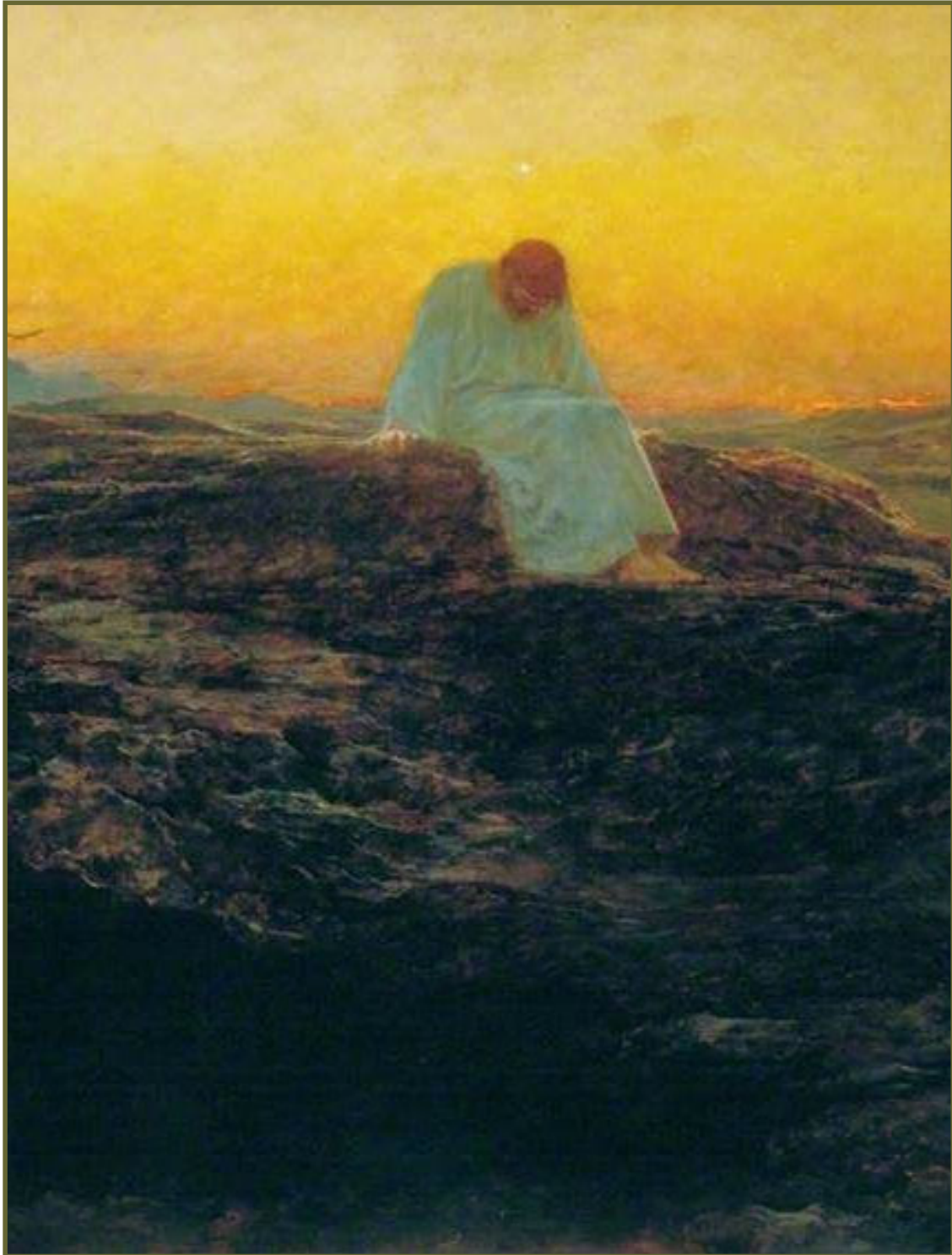


KIRK IN THE HILLS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)
AUGUST 23, 2026 | 8:00 A.M. CHAPEL COMMUNION SERVICE
IN THE WAY OF IONA ABBEY, SCOTLAND



Temptation in the Wilderness | Briton Rivière, 1840-1920 | from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt University Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

COMMUNION SERVICE
8:00 a.m., Cedarholm Chapel

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Annemarie Kidder

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Psalm 90

Heavenly Father, teach us to number our days,
that we may gain wise hearts.

**The Lord is our dwelling place
throughout all generations.**

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.
Praise the Lord!

