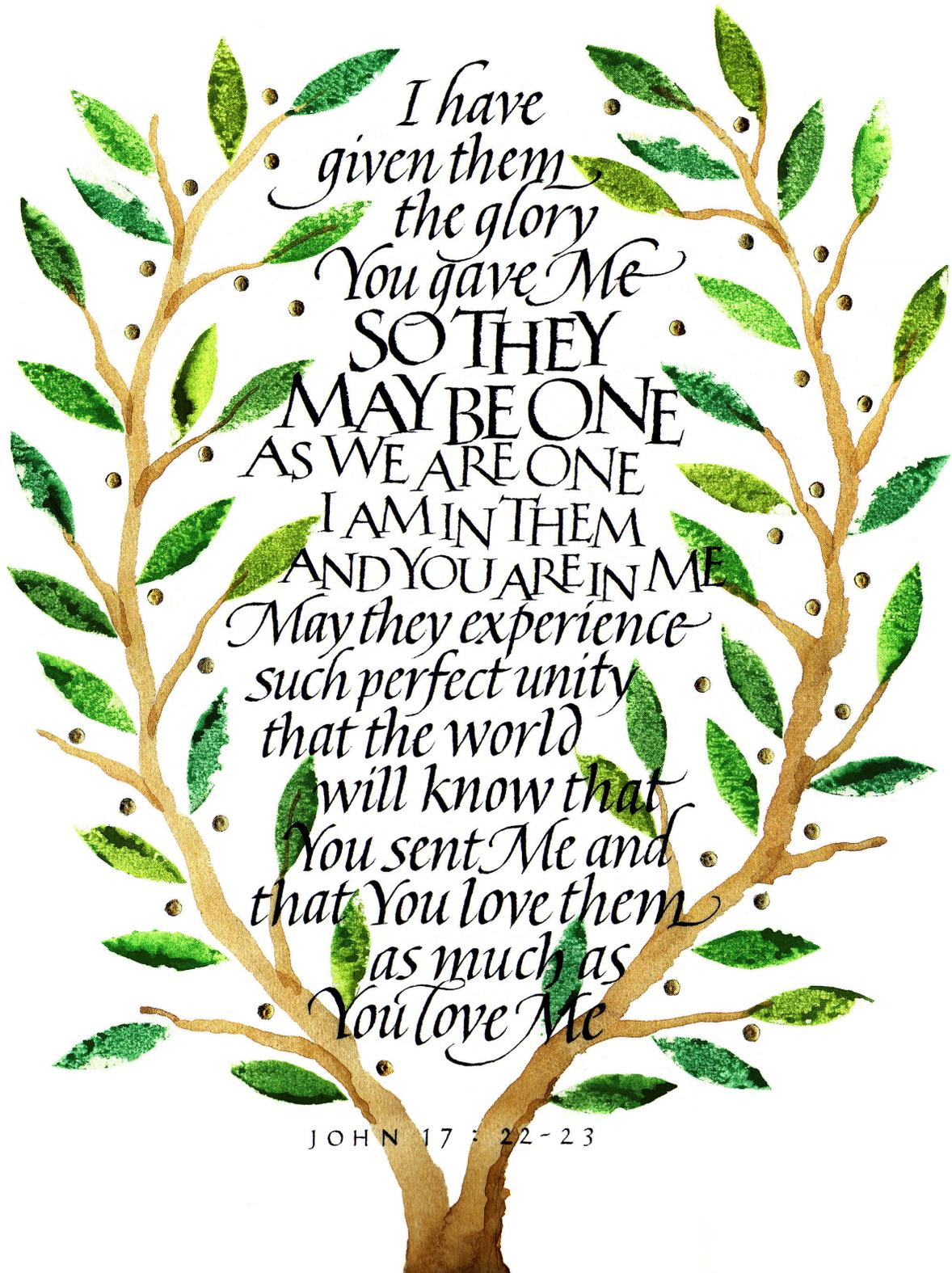


KIRK IN THE HILLS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)
9:00 & 11:00 A.M. SANCTUARY WORSHIP
FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT | MARCH 15, 2026



*I have
given them
the glory
You gave Me
SO THEY
MAY BE ONE
AS WE ARE ONE
I AM IN THEM
AND YOU ARE IN ME
May they experience
such perfect unity
that the world
will know that
You sent Me and
that You love them
as much as
You love Me*

JOHN 17 : 22 - 23



A Note from Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

Praying with Jesus

Welcome to this Lenten gathering. To families nurturing faith at home, to leaders seeking wisdom, to those longing to belong, and to those rediscovering faith after distance—this journey includes you.

Lent reminds the Church that discipleship is not solitary. As Jesus approaches the cross, he prays for unity: “That they may all be one.” His prayer extends across centuries—to us.

Unity is not uniformity. It is shared life rooted in divine love. To pray with Jesus is to ask that God’s reconciling grace shape our relationships, our church, and our witness in the world.

