

KIRK IN THE HILLS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)
10:00 A.M. SANCTUARY WORSHIP
FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS | DECEMBER 28, 2025





A Note from Rev. Dr. Philip J. Reed

“After Christmas”

What a Christmas it has been at Kirk in the Hills! We gathered in familiar and new ways, singing carols, lighting candles, and hearing again the ancient story that continues to shape us. Our sanctuary was filled with music, beauty, and a deep sense of shared joy. It has been a season of connection, generosity, and worship that many of us will carry with us for a long time.

Now, Christmas gives way to the days after. The decorations come down, the music softens, and life begins to return to its usual rhythms. The world seems eager to move on.

The good news of Christmas, however, does not.

Scripture lingers with what comes next, leading us from the manger into a world that is still uncertain, still fragile, and still deeply loved by God. Matthew’s telling of the Christmas story reminds us that God’s work does not end with a holy and silent night. God continues to act in ordinary days, in moments of decision, and in circumstances that are anything but simple.

In Matthew 2:13–23, we encounter Joseph, a quiet, watchful presence in the Christmas story. He never speaks a word, yet his faith is revealed in attentiveness, trust, and movement. Through Joseph, we glimpse what it can look like to live faithfully after Christmas, when the wonder remains but the world has not been magically transformed.

This Sunday’s scripture invites us to reflect on how God stays close, continues to guide, and remains active long after the carols have ended. Faith unfolds not only in celebration, but also in the steady, often unseen steps of everyday life.

As we enter this season after Christmas, let us listen to the story, to one another, and to God’s continuing work among us. And let us worship with open hearts, attentive to what God may be saying to us even now.

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. Philip J. Reed | Parish Associate | Kirk in the Hills

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

PRELUDE

Greensleeves (*from* Four Carol Preludes)

Richard Purvis

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

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

* INTROIT

Love Has Come

French melody

*Love has come, a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.*

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

All God's people—

Boys and girls, women, men, young and old:

Come and worship!

Mothers, fathers, shepherds, wise men and women,
saints and angels

Come and worship! Come and worship!

All who long for comfort and hope, all who need a Savior,

Come and worship, come and worship Christ, the newborn King!

Let us worship the Lord!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 145

What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

*** PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

God of love,

All year long we pursue power, money,
and advance our careers,

Yet you come to us meek and mild.

All season long, we covet great materials gifts,

When you alone offer what we really need and what truly lasts.

May Jesus Christ, who comes among us full of grace and truth, forgive us, heal us, and correct us.

**Then open our lips that we may sing your praise with the angels,
And remake our lives.**

Through Jesus Christ. Amen.

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

John Merbecke



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

Hear the promise of the Lord:
See your salvation has come!
You are a holy people, forgiven and redeemed by God.
Believe the Good News.

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

* ACCLAMATION OF PRAISE

HYMN 113

Angels We Have Heard on High (*refrain*)

GLORIA

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

WORD

WORD WITH CHILDREN AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Sarah Ford

Following the Word with the Children, children and youth ages 4 through grade 8 remain in worship with their family.

INVITATION HYMN 115

Away in a Manger

MUELLER

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.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2:13-23 (*NT, page 2*)

Rev. Dr. Philip J. Reed

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SOLO

Sleep, Sweet Jesus, Sleep

Harold Abbey

*Look away down in the valley,
look away down a mile from town,
to the barnyard, to the stable,
to the Christ child where he is found.
Sleep, sleep, sweet Jesus, sleep.*

*See the farmer, see the wise man,
on a cold, bright, and starry morn,
all arriving for to worship,
by the manger where he is born.
Sleep, sleep, sweet Jesus, sleep.*

SERMON

After the Manger: God Speaks in a Dangerous World

* HYMN 144

In the Bleak Midwinter

CRANHAM

(Please be seated after the hymn.)

THANKSGIVING

CALL TO OFFERING

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

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

Sleep, Little Baby

Joseph M. Martin

*Sleep, little Baby, all through the silent night;
nothing awake thee, don't you cry.*

Peace be your blanket, love be your dream.

Lullabye Jesus, sleep, Baby, sleep.

*Sleep, little Jesus, safe in your mother's arms;
her love will keep you from all harm.*

One day the wind will blow, but for now angels sing.

Lullabye Jesus, sleep, Baby, sleep.

*Child of the promise, born to redeem;
the truth that you bring us is more than just a dream.*

Sleep, little Baby, Savior sent down from high;

Jesus, we need thee in our lives.

God sends us his own heart to share and to keep.

While we adore thee, sleep, Baby, sleep.

