

KIRK IN THE HILLS  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)  
9:00 & 11:00 A.M. SANCTUARY WORSHIP  
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPHIPANY | JANUARY 18, 2026





## A Note from Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

Welcome to worship at Kirk in the Hills. Whether you are a longtime member, visiting for the first time, or returning after time away, we are grateful that you are here. Today we begin a new sermon series exploring the biblical theme of mountaintops—those places where people encounter God with clarity, intensity, and lasting impact.

Our journey begins in Genesis 22, with Abraham and Isaac ascending Mount Moriah. This is one of Scripture's most searching stories, pressing us to wrestle with trust, obedience, and the character of God. On the mountain, Abraham comes to see that God is not absent or arbitrary, but faithful and providing. He names the place accordingly: "The LORD will provide." What begins in fear ends in revelation.

For thousands of years, people have climbed mountains seeking divine encounter. Altars were built on high places. Prayers were offered closer to the heavens. Even now, people hike to summits and find themselves overwhelmed by beauty, perspective, and awe. Worship functions much the same way. We gather to rise above the noise of ordinary life, not to escape it, but to see it more truthfully.

These mountaintop encounters are not spiritual detours; they are formative moments that shape identity, vocation, and faithfulness. They reveal who God is—and who we are called to become through Christ.

As you worship today, come expectant and attentive. Let this hour be a holy ascent. Allow Scripture, prayer, music, and silence to open space for God to meet you with grace, perspective, and provision. Come, let us worship the Living God.

### Looking Ahead:

January 25 – Moses encounters God in the burning bush (Exodus 3)

February 1 – Isaiah's vision of God's holiness in the temple (Isaiah 6)

February 8 – Elijah meets God in silence on Mount Horeb (1 Kings 19)

February 15 – The Transfiguration of Jesus (Matthew 17)

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edwin'.

Sr. Pastor | Head of Staff | Kirk in the Hills



# THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

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

## PRELUDE

Chant de Paix (Song of Peace)

Jean Langlais

## WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

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

## \* INTROIT

**Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty**

Joachim Neander

*Open now thy gates of beauty, Zion, let me enter there, where my soul in joyful duty waits for God who answers prayer; O how blessed is this place, filled with solace, light, and grace.*

## \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Jasmine Smart

Lift up your eyes to the hills—from where does our help come?  
**Our help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**  
From the mountains of old, God has spoken, called, revealed,  
and restored.  
**Let us ascend in worship, that we may be sent in faith.**  
Come, let us worship the Lord our God.

## \* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 49

**The God of Abraham Praise**

LEONI

## \* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Jasmine Smart

Holy and gracious God,  
You have called us to meet you in holy places,  
Yet we confess that we often remain in the valleys of self-interest, fear,  
distraction, and control.  
We can seek mountaintop experiences without obedience,  
Comfort without calling,  
Glory without transformation.  
Forgive us, O God,  
When we might resist your voice when it sends us beyond ourselves.  
When we're tempted to build monuments to past encounters,  
Instead of trusting you for what lies ahead.  
Meet us again, O Lord.  
Renew us by your mercy,  
And restore us by your grace,  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

\* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Jasmine Smart

Hear the good news:  
The God who meets us on the mountain  
Is the same God who walks with us in the valley.

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

**In Jesus Christ, we become a new creation.**

**Praise be to God!**

\* ACCLAMATION OF PRAISE

MARION



**WORD**

**WORD WITH CHILDREN AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (9:00 a.m. only)**

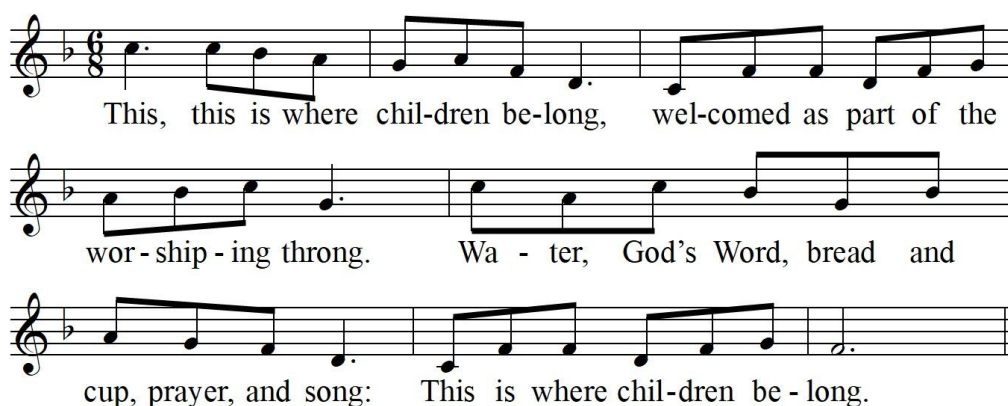
Rev. Jasmine Smart

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

**INVITATION HYMN**

**Where Children Belong**

*James Ritchie*



**THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (11:00 a.m.)**

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez & Elder Linda Juracek-Lipa

**PRESENTATION**

**BAPTISMAL HYMN 482**

**Baptized in Water (verse 3)**

BUNESSAN

*(seated)*

**Baptized in water, sealed by the spirit,  
Marked with the sign of Christ our King;  
Born of the Spirit, we are God's children;  
Joyfully now God's praises we sing.**

**\* PROFESSION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
he descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand  
of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost;  
the holy catholic church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body;  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

**THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

*Adeline Karam Albutras, Tom Frederick Steiner*

**THANKSGIVING**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**Guide Us, O God**

*James Biery*

*Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit, that in your light we may see light,  
in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover peace; through Jesus  
Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

**SOLO**

**Precious Lord, Take My Hand**

*Thomas A. Dorsey*

*The text may be found in your hymnal, #834.*

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**Genesis 22 (OT, page 17)**

Elder Glenda Herb, 9:00 a.m.

