

KIRK IN THE HILLS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)
9:00 & 11:00 A.M. SANCTUARY WORSHIP
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY | FEBRUARY 8, 2026





A Note from Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

Welcome to worship at Kirk in the Hills. Whether you come today full of energy or quietly weary, you are not alone—and you are welcome. This week, our mountaintop journey takes us to one of Scripture's most tender stories, as Elijah encounters God on Mount Horeb.

In 1 Kings 19, Elijah arrives at the mountain exhausted and discouraged. He has known great victories, yet now feels depleted and afraid. He expects God to appear in dramatic displays of power—wind, earthquake, and fire. Instead, God comes in “a sound of sheer silence.” The mountain becomes not a place of spectacle, but of restoration.

This story speaks to anyone who feels worn down by the demands of life or faith. Not every encounter with God is dramatic. Some are quiet, gentle, and deeply healing. God meets Elijah not with rebuke, but with presence.

Worship today offers space to breathe and listen. In a noisy and hurried world, silence itself becomes holy ground. As you worship, resist the urge to rush. Attend to the stillness. Trust that God’s whisper may be shaping you in ways unseen. Let us worship the Living God.

Looking Ahead:

February 15 – The Transfiguration of Jesus (Matthew 17)

February 18 – LENT begins! Ash Wednesday and New Sermon Series: *The Jesus Prayers*

February 22 – First Sunday in Lent: The Jesus Prayers: BLESS: Jesus’ Blessings before the feeding of the multitude | Matthew 14:14-21

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

INSTRUMENTAL PRELUDE

Adoration; A Pleasant Thought

Florence Price

CHORAL PRELUDE (9:00 a.m.)

The Wise Man and the Foolish Man

Traditional

*The wise man built his house upon the Rock...
And the rains came tumbling down.
The rains came down and the floods came up...
But the house on the Rock stood firm.*

*The foolish man built his house upon the sand...
And the rains came tumbling down.
The rains came down and the floods came up...
And the house on the sand fell flat.*

*So build your life on the Lord Jesus Christ..
And the blessings will come down.
When you are down, he will lift you up..
So build your life on the Lord.*

The Joyful Noise Choir

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

OUR FAITH IN ACTION

APNC Update | Strategy: Charting the Course

Bob O'Hara | Nancy Lau, 9:00 a.m. | Molly David, 11:00 a.m.

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. Dr. Philip J. Reed

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 412

God, Reveal Your Presence

ARNSBERG

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Dr. Philip J. Reed

Holy and gracious God,
You have called us to meet you,
but we often remain in the valleys of self-interest, fear, distraction, and control.

We are tempted to have mountaintop experiences without obedience, Comfort without calling,
Glory without transformation. (continued)

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.
 Renew 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. Dr. Philip J. Reed

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 (9:00 a.m. only)

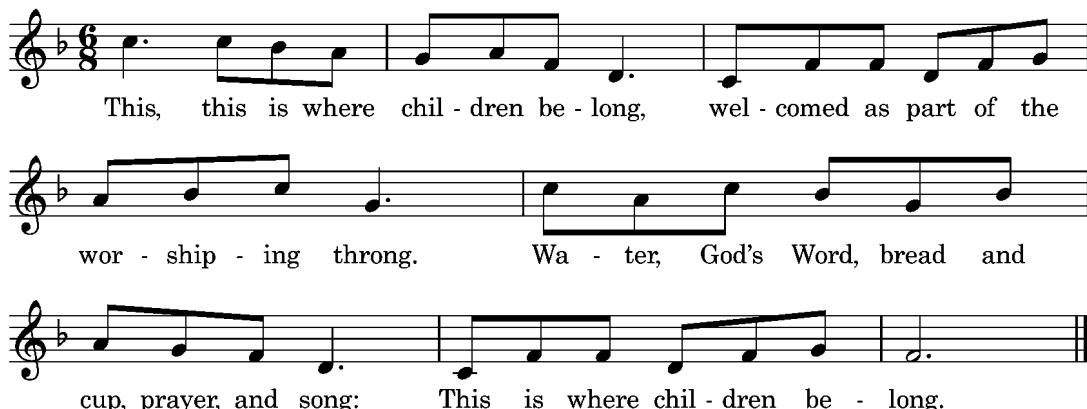
Sarah Ford

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



ANTHEM (9:00 a.m.)

