

KIRK IN THE HILLS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER | 9:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE FOR
THE INSTALLATION OF REV. RAMI ALMAQDASI | 11:00 A.M.
MAY 17, 2026



Abraham Entertaining the Angels | by Rembrandt, 1646 | Public Domain, Wikimedia | This is one of Rembrandt's depictions of Abraham and his various encounters with God and his angels, as recounted throughout the book of Genesis. Considered one of Rembrandt's most creative treatments of the divine, a glowing figure who appear to dematerialize from mortal flesh into light before our eyes. It is noted that the Abraham story fascinated the artist and there are several pieces dedicated to the story.

A Letter from Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez



THE ORDER OF WORSHIP
9:00 A.M. | WORSHIP SERVICE
11:00 A.M. | WORSHIP & SERVICE OF INSTALLATION FOR REV. RAMI ALMAQDASI
BY THE PRESBYTERY OF DETROIT

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE **Ich habe genug (*I am content*) from Cantata 82** *J. S. Bach*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

* *Those who are able are invited to stand 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** Rev. Dr. Annemarie Kidder

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 321** **The Church's One Foundation** AURELIA

* **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

Kyrie

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

Friends, in the empty tomb,

Rev. Jasmine Smart

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

Greatorrex

THE WORD

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

Sarah Ford

Following the Word with the Children, children and youth will remain in worship with their family.

INVITATION HYMN

Come Together, Come and Hear! *(Please join in singing.)*

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



Come to-gether, come and hear! Come to-gether, come and learn!



Come to-gether, come and hear; come to-gether, 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.**

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 **Genesis 12:1-9** (*OT, page 10*) Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez, 9:00 a.m.
The Word of the Lord. Elder Robert Beck, 11:00 a.m.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON **Good God, Go!** Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

* **HYMN 69** **Here I Am, Lord** **HERE I AM**

THE THANKSGIVING

CALL TO OFFERING AND DEDICATION (*please be seated*) Rev. Jasmine Smart
Loose offerings collected today will support the Presbytery of Detroit's Committee on Preparation for Ministry.

OFFERTORY **Spirit of God, Unseen as the Wind**
Scottish Traditional, arr. Antony Baldwin
Spirit of God, unseen as the wind, gentle as is the dove, teach us the truth and help us believe, show us the Saviour's love. You spoke to us, long long ago, gave us the written word we read it still, needing its truth, through it God's voice is heard. Without your help, we fail our Lord, we cannot live his way. We need your power, we need your strength, following Christ each day.

* **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*

THE INSTALLATION

*(The Installation is at 11:00 a.m. only; 9:00 a.m. worshipers can go to **THE SENDING**, on page 8.)*

WELCOME FROM THE PRESBYTERY Elder Mary Lloyd

On behalf of the Presbytery of Detroit, I want to welcome you to the Installation Service for **Rami Michael Almaqdasi** of Kirk in the Hills Presbyterian Church. This service represents the unique partnership between the Minister of the Word and Sacrament, this Church, and the Presbytery of Detroit. It is a time when the Presbytery family celebrates with joy the formal installation of those called to be ministers of the Word and Sacrament within the church.

There are varieties of 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 each person in a unique way,
but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.
**To each is given a gift of the Spirit
to be used for the common good.**

Together we are the body of Christ,
and individually members of it.

STATEMENT ON THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

Rev. Roy Langwig

In Christ, the Church participates in God's mission for the transformation of creation and humanity by proclaiming to all people the Good News of God's love, offering to all people the grace of God at font and table, and calling all people to discipleship in Christ.

Today we reclaim our historic calling and remember the great ends of the church.

All continue:

**The proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind;
the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship
of the children of God;
the maintenance of divine worship; the preservation of the truth;
the promotion of social righteousness;
and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.**

The call to this ministry, shared by pastor and people, has been extended by the congregation, accepted by the candidate, and approved by the Presbytery. Therefore the Presbytery of Detroit, by means of this commission, now installs Rami Almaqdasi as pastor of Kirk in the Hills.

In his baptism, Rami was clothed with Christ.
He was ordained as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament
by the Synod of Nile, Egypt
and is now called by God through the voice of the church
to serve as pastor of this congregation.

