

**Luke 18:1-8** (NT page 81)

Rev. Dr. Philip J. Reed

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

**SOLO**

**Et in Spiritum Sanctum from Mass in B Minor, BWV 232**

*J. S. Bach*

*Et in Spiritum Sanctum Dominum et vivificantem,  
qui ex Patre Filioque procedit;  
qui cum Patre et Filio simul adoratur et conglorificatur;  
qui locutus est per Prophetas.  
Et unam sanctam catholicam et apostolicam ecclesiam.*

(From the Credo):

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.*

**SERMON**

**Encountering God: The Just God**

Rev. Edwin Estevez

**\* HYMN 13**

**The Mighty God with Power Speaks**

*Kingsfold*

**THANKSGIVING**

**CALL TO OFFERING AND DEDICATION**

Rev. Dr. Philip J. Reed

*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**

**The Heavenly Music**

*James Biery*

*If I could listen with my heart  
To hear the heavenly music ring,  
Its myriad layers, part on part  
Would thrill my soul and make it sing.*

*Such glorious music, soul to song,  
Enraptures earth and heaven as one;  
With phrases floating, rhythm strong,  
Such silky resonance is spun.*

*And as we still to hear these sounds,  
Dissolved in endless, whispered prayer,  
The One whose universe resounds  
With shouts of love is listening there*

*With arms outstretched, God draws us near,  
Where we become the hymns of praise  
That echo long with stanzas clear*

*And sing with love for endless days. (Text by Marilyn Biery)*

\* **DOXOLOGY** (*Hymn 606*)

*Old Hundredth*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him/God all creatures here below;  
Praise him/God above, ye heavenly host,  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

### **PRAYER**

**OUR FAITH IN ACTION**

**Kyes Weekend**

**Ruth Reading**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Rev. Dr. Philip J. Reed**

**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 641**

**When in Our Music God is Glorified**

*Engelberg*

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** (*seated*)

**CHORAL RESPONSE**

**Amen**

*P. C. Lutkin*

**CLOSING VOLUNTARY**

**Rondeau**

*Jean-Joseph Mouret*

## **INFORMATION ON TODAY'S SERVICES**

### **Music Notes**

Musicians: Daniel Paradowski, baritone; Merideth Estevez and Stephanie Shapiro, oboe; Susan Joul, cello; Derek Lockhart, trumpet, James Biery, organist; Marilyn Biery, director.

Guest Instrumentalists today:

#### **Derek Lockhart, trumpet**

Derek Lockhart enjoys a diverse musical career as a chamber musician, orchestral performer, commercial artist and educator. He has performed in concert with the world-renowned Empire Brass since 2009 and became a member of the celebrated ensemble in 2013. A founding member of the Motor City Brass Quintet, he can also be heard performing with the Detroit Opera, the Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings and the Colorado and Sunflower Music Festival Orchestras.

#### **Susan Clark Joul, cello**

Susan Clark Joul is a freelance musician and has lived in Michigan almost all of her life, having grown up in Ann Arbor and returning to Michigan after graduating from Arizona State University. She is the manager of the Rochester Symphony Orchestra where she is also principal cellist for the group. Her string quartets play for many community events and weddings in the area.

Susan is a pianist and has accompanied violinist, Zeljko Milicevic for 14 years. The duo performs all around the area for recitals and other programs. For the last 16 years, Susan served as a soprano soloist for St Paul's United Methodist Church in Rochester, Michigan. She has a studio of 23 students in cello and piano.

### **Stephanie Shapiro, oboe**

Stephanie Shapiro held the tenured position of Oboe/English Horn with the San Antonio Symphony from 1997-2011, where she was hailed by the San Antonio Express News for her “gorgeous phrasing and rich tone” and her “eloquent and exquisitely contoured” playing. Ms. Shapiro received her musical training at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, where she earned her B.M., and went on to receive her M.M. at the University of Michigan while on a full fellowship. She has performed as a guest with numerous orchestras, including the Columbus Symphony Orchestra, Fort Wayne Philharmonic, Michigan Opera Theatre, Oregon Symphony and the Toledo Symphony Orchestra, among others. She currently teaches at Wayne State University, and maintains an active musical life as a soloist, orchestral musician, and chamber music collaborator and enjoys gardening and cooking in her spare time.

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 (1993).

J.S. Bach's *Mass in B Minor* was composed in 1748/1749, and completed the year before his death. It was unusual for a Lutheran composer to set the entire Ordinary of the Mass; normally only the Kyrie and Gloria were set, but here Bach has included all the movements: Kyrie and Gloria, Credo, Sanctus, Osanna, Benedictus, Agnus Dei and Dona Nobis Pacem. The “Et in Spiritum Sanctum” is a bass solo found in the Credo section of the *Mass*.

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**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.



**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.

**The flowers on the altar** are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of their beloved Cate by the Hay family.

**On the Cover — The Parable of the Widow** | John Everett Millais (1829-1896) | \* Harvard Art Museum | The piece is a 19<sup>th</sup> century watercolor and gouache on off-white wove paper. \* *The Harvard Art Museum encourages the use of images found on their website for noncommercial use and scholarly purposes.*



**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**

*Mercy Adams*

*madams@kirkinthehills.org*



**Serve**

*Carole Pearl & Amy Davis*

*missionoutreach@kirkinthehills.org*



**Congregational Care**

*Wendy Beck*

*wbeck@kirkinthehills.org*



**Preschool**

*Sandy Jewell*

*sjewell@kirkinthehills.org*



**Youth**

*Sarah Ford*

*sford@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**

*Linda Juracek Lipa/Clerk of Session*

*kithclerk@kirkinthehills.org*



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