Come, Let Us Sing

Jody W. Lindh

Refrain: *Come, let us sing to the Lord,
Make a joyful noise to the God of our salvation.
Come, let us sing to the Lord,
Make a joyful noise with songs of praise!*

*Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord ev'ryone!
Sing to the Lord, bless the name!
Tell what God has done! Refrain:

Sing to the Lord, lift up your voice!
Praises all around!
Sing to the Lord with all your heart!
Make a joyful sound! Refrain:*

The St. Cecilia Choir

ANTHEM (11:00 a.m.)

All Night, All Day

Ruth Artman

Refrain: *All night, all day,
Angels watchin' over me, my Lord;
All night, all day,
Angels watchin' over me.*

*Now I lay me down to sleep; Angels...
Pray the Lord my soul to keep. Angels...Refrain:

When I wake at dawn of day, Angels...
Stay beside me all the way; Angels...Refrain:*

The Cantamus Choir

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.*

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Kings 19:1-15, 18 (OT, page 326)

Confirmand Harin Park, 9:00 a.m.

The Word of the Lord.

Elder Bob Heuer, 11:00 a.m.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Mountaintops: Elijah on Mt. Horeb

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

*** HYMN 794**

O Savior, in This Quiet Place

ST. STEPHEN

THANKSGIVING

CALL TO OFFERING

Rev. Jasmine Smart

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**Dear Lord and Father***C. Hubert H. Parry*

*Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
Forgive our foolish ways;
Reclothe us in our rightful mind;
In purer lives, thy service find,
In deeper reverence, praise.*

*In simple trust like theirs who heard,
Beside the Syrian sea,
The gracious calling of the Lord,
Let us, like them, without a word,
Rise up and follow thee.*

*Drop thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease:
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of thy peace.*

*Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still small voice of calm! (Whittier)*

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

Rev. Jasmine Smart

**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 819****Be Still, My Soul**

FINLANDIA

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION (seated)

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

CHORAL RESPONSE**Peace of God Be with You***Richard Bruxvoort Colligan*

Peace of God be with you; As-salaamu lakum.

POSTLUDE**Jubilate***Fela Sowande*

INFORMATION ON TODAY'S SERVICES

Musicians: Merideth Hite Estevez, oboe; Carol Beth Litkouhi and Bobby DeLisle, Children and Youth Music directors; James Biery and Marilyn Biery, organists and directors.

About the music: During Black History Month we highlight compositions and arrangements by Black composers. Florence Beatrice Price (1887-1953) was an American composer, pianist, organist and music teacher. Born in Little Rock, Arkansas, Price was educated at the New England Conservatory of Music and was active in Chicago from 1927 until her death in 1953. She was the first African American woman to be recognized as a symphonic composer, and the first to have a composition played by a major orchestra. Price composed over 300 works including symphonies, concertos, choral works, art songs, chamber music and music for solo instruments. In 2009, a substantial collection of her compositions was found in her abandoned summer home.

Olufela Obafunmilayo "Fela" Sowande (1905 – 1987) was a Nigerian musician and composer. Considered the father of modern Nigerian art music, Sowande an internationally known African composer of works in the European "classical" idiom. He earned a Bachelor of Music degree at the University of London and became a Fellow of Trinity College of Music. During World War II, he worked as musical advisor for the Colonial Film Unit of the Ministry of Information providing background music for educational films and lectured on music for the BBC Africa Service. In his later years he taught at Kent State University in Ohio.

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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: Elijah on Mount Horeb | Daniele da Volterra, 1509-1566 | 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.

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.

The flowers on the altar are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of Don and Helen Stewart by their children, Tom and Ilene, and their families.



Kirk in the Hills

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