Lullabye Jesus, sleep, Baby, sleep.

* DOXOLOGY (Hymn 606)

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

OLD HUNDREDTH

** or God*

PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

SENDING

* RECESSIONAL HYMN 132

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION (seated)

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Polish folk melody

*Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.*

Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:

Christ the babe is Lord of all! Christ the babe is Lord of all!

POSTLUDE

When Jesus Was Born at Christmas

Claude Balbastre

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, Howard Flint II and Marilyn Flint, *by Martha and David Kistler, Heather and Mike Putz, David Fischer Jr., and Mary and Chris Pardi.*

The wreaths by the Sanctuary 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 by the Kirk House door are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of Ann S. Bryant *by The Bryant Family.*

The wreaths on the Heritage Hall doors are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of Dick and Judy Ward *by Chris, Jennifer, Collin and Henry Graff.*

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

In honor of the Kirk's Pastors, with the appreciation and love of the Kirk family.

In honor of the Kirk staff to acknowledge their faithful support of ministry at the Kirk.

In honor of those they have lost and remember *by The Norman Hofley Family.*

In honor of Chloe David *by Molly and Donald David.*

In honor of Joline Markovich and Jean Libcke, their loving Mothers and Grandmothers *by Bob, Julia, Will and Thomas Libcke.*

In honor of the Kirk Trinity Stitchers *by Marcia Miller.*

In honor of his wonderful wife who he misses so much. Love you! *By Ronald Kuhn.*

In honor of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Manza and Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Bilyeu *by Harry and Bonnie Manza.*

In honor of the Bill Robinson Bible study teacher, Dr. Ed Yousif *by Marcia and John Miller.*

Christmas Blessings to all our family and friends near and far *by Terri, Bradley and Carl Hanpeter.*

All of our Loved ones who have gone before us and whom we will hold deeply in our hearts forever *by The Parks Family.*

James and Mary Baker *by Bill, John and Tom Baker and their families.*

Delores Belt *by The Belt Family.*

George and Pat Black *by Steve Black.*

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

Donald T. Breen *by Camille Breen.*

Nellie Brown, Mother of Audley, Grandmother of Chloe, *by The Brown Family.*

Andy Busch *by The Belt Family.*

Heather Christy *by Irene and Brad Christy.*

Lorelei Christy *by Irene and Brad Christy.*

Sharon Craig *by The Schneider Family.*

Reagan David *by Molly and Donald David.*

Carolyn Davis, Mother of Danielle, Grandmother of Chloe *by The Brown Family.*

Dr. Jerald Felder *by Mary Felder.*

Gary L. Field *by The Riendl Family.*

Bob Fredericks *by Terry Fredericks.*

Bob Fuller *by Jeremy Wolfe and Mia Woodward.*

Jeff Gray *by The Belt Family.*

Richard T. Hartzell *by The Hartzell Family.*

Donna Mae Heliste *by Diane and Sandy McLeod.*

Robert E. Hoisington *by his family.*

Rex and Carol Holton, grandson, Kyle Holton and son-in-law, Wm Little *by The Holton and Little Families.*