**We remember with joy our common calling to serve Christ,
and we celebrate God's call to our brother,
to serve among us as pastor.**

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS TO THE MINISTER

Elder Mary Lloyd

Do you trust in the Lord Jesus your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by

the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you?

Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed Faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God?

Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions?

Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit?

Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?

Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?

Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?

Will you be a faithful teaching elder, proclaiming the good news in Word and Sacrament, teaching faith and caring for people? Will you be active in government and discipline, serving in the councils of the church; and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS TO THE CONGREGATION

Elder Linda Juracek-Lipa

Do we, the members of the church, accept Rami Almaqdasi as our pastor chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to guide us in the way of Jesus Christ? **We do.**

Do we agree to pray for him, encourage him, to respect his decisions, and to follow as he guides us, serving Jesus Christ who alone is Head of the Church? **We do.**

Do we promise to pay him fairly and provide for his welfare as he works among us; to stand by him in trouble and share his joys? **We do.**

Will we listen to the word he preaches, welcome his pastoral care, and honor his authority as he seeks to honor and obey Jesus Christ our Lord? **We do and we will.**

PRAYER OF INSTALLATION

Rev. Dr. Annemarie Kidder & Rev. Jasmine Smart
Rev. Dr. Annemarie Kidder

The Lord be with you.

and also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, Rev. Jasmine Smart
that we may be faithful as your people
and fruitful in the ministries you have given us.
Grant diligence to those who lead,
faith to those who teach, truth to all who speak,
compassion to all who heal, wisdom to those who counsel,
generosity to those who give, and cheerfulness to all who serve.
To your servant Rami,
and to all who tend your flock as pastors among your people,
give vision and strength, hospitality, humility, and peace.

Rev. Dr. Annemarie Kidder

Bless the common ministry of this pastor and people
with joy and power in the gospel.
Strengthen us to live out the grace of our baptism
and to serve you with the gifts of your Holy Spirit;
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our only shepherd and Lord, who taught us
to pray... Our Father, who art in heaven... **Amen.**

DECLARATION OF INSTALLATION

Elder Mary Lloyd

The Reverend Rami Almaqdasi, as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament in the church of Jesus Christ, you are now installed as pastor of this congregation. Be faithful and true in your ministry so that your whole life will bear witness to the crucified and risen Christ.

Commissioners and Elders, you may welcome Pastor Rami to this ministry.

CHARGE TO THE NEWLY INSTALLED

Rev. Marilyn Borst

CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION

Pastor Debbie Lennis

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE PNC

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

PRESENTATION OF SYMBOLS OF MINISTRY

Bob O'Hara & Bobi Tallinger,
and the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee

THE SENDING

* RECESSIONAL HYMN 751

From the Nets of Our Labors

HAMILTON

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez, 9:00 a.m.
Rev. Rami Almaqdasi, 11:00 a.m.

CHORAL RESPONSE

As-salamu lakum
Peace of God be with you.

Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

POSTLUDE

A Trumpet Minuet

Alfred Hollins

*All members and friends of the Kirk are invited and encouraged to attend a reception
in the Refectory following this service to celebrate the installation of
The Reverend Rami Michael Almaqdasi*

A Letter from Rev. Rami Almaqdasi



With a heart full of gratitude and humility, I give thanks to God for this sacred moment in the life of the church and in my own journey of faith as I am installed as Associate Pastor for Congregational Care and Evangelism. I am reminded of God's words to Abram in Genesis 12: **"Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you."**

First and foremost, I give thanks to God for His faithful presence throughout my life and ministry. God has guided me from Iraq— the ancient land of Ur and Mesopotamia, connected to the story of Abraham—through many seasons of life, service, and calling. From Iraq to Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, and Syria, and later to the United States, God has been constant, faithful, and gracious in every step.

I am deeply grateful for the churches and communities where I have had the privilege to serve, including in Buffalo, Ohio, and Pontiac, and now at Kirk in the Hills. In each place, I have experienced the grace of God through His people and the blessing of Christian fellowship. I also give thanks for the Presbytery of Detroit and my colleagues in ministry, especially those participating in this service today, for their encouragement, partnership, and friendship in the Gospel.