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

Air in E-flat Major

att. to Johann Christian Bach

Siciliano

att. to J. S. Bach

WELCOME & RECOGNITION OF JAYNE ZELLERS

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. Jasmine Smart

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 450

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Jasmine Smart

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. Jasmine Smart

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

ANTHEM (9:00 a.m.)

Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands *Old French melody; arr. Carlton R. Young*

*Jesus' hands were kind hands, doing good to all,
 Healing pain and sickness, blessing children small,
 Washing tired feet, and saving those who fall;*

Jesus' hands were kind hands, doing good to all.

Words by Margaret Cropper

Joyful Noise Choir

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

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

INVITATION HYMN

Come! Come! We welcome you here!

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez (text), M. Biery (music)

Please join in singing...

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of four systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are: 'Come! Come! We welcome you here! Come! Come! All God's children, young and old, we welcome you here! Welcome! Welcome! Come closer, draw near! All God's children, young and old, you are welcome here!' The music features a simple, rhythmic melody with chords in the bass line.

**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 17:20-26 (NT, page 111)

Deacon Molly David, 9:00 a.m.

The Word of the Lord.

Elder Lynda Wilds, 11:00 a.m.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

For the Beauty of the Earth

John Rutter

*For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.
For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.
For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.
For each perfect gift of thine to our race so freely given,
Graces human and divine, flowers of earth and buds of heaven:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise. (F. S. Pierpoint)*

SERMON

Praying with Jesus: Unify

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

* HYMN 471

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

HEAR MY PRAYER

THANKSGIVING

CALL TO OFFERING

Rev. Rami Almaqdasi

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

Christ, the Beauty of All

James Biery

Christ, the most beautiful flower of the root of Jesse, which had blossomed in the incarnation, and had withered in the passion, has blossomed again in the Resurrection, so as to become the beauty of all. (St. Bonaventure)

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

Rev. Rami Almaqdasi

Our Father, who art in heaven... (debts and debtors...or see page 4.)

SENDING

* RECESSIONAL HYMN 361	O Christ, the Great Foundation	AURELIA
CHARGE AND BENEDICTION	<i>(seated)</i>	Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez
CHORAL RESPONSE	May You Know the Presence of God <i>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.</i>	<i>arr. Marilyn Biery</i>
POSTLUDE	Voluntary on O Christ, the Great Foundation	<i>James Biery</i>

INFORMATION ON TODAY'S SERVICES

Musicians: Carol Beth Litkhouhi, Joyful Noise Choir director; Jill Steiner, Joyful Noise Choirs accompanist; Merideth Estevez, oboe; Jamie Jurado, soprano; James Biery and Marilyn Biery, organists and directors.

About the music: The Prelude: Johann Christian Bach (1735-1782) is a composer of the Classical period. He was the eighteenth child of Johann Sebastian Bach, and the youngest of Bach's eleven sons. He spent time in Italy, then moved to London in 1762, where he became known as "the London Bach," and "the English Bach." His influence can be traced in concerto styles as well as the emerging sonata form. Although he enjoyed a good deal of success and popularity, he was so indebted at the end of his life that his patron, Queen Charlotte, for whom he was music master, covered the expenses of his estate and provided a life pension for his widow. The Siciliano is attributed to both Johann Sebastian and Carl Philipp Emmanuel, the fifth child and second surviving son of J.S. Bach. Current scholarship cites C.P.E. Bach as the composer.

"Christ, the Beauty of All" was composed in 2025 at the request of Michael Silhavy, director of music at St. Peter's in the Loop Catholic Church in Chicago, celebrating 150 years of Franciscan presence and ministry at the parish. He selected the beautiful text from Lignum Vitae ("Tree of Life") a series of 48 meditations written by the 13th century theologian and mystic St. Bonaventure. The selection of a text from the writings of the Franciscan St. Bonaventure was particularly fitting. The piece was premiered at a liturgy on October 4, 2025, the feast of Saint Francis, and was repeated that evening in a concert marking the 800th anniversary of St. Francis' Canticle of Creation. The music of the anthem reflects the mysticism of the text and illustrates the incarnation, passion, and resurrection of Christ. The upward motion of the melodic lines evokes the image of "blossoming" – the flower that was rooted in the line of Jesse, blossoming into the Word-made-flesh, and finding full flower in the resurrected Victor over sin and death. Sumptuous harmonic language in the closing section offers a glimpse of the "Beauty of All."

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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.



 **Feeling called to join the Kirk Church Family?** Mercy Adams—Kirk Member, Stephen Minister, Usher, and staff support for New Members Evangelism and Outreach & Mission—can help you take your next steps. Whether you're exploring Membership, a Ministry, or connecting with Outreach & Mission or Women of the Kirk events, Mercy is here to guide you. Meet Mercy after Sunday Worship, during Coffee Hour or call/text her cell 248-631-4565 to learn more about Membership at the next "Fireside Chat with a Pastor", or scan the QR code to register for New Member 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.

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.

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.