Mike Hurd *by The Leemhuis Family.*

Dale Johnson *by his family.*
 Ann and Henry Kezlarian *by Jeffrey Kezlarian.*
 John King *by Larry Neal.*
 Lorraine Kilpatrick *by Irene and Brad Christy.*
 David Lau *by his family.*
 Dr. John H. Libcke *by his wife, Jean and children, Bob, Martha and Jane and their families.*
 Albert and Jeanne Maas *by Marge and Allan Whittemore.*
 Robert E. McGee *by The Riendl Family.*
 Alexander and Evelyn McKeen *by The McKeen Family.*
 George Meschke *by his wife, Diane Meschke.*
 Susan Trowl Milliken *by her loving family.*
 Mittelstaedt, Morris, Smith and Rueber Christmas past! *by Linda and Dick Morris.*
 Anita Pinson *by the Kirk Singers*
 Joel Pott *by his family.*
 C. A. and Laura Rice *by their children.*
 Margaret and Charles Sarlund *by Curtis, Wendy, Will and Molly Myers.*
 M. Lynne Scheiber *by Dennis E. Scheiber, Jacquelyn, Logan, Kaitlynne, and family.*
 Audrey Schmatz *by Craig and Norma Schmatz*
 Virginia and Edward Shelton and Margaret Rende *by Samantha Shelton.*
 Patricia Shoemaker *by Matt and Charlene.*
 Polly and Shepherd Sikes *by Leslie Sikes.*
 Maynard Timm *by Noreen Markley and Emily Timm.*
 Amelia Lauren Tomlinson *by her parents, Daniel and Lucinda Tomlinson and her brother and family, David, Pamela, Sutton Jaye and Harper Belle Tomlinson.*
 Robert A. Tremain and Robert (Bobby) Tremain *by Karen Miller.*
 Charles E. Trowl, Jr. *by his loving family.*
 Sharon Van Tiem *love The Kuhn Family.*
 Richard Warner *by Matt and Charlene Warner.*
 Gloria Watt *by Susan Jones.*
 Warren Wolfe *by Jeremy Wolfe and Mia Woodward.*
 Craig Woodward *by Jeremy Wolfe and Mia Woodward.*
 Shirley Konkel Zeldan *by Craig and Mona Schmatz*
 All those whom they love and remember *by Bruce, Terri, and Alexis Miller.*
 Merry Christmas Nana! *Love The Kuhns and Jakubiak families.*
 Her brother, Tony Kovach *by Barb Penna.*
 Her darling precious little one, Lilly *by Barb Penna.*
 Her husband, Joseph, parents and grandparents *by Carol Horonzy.*
 Her friend, Ann C. Shely *by Dr. Joan Cheng.*
 Her mother, Jean A. Cheng *by Dr. Joan Cheng.*
 The loved ones we have lost *by Claire and Adam Devlin.*
 Their Dads and Grandpas: John Stong and Edward Hanpeter *by Terri, Bradley and Carl Hanpeter.*
 Their parents, with gratitude and in honor of those serving in our military services *by Don and Grace Guthrie.*
 Their parents, Harold and Irene Keller *by Barbara and Bill Keller.*
 Their parents, Linda Kughn and Jim Stebbins *by Kim McGlynn and Cindy Monroe.*
 Their parents, Marjorie and Donald Rader and Lucia and Earl Harris *by Judy and Waller Harris.*
 Their parents, Ralph and Thelma Stone *by Barbara and Bill Keller.*
 Their parents, Mae and Henry Wolfe and Esther and Emil Pyorala *by Jim and Py Wolfe.*

INFORMATION ON TODAY'S SERVICES

Musicians: Todd Galloway, soloist; David Enos, organist.

About the music: **Richard (Irven) Purvis** (1913 – 1994) was an American organist, composer, conductor and teacher. He was best known for his expressive recordings of the organ classics and his compositions for the instrument. From 1947 through 1971, Purvis held the position of Organist and Master of Choristers at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, CA. He was also organist at the California Palace of the Legion of Honor. Upon his retirement from Grace Cathedral, he continued to compose, teach and give recitals into his 70s. He died on December 25, 1994. He wrote over 200 compositions.

Joseph Martin (b. 1959), a native of North Carolina, earned his Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance at Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina. Subsequently he earned a Master of Music degree in Piano Performance at the University of Texas, Austin. He is a member of the staff of Shawnee Press as Director of Sacred Publications, with responsibilities for overseeing the editorial and creative direction of the company's sacred publications. Joseph lives in Austin, Texas with his children Jonathan and Aubrey and his wife Sue.

Louis-Claude Daquin (1694 – 1772) was a French composer, virtuoso organist and harpsichordist. His Noels are his most well-known organ compositions.

Copyright acknowledgements: The following is used with permission, OneLicense.net License No. 717156-A All rights reserved. "Love Has Come," © 1996 LNWhymns.com (admin Music Services); "Sleep, Little Baby," text: © 1994 Triune Music, a division of The Lorenz Corporation (Admin. by Music Services)

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.



Are you feeling called to be part of the Kirk Church Family or into servant leadership with our neighbors, community and global partners? Mercy Adams, our Kirk Member, Usher and Staff support, is here to help you take the next step. Meet Mercy in the Narthex after Sunday Worship or during Coffee Hour to be connected to Small Groups, Women of the Kirk, a Ministry leader or to learn more about Membership or Outreach & Mission. Scan the QR code to reserve your seat.

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 10:00 a.m. service. See an usher for direction or further details.

Camera and Phone Usage Guidelines: Out of respect for your fellow worshipers and those leading worship, we kindly ask you to silence cellphones and other communication devices and to refrain from taking photos or video during worship. Recordings of past worship services and other sanctuary events are available at kirkinthehills.org/worship/past-messages.

Cover Art: *Flight to Egypt*, used with permission from *A Sanctified Art*

The following names were inadvertently omitted from the Poinsettia List included in the Christmas Eve Worship Bulletins. Many apologies for the error!

Darrell Duffield *by James Wells*.

Florence and Carl Wells *by James Wells*.