With sincere gratitude, I thank the leaders and members of Kirk in the Hills, and the APNC, for their prayerful discernment, trust, and confidence in calling me to serve among you. I also thank Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez and Dr. Edward Yousif for their encouragement and for giving me the first opportunity for ministry at Kirk by inviting me to lead the Arabic Bible Study, which became a meaningful beginning to my ministry life within this community.

I would also like to express my heartfelt appreciation to the church staff for their kindness, support, and encouragement as I began my ministry at Kirk. I am especially thankful to Wendy Beck, Administrative Assistant, and Mercy Adams, Membership Coordinator, for their gracious help, guidance, and support in the church office and for making this transition such a welcoming experience.

One of the great blessings I have experienced at Kirk in the Hills has been the beauty and reverence of Sunday worship. The music ministry, the prayers, and the gathered congregation have deeply touched my heart. This past Easter celebration at Kirk was especially meaningful to me — one of the most joyful and spiritually uplifting Easter worship experiences I have had in more than fifteen years of ministry. I thank God for all who faithfully serve in worship and music ministry and help lead this congregation in praise and thanksgiving.

There are also those whom I cannot forget to thank—my beloved wife, Raya, and our daughters, Marilyn and Lisa. Their love, prayers, patience, sacrifice, and encouragement have been a source of strength and support throughout every season of this journey.

I am especially grateful to my dear friend Rev. Marilyn Borst, whom I first met in 2000 at Basra Church, for her kindness and support during my theological studies at ETSC Seminary, I am deeply thankful that she traveled from Savannah, GA to be present today and to share her blessings for my ministry at Kirk. I also thank my dear friend and brother in Christ, Rev. Dr. Jonah Salim, with whom I studied together at the seminary in Egypt, for his friendship, our shared journey in ministry and faith, and for coming from Chicago to participate in this celebration. To my family, friends, and all who have prayed for and supported me—thank you.

My prayer is that we grow together as a Christ-centered community, faithful and humble in worship, compassionate in service, courageous in witness, and united in love. Thank you for welcoming me into this shared ministry. I look forward with hope to all that God will continue to do among us. To God be all glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

In Christ,
Rev. Rami Michael Almaqdasi

INFORMATION ON TODAY'S SERVICES

Musicians: Merideth, Estevez, oboe; Marilyn and James Biery, organists and conductors.

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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 is here to guide you. Meet Mercy after Sunday Worship, during Coffee Hour to learn more about the Kirk or call/text her cell 248-631-4565 to RSVP or scan the QR code to reserve your spot at the May 20th Kirk Church Life "Gather & Grow" dinner.

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 Anne and Thatcher W. Root by their family.

The flowers on the altar in Cedarholm Chapel are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of Dr. and Mrs. Leslie A. Bechtel and their daughter, Gertrude M. Bechtel by their children and grandchildren. Dr. Bechtel was the Kirk's first pastor and Gertrude was the first director of religious education at the Kirk.

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.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE OF WORSHIP AND INSTALLATION | 11:00 A.M.

** Members of the Commission of the Presbytery of Detroit*

The Reverend Marilyn Borst

Resident Missiologist, First Baptist Church, Savannah, Georgia

The Reverend Dr. Edwin Estevez

Senior Pastor/Head of Staff, Kirk in the Hills, Bloomfield Hills

Elder Linda Juracek-Lipa

Ruling Elder, Kirk in the Hills, Bloomfield Hills

***The Reverend Dr. Annemarie Kidder**

Parish Associate, Kirk in the Hills, Bloomfield Hills

***The Reverend Roy Langwig**

Retired, Former Pastor First Presbyterian Church, Pontiac

*** Commissioned Ruling Elder Debbie Lennis**

Pastor, White Lake Presbyterian Church, White Lake

***Elder Mary Llyod**

Moderator, Presbytery of Detroit

The Reverend Jasmine Smart

Parish Associate, Kirk in the Hills, Bloomfield Hills

***Elder Steven Voorhees**

Ruling Elder, Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, Grosse Pointe

***Elder Ed Yousif**

Ruling Elder, Kirk in the Hills, Bloomfield Hills

Other Special Guests:

The Reverend Dr. Jonah Salim

Chicago Presbytery

The Reverend Dr. Melissa Allison

Co-Leader and Stated Clerk, Presbytery of Detroit

@ the Kirk soon

@ the Kirk soon

@ the Kirk soon

@ the Kirk soon



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