

KIRK IN THE HILLS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)
PALM | PASSION SUNDAY
MARCH 29, 2026 | 11:00 A.M.



Christ's Entry in Jerusalem | Doré, Gustave, 1832-1883 | from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN



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

PALM | PASSION SUNDAY, 11:00 A.M.

Sanctuary

* PRELUDE Fantasia Super: Valet will ich dir geben, BWV 735 J. S. Bach

WELCOME Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

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

* CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Dr. Annemarie Kidder

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest heaven.

This is the King who comes in glorious humility,

Riding not in triumph, but in obedience.

We welcome Christ with reverence and awe.

The crowd shouts praise, yet the shadow of the cross already falls.

We follow Jesus on the way that leads to life.

Let us worship God!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 196 All Glory, Laud, and Honor VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION Rev. Rami Almaqdasi

Holy and righteous God,

On this day we remember how quickly praise turns to rejection.

We confess that we shout "Hosanna,"

yet hesitate to follow Christ to the cross.

Forgive us, O Lord.

Have mercy on us in your steadfast love.

Create in us clean hearts,

that we may walk with Christ through suffering and death,

trusting in the promise of his resurrection. 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 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.

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.

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)*

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

Ave Verum Corpus

William Byrd

Ave verum corpus, natum de Maria Virgine, vere passum, immolatum in cruce pro homine: Cuius latus perforatum, unda fluxit sanguine. Esto nobis praegustatum in mortis examine: O Dulcis, O pie, O Jesu fili Mariae, miserere mei. Amen.

Hail, true Body, body that was truly born of the virgin Mary, body that truly suffered, that was truly given in sacrifice on the cross for the sake of human kind, body from whose side, pierced through, water and blood flowed. In the test that is our death, be a foretaste for us.

*O sweet, O gentle, O Jesus, Son of Mary, have mercy on me.
(Tr. Maryann Corbett)*

*** DOXOLOGY (Hymn 606)**

OLD HUNDRETH

**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 AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 209

My Song Is Love Unknown

LOVE UNKNOWN

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
(The Royal Banners Advance)

James Biery

INFORMATION ON TODAY'S SERVICES

Musicians: James Biery, organist; Marilyn Biery, director.

About the music: The opening voluntary by J.S. Bach is based on the tune we sing as the processional hymn, *Valet will ich dir geben*. Bach used the tune several times in his organ music, and this festive setting prepares us to sing our opening hymn as we wave our palm branches in celebration.

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 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.



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.

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.



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