

KIRK IN THE HILLS  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)  
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER | 11:00 A.M. WORSHIP  
MAY 10, 2026



*Hallelujah* | Mike Moyers | Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN



## A Note from Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

Welcome to Kirk in the Hills!

I want to welcome you, whether this place has long been home or you are finding your way here more recently, whether you come with deep conviction or quiet questions. It is a gift to gather together in worship.

Just Friday, I returned from the Alpha Course Leadership Conference at the Royal Albert Hall in London, along with a few Kirk leaders. It was a meaningful time of learning and reflection, and throughout it I was praying for you—for our shared life as a congregation, and especially for our growth in discipleship, engagement, and impact. Thank you for the many ways you support my family and me, and for your faithful prayers as we *chart the course together*, on the voyage Christ has called us to embark upon.

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Today, we celebrate both Mother's Day and Youth Sunday, a pairing that speaks beautifully to the life of faith across generations. I am deeply grateful for the way this church makes space for our young people to belong, to serve, and to grow as disciples in their own right. Your encouragement of them—as acolytes, Sunday School leaders, and volunteers—matters more than you may know. I also want to give thanks to Sarah Ford and our Children, Youth, and Family ministry, whose dedication has helped prepare this service. To our youth: thank you for your courage. To lead in worship, while still wrestling honestly with faith, is no small thing. Your witness strengthens us all.

On this Mother's Day, I find myself reflecting with gratitude for the women who have shaped my own life in Christ—my mother and grandmothers, who nurtured faith from an early age; my sisters, who have blessed me; my wife, whose support is constant; and my daughter, who reminds me daily of the joy of the Lord. While each story is different, many of us have known the quiet, steadfast ways women have nurtured faith and life—as parents, mentors, teachers, and guides.

And yet, even beyond these gifts, we are reminded by the Holy Scriptures of God's own steadfast care: a Father to the fatherless, and a mother to the motherless, who protects and gathers us with the tenderness of a mother bird. Even if a mother should forget the babe at her breast, the Prophet Isaiah says, God will never forget us nor forsake us.

For mothers and youth, the gift of this community, and God's abiding love, let us offer our praise in this, God's holy sanctuary.

In Christ,

Senior Pastor | Head of Staff

# THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

11:00 a.m., Sanctuary

**PRELUDE** **Rhosymedre** *Ralph Vaughan Williams*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

**OUR FAITH IN ACTION** Costa Rica High School Mission Trip Update **Tori Guettler**

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

\* **INTROIT** **God Reveal Your Presence** *Joachim Neander*  
*God, reveal your presence: gladly we adore you, and with awe appear before you.*  
*Holy is your temple: all within keep silence, humbly bow with deepest reverence.*  
*You alone now we own as our God and Savior: praise your name forever!*

\* **CALL TO WORSHIP** **Noah Christ**

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 14** **For the Beauty of the Earth** **DIX**

\* **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 mer-cy up-on us; Christ, have mer-cy up-on us; Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.

Lord, Have Mercy

John Merbecke

\* 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

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

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

PRESENTATION

*Callum Anthony Cheslock, Noa Kate Cheslock, Theodore Daniel Martin*

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**      **Gracious God**      *Arabic Tune*  
*Gracious God, you are the source of all light. By your Word you give light to the soul. Pour on us the source of your wisdom that we may hear your Word through Jesus Christ. Amen.*

**SCRIPTURE READING**      **John14:25-27**      Elder Carol Pearl  
The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**      **Reach, Teach, Beseech**      Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

**ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF ELDER CLASS OF 2026 | ONE-YEAR TERM**  
*Sahm Litkouhi*

**LITANY OF SERVICE** *(based on 1 Corinthians 12)*

There are different gifts,  
**But it is the same Spirit who gives them.**  
There are different ways of serving God,  
**But it is the same Lord who is served.**  
God works through different people in different ways,  
**But it is the same God who fulfills these purposes**

\* **HYMN 698**      **Take, O Take Me as I Am**      TAKE ME AS I AM  
*(Please be seated after the hymn.)*

## THANKSGIVING

**CALL TO OFFERING AND DEDICATION**      Collin Graff

*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**

**Look at the World**

*John Rutter*

Look at the world, everything all around us:  
Look at the world, and marvel every day.  
Look at the world: so many joys and wonders,  
So many miracles along our way.

Praise to thee, O Lord, for all creation,  
Give us thankful hearts, that we may see:  
All the gifts we share, and every blessing,  
All things come of thee.

Look at the earth bringing forth fruit and flower;  
Look at the sky, the sunshine and the rain;  
Look at the hills, look at the trees and mountains,  
Valley and flowing river, field and plain:

Praise to thee, O Lord...

Think of the spring, think of the warmth of summer  
Bringing the harvest before the winter's cold.  
Everything grows, everything has a season,  
Till it is gathered to the Father's fold:

Praise to thee, O Lord...

Every good gift, all that we need and cherish  
Comes from the Lord in token of his love;  
We are his hands, stewards of all his bounty;  
His is the earth, and his the heavens above:

Praise to thee, O Lord... (John Rutter)

\* **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. Rami Almaqdasi; Vivian Flowers

**SENDING**

\* **RECESSIONAL HYMN 324**

**For All the Faithful Women**

NYLAND

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

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez; Caroline Eriksen

**CHORAL RESPONSE**

**God Be with You**

*Marilyn Biery*

*God be with you till we meet again.*

**POSTLUDE**

**Paraphrase on a Handel Chorus**  
*(Thine Is the Glory)*

*Alexandre Guilmant*

## WORSHIP NOTES

## INFORMATION ON TODAY'S SERVICES

**Musicians:** Marilyn and James Biery, organists and conductors

**About today's Music:** Sir John Milford Rutter CBE (born 24 September 1945) is one of the most well-known conductors and composers of sacred choral music in the world today. In 1981, Rutter founded his own choir, the Cambridge Singers, which he conducts, and with which he has made many recordings of sacred choral repertoire. He lives in Cambridgeshire and frequently conducts choirs and orchestras around the world.

The English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) was raised in a well-to-do family with strong moral views and a progressive social outlook. He wanted to be of service to his fellow citizens and believed in making music as available as possible to everybody, writing many works for amateur and student performance. He was musically a late developer, not finding his true voice until his late thirties. His hymn writing and love of folk melodies gave us some of our most beloved hymn tunes: *SINE NOMINE* (For all the Saints) and *KINGSFOLD* (I heard the voice of Jesus say) are two of our most beloved.

Félix-Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911) was a French organist and composer. He was the organist of La Trinité from 1871 until 1901 and was appointed Professor of Organ in the Conservatoire de Paris in 1896.

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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 Rob in 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 remembrance of her husband, James W. Clark, parents, Ray D. and Wayne Louise Eichler and sister, Marilyn Eichler Dewar, by Barbara Eichler Clark and family.

**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).