

KIRK IN THE HILLS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)
FEAST OF PALMS
MARCH 29, 2026 | 9:00 A.M.





A Note from Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

Praying with Jesus

Welcome to Palm Sunday at Kirk in the Hills. Whether you wave palms in confident faith or stand with quiet questions, this sanctuary welcomes you.

Lent has led us to Jerusalem. Today we see celebration and sorrow side by side. Jesus weeps over the city he loves. Prayer includes lament—honest grief offered to God.

To pray with Jesus is to trust that tears are not weakness but worship. Lament does not abandon hope; it deepens it.

As Holy Week begins, may we be grounded in God's presence and prepared to encounter Christ—crucified and risen—in worship today.

In Christ,

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

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

Forthcoming Services:

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

FEAST OF PALMS, 9:00 A.M.

Sanctuary

At 8:45 a.m., all who are able, especially children, are encouraged to join us outdoors, near the Welcome Center, to process towards the sanctuary in a reenactment of Jesus's Entry into Jerusalem. Our Palm Procession features a live donkey and the waving of palm fronds. "Live" audio from this portion will be fed into the sanctuary for others to join in spirit.

LITURGY FOR THE PROCESSION OF THE PALMS | BELL TOLL (8:45 a.m.)

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE | INSTRUCTION TO CHILDREN

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the lord.

Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

Children, and all in my hearing: Hosanna is connected to a Hebrew expression meaning, "Lord, save us."

So, when I say, "Lord, save us!",

please respond: Hosanna in the highest!

Lord, Save us!

Hosanna in the highest!

Dear family in Christ,

During Lent we have been preparing our hearts by self-examination and repentance. Today we gather with the whole Church throughout the world to begin the celebration of our Lord's Passion and Resurrection.

BLESSING OF THE PALMS

Let us pray.

Gracious God,

We thank you for these branches and for the joy they represent.

As the crowds once welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem with palms and shouts of praise, so may we welcome him into our lives.

Grant that we who carry these signs of victory may follow Christ in the way of the cross, and share in the glory of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GOSPEL OF THE ENTRY

Matthew 21:1-11

The donkey and procession will begin after the reading. The choir and children lead and others follow. When those gathered have reached the sanctuary doors, the bells will toll and then our indoor Procession of the Palms will begin. While those gathered are walking, the following is repeated. . .

Lord, save us.

Hosanna in the highest!

PROCESSION OF THE PALMS | BELL PEAL

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Lord, save us.

Rev. Rami Almaqdasi

Hosanna in the highest!

Lord, save us.

Hosanna in the highest!

Lord, save us.

Hosanna in the highest!

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

*** PROCESSIONAL HYMN 196**

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

WORD WITH THE CHILDREN & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Sarah Ford

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

**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 OF CONFESSION**

Rev. Rami Almaqdasi

**Gracious and loving God,
On this joyful day we confess
that our hearts are not always open
to your grace.
We wave palms and sing your praise,
yet we do not always follow your way.
We welcome you with joy,
but struggle to trust you with our lives.
Forgive us, O Lord,
When our praise is louder than our obedience,
and our celebration deeper than our faithfulness.
Renew our hearts, that we may follow Jesus
with gladness and truth, today and always. Amen.**

*** SONG OF PENITENCE**

Jesus, Lamb of God

Franz Schubert

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

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 are a new creation.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus!

* SONG OF ASSURANCE

Jesus, Lamb of God

Franz Schubert

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

WORD

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 and renewed,
 Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 23:37-39(*NT, page 26*)

Rev. Dr. Annemarie Kidder

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

COMBINED ANTHEM

Lift Up Your Heads

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

*Lift up your heads, O ye gates and be ye lift up,
ye everlasting doors, and the King of glory shall come in.*

Who is this King of glory?

It is the Lord strong and mighty, even the Lord mighty in battle.

(Psalm 24:7-8)

Combined Choirs

SERMON

Praying with Jesus: Lament

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

* **HYMN 227**

Jesus Remember Me

REMEMBER ME

(Please be seated after the hymn.)

THANKSGIVING

CALL TO OFFERING AND DEDICATION

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

Hosanna

Gregor, arr. Bitgood

Hosanna! Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

Combined Choirs

* **DOXOLOGY** (*Hymn 606*)

OLD HUNDREDTH

**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.**

** or God*

PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Jasmine Smart

SENDING

* **RECESSIONAL HYMN 197**

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

ELLACOMBE

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION (*seated*)

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

Flourish and Toccata on Vexilla Regis Prodeunt

James Biery

(The Royal Banners Advance)

INFORMATION ON TODAY'S SERVICES

Musicians: Bobby DeLisle, children and youth music director; James Biery, organist; Marilyn Biery, director.

About the music: The combined choirs will sing an anthem by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912), a British composer and conductor. He was particularly known for his three cantatas on the epic 1855 poem *The Song of Hiawatha* by American Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Of mixed-race descent, Coleridge-Taylor achieved such success that he was referred to by white musicians in New York City as the "African Mahler" during his three tours of the United States in the early 1900s.

The combined choirs will also sing an anthem arranged by Roberta Bitgood (1908-2007), an American organist, choir director and composer. She was the first woman to serve as president of the American Guild of Organists, elected in 1975. She lived in Michigan for a time, serving as violist with the Battle Creek Symphony Orchestra and organist at the First Congregational Church in Battle Creek.

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, which was the first psalter or psalm book to be published in Scotland. It was published by the Church of Scotland under the influence of John Knox as part of the Book of Common Order.

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.

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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.

The flowers on the altar are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of Kenneth and Martha Gardhouse by Ron and Chris Gardhouse.

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.



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