

KIRK IN THE HILLS  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)  
9:00 & 11:00 A.M. SANCTUARY WORSHIP  
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER | APRIL 19, 2026



**Supper at Emmaus** | Pontormo, Jacopo da | from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.



## A Note from Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

Welcome to worship in this Eastertide season!

Whether you are a longtime member or visiting for the first time, we are grateful you are here. Today's Scripture, the Gospel of Luke 24:13–35—the road to Emmaus—tells the story of two disciples walking in confusion and grief, only to discover that the risen Christ has been walking with them all along. In the opening of the Scriptures and the breaking of the bread, their eyes are opened, and their hearts are set ablaze. This morning's sermon invites us into that same journey: to recognize Christ through Scripture, to understand the power of words to shape our lives, and to encounter Jesus at the Word and Table.

We live in a world filled with competing voices. The Emmaus story reminds us that, in the midst of that noise, Christ speaks—through the living Word of God. As we worship today, we are invited to listen deeply, to allow Scripture not only to inform us, but to form us, and to be nourished by the transforming presence of Christ among us.

I am grateful to serve this congregation because, while we are not perfect, we are perfectly loved by a God whose transforming love invites each of us to grow and change. Our ethic here is love, rightly ordered by God, and for the healing of the world. God loves the world so much that he sent his only begotten Son not to condemn the world, but that through him the world would be saved, healed, forgiven, and restored to right relationship.

In these divided times, amid ruthless, uncouth, and often toxic partisan politics, we are striving to be a “big-tent church,” where people of different political views, backgrounds, and experiences can gather to worship the living God. Partisan politics do not belong in our pulpit, pews, or parking lots. Your God-given wisdom is evident in the restraint you have shown—choosing not to make political statements in attire or speech, not to shame or divide, but to remain centered in Christ.

My commitment to this congregation that I am honored to serve and visitors and community members at large, I am blessed to welcome, is this: the only political statement we make here is that Jesus Christ alone is Lord and Head of the Church. The only “party” we proclaim is the Kingdom of God. The only document we center and follow is Holy Scripture.

Here, you are welcome. You belong. Let us worship God together.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edwin', written in a cursive style.

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez | Senior Pastor | Head of Staff

# THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

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

PRELUDE

A Setting of PROMISE

Ray E. Jebsim

WELCOME

Rev. Edwin Estevez

\* *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. Rami Almaqdasi

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 248

**Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!**

HYMN TO JOY

\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Rami Almaqdasi

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. Rami Almaqdasi

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...*



Come to-geth-er, come and hear! Come to-geth-er, come and learn!



Come to-geth-er, come and hear; come to-geth-er, come and learn;



Al - le - lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.

**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.**

ANTHEM (9:00 a.m.)

**I'm Gonna Sing, Sing, Sing**

*Traditional*

*I'm gonna sing, sing, sing.*

*I'm gonna shout, shout, shout.*

*I'm gonna sing, I'm gonna shout,  
"Praise the Lord!"*

*When the gates swing open wide,*

*I'm gonna sit by Jesus' side.*

*I'm gonna sing, I'm gonna shout,  
"Praise the Lord!"*

The Joyful Noise Choir

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (11:00 a.m.)

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez, Rev. Rami Almaqdasi  
& Elder Carole Pearl

PRESENTATION

*Benjamin Timothy Riendl*

BAPTISMAL HYMN 482  
*(seated)*

**Baptized in Water** (*verse 3*)

BUNESSAN

**Baptized in water, sealed by the spirit,  
Marked with the sign of Christ our King;  
Born of the Spirit, we are God's children;  
Joyfully now God's praises we sing.**

\* PROFESSION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
he descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand  
of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost;  
the holy catholic church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body;  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Lord, Open Our Hearts and Minds**

*J. R. R. Ellis*

*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**

**Luke 24:13-35** (*NT, page 90*)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Elder Chip Tallinger, 9:00 a.m.  
Deacon Kim McGlynn, 11:00 a.m.

**SERMON**

**Jesus Himself**

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

\* **HYMN 250**

**In the Bulb There Is a Flower**

PROMISE

**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**

**Psalm 150**

*César Franck*

*Hallelujah! O praise ye the Lord in his sanctuary, praise ye the Lord in the firmament of his power. Praise ye him for his mighty acts, praise ye him according to his majesty. Praise ye him with the sound of the trumpet, praise ye him with the psaltery and harp. Praise ye him with the timbrel, praise ye him with the dance, praise him with the organ and stringed instruments. Praise ye him upon the loud cymbals, praise ye him upon the high-sounding cymbals. Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord!*

\* **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 246**

**Christ Is Alive!**

TRURO

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

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

**CHORAL RESPONSE**

*P. C. Lutkin*

**POSTLUDE**

**Sortie in F Major**

*César Franck*

## INFORMATION ON TODAY'S SERVICES

**Musicians:** Carol Beth Litkouhi, Joyful Noise Choir Director; Jill Steiner, Joyful Noise Choir accompanist; Marilyn Biery, James Biery, organists and directors; Adam Lenhart, carillonneur

**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.

The sermon hymn was written by American composer Natalie Sleeth (1930-1992). Sleeth was born in Evanston, Illinois. She began to study the piano at the age of four. In 1952, she earned a BA in music theory at Wellesley College in Massachusetts. She married the Rev. Dr. Ronald E. Sleeth, a professor of Homiletics. Sleeth's anthem titled "Hymn of Promise" was composed in early 1985, and dedicated simply "To Ron," (her husband) who was diagnosed with cancer and died weeks after the anthem's premiere. Soon after publication the anthem was arranged into a hymn. Today we sing it as a hymn, and we hear the tune in the Prelude, written by American composer Ray Jebsim (b. 1956).

César Auguste Jean Guillaume Hubert Franck (1822 – 1890) was a French Romantic composer, pianist, organist, and music teacher born in present-day Belgium. He moved to Paris and in 1859 he became titular organist at the church Sainte-Clotilde, a position he retained for the rest of his life. He became professor at the Paris Conservatoire in 1872; he took French nationality, a requirement of the appointment. Franck wrote several pieces that have entered the standard classical repertoire, including symphonic, chamber, and keyboard works for pipe organ and piano. He is well known for his solo and choral work *Panis angelicus* as well as this setting of the 150<sup>th</sup> psalm.

**Copyright acknowledgements:** The following is used with permission, OneLicense.net License No. 717156-A All rights reserved. "Come Together, Come and Hear," © 2025 by the composers.



**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.

**The flowers on the altar are presented to the glory of God** in loving memory of William G. Premin by Judy Premin.

**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).



1340 West Long Lake Road  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302  
(248) 626-2515  
kirkinthehills.org  
facebook.com/kirkinthehills

