

KIRK IN THE HILLS  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)  
9:00 & 11:00 A.M. SANCTUARY WORSHIP  
THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT | MARCH 8, 2026



Raising of Lazarus | Duccio, di Buoninsegna | from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library



## A Note from Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

### Praying with Jesus

Welcome, friends in faith and seekers alike. If you come with gratitude, grief, doubt, or hope, this sanctuary holds space for you.

Lent invites the Church to rediscover the depth of trust that shapes Christian prayer. It is a season of repentance—but also of renewed confidence in God’s mercy.

Today we reflect on Jesus giving thanks before Lazarus emerges from the tomb. Gratitude in advance is a profound declaration of trust. Jesus thanks the Father before the outcome is visible.

To pray with Jesus is to anchor our lives in thanksgiving—even when circumstances feel unresolved. Gratitude does not deny pain; it proclaims confidence in God’s faithfulness.

As we continue this Lenten journey, let us be grounded in God’s presence and prepared to encounter Christ in worship today. We also invite you to look ahead as we continue our series *Praying with Jesus*. Let us prepare for worship.

In Christ,

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

### **Forthcoming Sundays:**

**March 15 – “Unify”** (John 17:20–26)

**March 22 – “Enjoy”** (John 17:11b–21)

**March 29 – “Lament”** (Matthew 23:37–39) – Palm Sunday

### **April 2—Maundy Thursday**

5:30 p. m. Family Communion Service with foot washing

7:30 p.m. – *Journey to Jerusalem*

8:45 p.m. – Tenebrae and Stripping of the Paraments

### **April 3—Good Friday**

Sanctuary Open for Prayer: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Worship Services: 12:00 p.m. | 3:00 p.m. | 7:30 p.m.

### **April 5—Easter Sunday**

6:45 a.m. – Sunrise Service (Columbarium)

7:00 a.m. – Sanctuary Worship

9:00 a.m. – Sanctuary Worship

11:00 a. m. –Sanctuary Worship

# THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

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

PRELUDE

Chorale Prelude on "Rockingham"

C. Hubert H. Parry

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

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

\* SONG OF APPROACH

God of Love, We Lift Up Our Eyes

Marilyn Biery

*God of love, we lift up our eyes to the heavens.*

*From whence does our help come?*

*Jesus our hope, we lift up our voices, praising your name.*

*Our help cometh from the Lord.*

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Rami Almaqdasi

The Lord is great and greatly to be praised.

**His glory is above the heavens.**

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it.

**Let us worship the Holy One in spirit and in truth!**

\* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 652

A Grateful Heart

ROCKINGHAM

\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Rami Almaqdasi

Have mercy on us, O God,  
According to your steadfast love.

In your great compassion  
blot out our transgressions.

Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity  
and cleanse us from our sin.

Create in us a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within us,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

\* SONG OF PENITENCE

Jesus, Lamb of God

Franz Schubert

*Please join in singing...*

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

*Continued on next page...*

Je - sus bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

grant us your peace, grant us your peace.

**\* ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Rev. Rami Almaqdasi

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;  
 a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.  
 Hear the Gospel:

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**  
**In Jesus Christ, we become a new creation!**  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus!**

**\* SONG OF ASSURANCE**

**Jesus, Lamb of God**

*Franz Schubert*

*Please join in singing...*

Je - sus, Lamb of God: grant us your peace.

**WORD**

**WORD WITH CHILDREN AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (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 Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez (text), M. Biery (music)

*Please join in singing...*

Come! Come! We wel - come you here! Come! Come!

All God's chil - dren, young and old, we wel - come you here!

Wel - come! Wel - come! Come clos - er, draw near!

All God's chil - dren, young and old, you are wel-come here!

**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.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Gracious God, Our Way in the Wilderness**

*arr. M. Biery*

*Gracious God, our way in the wilderness,  
 Guide us, by your Word, through these forty days,  
 So that we may be restored, renewed,  
 Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**SCRIPTURE READING****John 11:38-44** (*NT, page 105*)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Elder Ann Hartzell, 9:00 a.m.

Elder Lynda Wilds, 11:00 a.m.

**SERMON****Praying with Jesus: Thank**

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

**\* HYMN 471****O Lord, Hear My Prayer**

HEAR MY PRAYER

**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****There's a Wideness in God's Mercy***Brenda Portman*

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea; there's a kindness in God's justice which is more than liberty. There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven. There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment given.

God has shown you what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, to love mercy, to walk humbly with your God.

For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind; and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind. Make our love, O God, more faithful; let us take you at your word, and our lives will be thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord. Amen.

**\* 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****STEPHEN MINISTER COMMISSIONING** (*9:00 a.m.*)

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez &amp; Rev. Jasmine Smart

*Mercy Adams, Michelle Clark, Jim Devlin, Merideth Hite Estevez,  
Todd Galloway, Cynthia Niedbalski, Jason Rudd*

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

Rev. Jasmine Smart

**Our Father, who art in heaven...** (*debts and debtors...or see page 4.*)**SENDING****\* RECESSIONAL HYMN 643****Now Thank We All Our God**

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

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

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

**CHORAL RESPONSE****May You Know the Presence of God***arr. Marilyn Biery*

*May you know the presence of God our keeper;  
with us by day and with us by night.*

*With us in our coming and our going;*

*with us all from this time forth and forever. Amen.*

**POSTLUDE****Now Thank We All Our God***G. F. Kaufmann*

## INFORMATION ON TODAY'S SERVICES

**Musicians:** Jamie Jurado, soprano; James Biery and Marilyn Biery, organists and directors; Adam Lenhart, carillonist.

**About the music:** During the penitential season of Lent, the music was chosen to aid our experience of Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. The responses are based on texts from the Church of Scotland website. The Song of Approach (the Introit), begins our liturgy. The Acolytes, Choir and Pastors will process during the bell toll as the choir sings the Song of Approach. The Prayer for Illumination is set to a Scottish hymn tune named ELGIN. Not much is known about this tune, which was first published in the Scottish Psalter of 1564. The Benediction Response is based on the Scottish tune CULROSS, named for a village and former royal burgh, and parish, in Fife, Scotland. The composer of the tune is not known; it first appeared in the Scottish Psalter.

Sir Charles Hubert Hastings Parry, 1st Baronet (1848 – 1918), was an English composer, teacher and music historian. He is best known for the choral song "Jerusalem," his 1902 setting for the coronation anthem "I was glad," and the hymn tune "Repton," which is in our hymnal to the words "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind."

Brenda Portman has established a well-respected dual career as both a concert organist and composer. She serves as the Resident Organist at Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church in Cincinnati, Ohio, where she is also the Executive Director of the church's renowned Organ Concert Series. She is the Organ Instructor at Xavier University in Cincinnati and teaches organ and piano privately.


Raised in Grafton, Wisconsin, Brenda's earliest musical studies were at the piano with her mother, Cheryl Heck, and later with Clarice Wysocky of Grafton. Her organ studies began in high school, also with her mother, and with John Behnke at Concordia University. She furthered her study of the organ and church music with Edward Zimmerman at Wheaton College (B.Mus.Ed.), Douglas Cleveland at Northwestern University (M.Mus.), and with Roberta Gary and Michael Unger at the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music (D.M.A.).

Georg Friedrich Kauffmann (1679 – 1735) was a German Baroque organist and composer.

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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.



 **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.**

**The flowers on the altar are presented to the glory of God** in loving memory of Nancy S. Hall and her parents Hi and Dave Smucker, former active members of the Kirk, by Kristin and David Sliwicki and their children of Madison, Wisconsin.

**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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