*** HYMN 298**

Lord, You Give the Great Commission

ABBOT'S LEIGH

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God,
Our days pass quickly
and we confess how often we fail to seek you.
We cling to what fades and neglect the treasure of your kingdom.
Forgive us for our pride, impatience, and unbelief.
By your Holy Spirit,
Teach us wisdom, deepen our trust,
And make us steadfast in faith and love;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the promise of the gospel:
"If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
to forgive us our sins
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation!
Alleluia, Amen!

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 63 (OT, Page 527)
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Summer in the Psalms: Thirsty for God

INVITATION

THE THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Gracious God,
we thank you for meeting us at this table with the gift of your
presence and grace. As you have nourished us with the bread of life
and the cup of salvation, fill us with your Holy Spirit. Send us into the
world with thankful hearts, ready to love, serve, and follow Christ
each day. In his holy name we pray. Amen.**

* HYMN

Be Still My Soul

FINLANDIA

Be still, my soul, and cease the reckless striving,
give up the wish to conquer and to quell;
leave to the Lord the guiding and providing,
the claim to judge, the chances to prevail.
Let go of battles of your own devising,
and let the Lord appease your thought and will.

Be still, my soul, and face the haunting worries
of changing times, of turbulence and strife;
the roaring waters and the quaking mountains,
the sense of being out of step with life.
They are much smaller than you first had thought
them abiding
and smaller still when seen against God's light.

Be still, my soul, you are the holy dwelling,
the sanctuary of the living God,
the house built on the rock of Christ's salvation,
The new creation born of word and blood;
you have been freed from life in isolation:
you are a son and daughter of your God.

Be still, my soul, and cease the empty striving,
the urge for triumph and the need for gain.
Your fear of losing is but vain and idle,
The urge to cling the source of needless pain.
Be still, my soul, and learn to be
In patient trust that God will never fail.
(Annemarie Kidder, 2002; from Psalm 46)

BENEDICTION

TITHES AND OFFERING

Your offering for the Kirk's ministry will be received as you leave worship. 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.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY



A Note from Pastor Edwin!

Welcome to worship at the Kirk in the Hills. Whether you are a long-time member, a returning friend, or a first-time visitor, we are grateful that you are here. Summer offers a unique opportunity to slow down, reconnect, and enjoy many of the gifts God has given us—time with family and friends, travel and recreation, evenings on the lake, walks through beautiful gardens, and moments of rest and renewal.

This year, as our nation commemorates the 250th anniversary of American Independence, we give thanks for the blessings of freedom while recommitting ourselves to working toward *a more perfect union, with liberty and justice for all*. As Christians, we remember that our highest allegiance is to God, whose kingdom calls us to seek the common good and love our neighbors.

Throughout the summer, our worship series, **Summer in the Psalms: Songs from the Heart of David**, invites us to pray, sing, reflect, and grow through the Bible's ancient songbook. The Psalms speak honestly about joy and sorrow, gratitude and struggle, worship and wonder, helping us discover God's presence in every season of life.

As you worship today, take in the beauty around you, the sunlight hitting the stained-glass windows just so, the gardens in bloom, the music that lifts our hearts, the prayers we offer, and the community gathered beside you. May this be a time to connect more deeply with God, with your own soul, and with the people God has placed in your life.

May you experience the Holy God today through worship and fellowship.

Join us next Sunday for **Psalm 103** and **Summer in the Psalms: The Father's Compassion**.

Let us worship God!

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

Sr. Pastor | Head of Staff | Kirk in the Hills



A Note from Rev. Dr. Annemarie Kidder!

Kirk West Parish Associate

The scriptures are replete with references to wilderness. The Israelites are wandering there, prophets find refuge and solace in the vast deserted landscape, and John the Baptist chooses the wilderness as his permanent address. To speak of wilderness today suggests less of a territory than a state of mind. We say that we are bewildered, meaning we are perplexed or even confused. The wilderness may be a protracted state of disorientation, a frame of mind where the past is done and over with, while the future is still a closed book.

I often hear those talking about a wilderness experience who have recently retired or changed jobs or relocated. It's no coincidence that wilderness suggests to us that "wild" things are living and growing there. Maybe there are the proverbial wild beasts ready to attack or treacherous vines poised to tie us up. They all make us feel a bit shaken and destabilized. And we wonder how to ever gain a sure footing again.

The Psalm writers tend to grope in wilderness terrain repeatedly; and yet, they do not stay there but find a way out of the thicket of dislocation and confusion. I trust we can join them in that!

PS: The great reformer Martin Luther lived and breathed the Psalms. One of his favorites was Psalm 46, based on which I wrote new lyrics, set to the tune of Finlandia.