The Word of the Lord.

Elder Linda Juracek-Lipa, 11:00 a.m.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

**Mountaintops: Abraham & Isaac on Mount Moriah**

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

**\* HYMN 341**

**O God, Show Mercy to Us**

THAXTED

*(Please be seated after the hymn.)*

**THANKSGIVING**

**CALL TO OFFERING**

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

### Ain't Got Time To Die

*Spiritual, arr. Hall Johnson*

*Lord I keep so busy praisin' my Jesus*

*Keep so busy praisin' my Jesus...*

*Ain't got time to die.*

*'Cause when I'm healin' the sick (I'm praisin' my Jesus)*

*Healin' the sick...*

*Ain't got time to die.*

*R/'Cause it takes all of my time to praise my Jesus*

*All of my time (to praise my Lord).*

*If I don't praise him the rocks gonna cry out*

*Glory and honor, glory and honor*

*Ain't got time to die.*

*Lord I keep so busy workin' for the kingdom...*

*Ain't got time to die.*

*'Cause when I'm feedin' the poor (I'm workin' for the kingdom)...*

*Ain't got time to die. (Refrain)*

*Lord, I keep so busy servin' my Master...*

*Ain't got time to die.*

*'Cause when I'm givin' my all...*

*Ain't got time to die. (Refrain...Now won't you git out o' my way!)*

## \* DOXOLOGY (*Hymn 606*)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;**

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise him\* all creatures here below;**

**Praise him\* above, ye heavenly host,**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*\* or God*

## PRAYER

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** (*and The Lord's Prayer at 11:00 a.m.*)

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 369

**Blessing and Honor**

O QUANTA QUALIA

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

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

**CHORAL RESPONSE**

**Threefold Amen**

*Anon.*

**POSTLUDE**

**Fugue in G Major, BWV 576**

*J. S. Bach*

## INFORMATION ON TODAY'S SERVICES

**Musicians:** Chantel Woodard, soprano; Amber Rogers, soprano; James Biery and Marilyn Biery, organists and directors.

**About the music:** Jean François-Hyacinthe Langlais III (1907 – 1991) was a French composer and organist, known for his improvisations at the organ. Langlais became blind due to glaucoma at the age of two and was sent to the National Institute for Blind Children in Paris, where he studied the organ with André Marchal. From there he attended the Paris Conservatoire, where he won prizes in organ, studied composition with Marcel Dupré and Paul Dukas and improvisation with Charles Tournemire.

On April 4, 1968, at 6:01 p.m., Dr. Martin Luther King was shot while standing on the second-floor balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, surrounded by friends and associates. As he lay dying, he spoke these last words to his friend and musician Ben Branch, who was to perform at the event King was scheduled to attend that night: "Ben, make sure you play 'Take My Hand, Precious Lord' in the meeting tonight. Play it real pretty." King's funeral took place on April 9, 1968, at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, the church where both King and his father had served as co-pastors. His good friend Mahalia Jackson sang "Precious Lord" at the funeral.

Francis Hall Johnson (1888 – 1970) was an American composer and arranger of African American spiritual music. He attended the private, all-black Knox Institute in Athens, Georgia, and earned a degree from Allen University in Columbia, South Carolina. He also attended Atlanta University, the Juilliard School, Hahn School of Music, and the University of Pennsylvania. Johnson said of the spiritual: "True enough, this music was transmitted to us through humble channels, but its source is that of all great art everywhere—the unquenchable, divinely human longing for a perfect realization of life. It traverses every shade of emotion without spilling over in any direction. Its most tragic utterances are without pessimism, and its lightest, brightest moments have nothing to do with frivolity. In its darkest expressions there is always a hope, and in its gayest measures a constant reminder."

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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.



**Cover Art: The Sacrifice of Abraham** | David Teniers, 1610–1690 | Used with permission from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

**Deacon Flower Ministry:** If you or someone you know needs a little cheering up, our Deacon flower ministry has bud vases each Sunday in the narthex. Please take a flower to remind someone of God's love or to remind yourself of the same.



**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, Stephen Minister (in training), Usher and Ministry staff support for Membership and Outreach & Mission can answer your questions and help guide your next steps into Membership, Ministry, Small Groups, Women of the Kirk or volunteer with upcoming Outreach & Mission events. Meet Mercy in the Narthex after Sunday Worship, during Coffee Hour or call her directly at 248-631-4565. **Scan the QR code to register for the next Membership Class.**

**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.



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