

KIRK IN THE HILLS  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)  
9:00 & 11:00 A.M. SANCTUARY WORSHIP  
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER | APRIL 12, 2026



**Doubting Thomas** | Mary Jane Miller | from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.



## A Note from Rev. Jasmine Smart

When I was a teenager, I lived in the country down a long gravel driveway. For some reason, on nights that we had forgotten to get the mail, I volunteered to take the long walk to retrieve it. It was so dark outside, my flashlight barely made a dent, illuminating just the small patch of gravel in front of me. My footsteps seemed so incredibly loud, and yet I tried to walk as lightly as I could, worried any noise I made would bring an unknown animal my way to attack me. I knew logically this didn't make sense: the only hunting animals in my area were incredibly rare mountain lions, and they would go after deer, not humans... but so often fear does not follow the dictates of logic.

I imagine the disciples were in this kind of physical and metaphorical darkness after Jesus' death, worried for their own lives so that they huddled inside behind locked doors with perhaps just a few candles for light. They too were worried about drawing unwanted attention from those who would pursue them, in their case, the very real threat of the Roman guards.

But Jesus takes pity on them and meets them in the darkness, meeting them in their fear. He does not require them to come out in the light, but instead invites them to touch the wounds of his crucifixion. It is there, in that place of fear, that they rejoice because Jesus' presence is good news, no matter how dark the world may feel around them. Jesus has left the tomb, and although we may sometimes go inside to remember his death and the linen cloths that bound him, he is forever alive and unbound, bringing to us the glory of his heavenly light.

So like the first disciples, let us turn to rejoicing no matter our circumstances. In a Good Friday world, let us be Easter people, overflowing with everlasting peace and heavenly joy.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Jasmine Smart". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Jasmine Smart

## THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

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

PRELUDE

**Two Settings of DUNLAP'S CREEK**  
*Cantabile; Reflection*

*Hoyt Pascal*

WELCOME

Rev. Jasmine Smart

OUR FAITH IN ACTION

**Shoe Collection | APNC Update**

Caroline Eriksen & Vivian Flowers | Robin Brinks, APNC

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

\* INTROIT

**This Is the Day**

*Marilyn Biery*

*This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!*

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Jasmine Smart

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

This is the good news we have received,  
in which we stand,  
and by which we are saved:  
Christ died for our sins,  
was buried,  
and was raised on the third day.

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**He appeared to Mary Magdalene,  
to Peter, and to The Twelve,  
and to many faithful witnesses.**

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

At last, he comes to us —  
Calling us by name,  
breaking bread among us,  
and sending us into the world  
to bear witness to his Resurrection.

**Christ is risen!**

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**Let us worship the Living God!**

\* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 255

**O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing**

O FILII ET FILAE

\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Jasmine Smart

Almighty God of love and life abundant,  
**In raising Jesus Christ from the dead,  
you have broken the power of sin and death  
and opened to us the way of everlasting life.**

Yet we confess that we are tempted, like the first disciples,  
to be fearful and uncertain,  
slow to believe the promise of new life,  
quick to return to old patterns of sin and despair.

**Forgive us, God of grace.**

**Breathe upon us your Holy Spirit,  
that we may live as people of the Resurrection —**  
Fill us with Easter joy,  
that we may proclaim with our lives  
what we confess with our lips:  
Christ is risen!  
**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen.**

**\* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

**Lord, Have Mercy**

*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. Jasmine Smart

Friends, in the empty tomb,  
God declares that nothing can separate us  
from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Friends, believe the good news:  
**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**  
**In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation!**

**\* ACCLAMATION OF PRAISE 581**

**Glory Be to the Father**

GLORIA PATRI

**WORD**

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

Sarah Ford

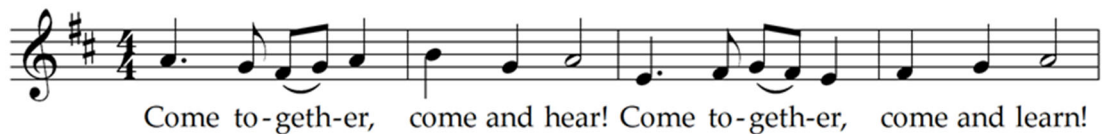
*Following the Word with the Children, children and youth ages 4 through grade 8 will be dismissed for Sunday School.*

**INVITATION HYMN**

**Come Together, Come and Hear!**

Rev. Jasmine Smart (text), M. Biery (music)

*Please join in singing...*



**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

**Lord, Open Our Hearts and Minds** *Hoyt Pascal*  
*Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.*

#### SCRIPTURE READING

**John 20:19-31** (*NT, page 115*)  
The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Deacon Amy Maple, 9:00 a.m.  
Elder Camille Breen, 11:00 a.m.

#### MUSICAL MOMENT

**Two Gathering Hymns**  
*Tallis Canon; Be Thou My Vision*

*arr. Susan Wheatley*

#### SERMON

**Easter Joy & Peace**

Rev. Jasmine Smart

#### \* HYMN 817

**We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight**

DUNLAP'S CREEK

### 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

**Air and Chorus from Judas Maccabaeus**

*G. F. Handel*

*Air: Rejoice, O Judah, and in songs divine, with Cherubim and Seraphim harmonious join.*

*Chorus: Hallelujah, Amen. O Judah, rejoice. With Cherubim and Seraphim harmonious join. And in songs divine, harmonious join. Hallelujah, 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.**  
\* or God

OLD HUNDREDTH

### 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...*)**

### SENDING

#### \* RECESSIONAL HYMN 238

**Thine Is the Glory**

JUDAS MACCABAEUS

CHARGE AND BLESSING (*seated*)

Rev. Jasmine Smart

CHORAL AMEN

*P. C. Lutkin*

POSTLUDE

**Fanfare**

*Jacques Lemmens*

## INFORMATION ON TODAY'S SERVICES

**Musicians:** Jinho Park, baritone; The Kirk Handbell Choir, Susan Wheatley, director; Marilyn Biery, organist; James Biery, director

**About the music:** Our Invitation Hymn for the Children's Message was a collaborative effort by Jasmine Smart and Marilyn Biery. At the January 2025 staff retreat of the worship leaders, Marilyn asked Pastor Jasmine for the words of invitation and later set it to music.

*Judas Maccabaeus* is an oratorio in three parts by G. F. Handel. The first performance took place on 1 April 1747 at the Royal Opera House in London, and *Judas Maccabaeus* became one of Handel's most popular oratorios. The Easter text we sing as our recessional hymn, "Thine Is the Glory," was written to fit music composed by Handel, which was taken from a chorus he wrote first for the oratorio *Joshua* and moved to *Judas Maccabaeus* in 1751. It became very popular as a hymn after it was used at the First Assembly of the World Council of Churches in 1948.

Jacques-Nicolas (Jaak-Nicolaas) Lemmens (1823 – 1881) was a Belgian organist and composer who is credited for reviving the tradition of solid organ playing and composition that had been the practice during the time of Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750).

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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 to New Member and Evangelism and Outreach & Mission Committees is here to guide you. Meet Mercy after Sunday Worship, during Coffee Hour or call/text her cell 248-631-4565 to RSVP to fellowship with Pastor Rami Almaqdasi Wednesday April 29 6PM – 8PM or scan the QR code to register for the May 20th 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](http://kirkinthehills.org/worship/past-messages).

## WORSHIP NOTES



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