

KIRK IN THE HILLS  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)  
9:00 A.M. GARDEN | 11:00 A.M. SANCTUARY WORSHIP  
14<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST | AUGUST 30, 2026





## A Note from Pastor Edwin!

Welcome to worship at Kirk in the Hills! Whether you are a longtime member, a returning friend, or a first-time visitor, we are grateful you are here.

Summer invites us to slow down, reconnect, and give thanks for the many gifts God provides—family and friends, travel and recreation, beauty and rest. As we near the end of our sermon series, *Summer in the Psalms: Songs from the Heart of David*, we have been invited to pray, reflect, and discover God's presence in every season of life.

In so doing, we commemorate the 250th anniversary of American Independence, giving thanks for the blessings of freedom while remembering our Christian calling to seek the common good, love our neighbors, and serve God's kingdom.

Take in the beauty of this place today—the stained glass, gardens, music, prayers, and fellowship. May worship renew your spirit and draw you closer to God and one another.

### Looking Ahead

- **25th Anniversary of 9/11 Noon Day Service** — a time of prayer and remembrance.
- **September 13 — Welcome Back to Church Ministry Fair**
- **September 20 — Visitor Sunday & State of the Kirk**, Heritage Hall
- **September 27 — Homecoming Sunday**, with activities for the whole family on the Front Lawn.
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May you experience the Holy One today through worship and fellowship.

**Let us worship God!**

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

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



## A Note from Rev. Rami Michael Almaqdas

Everyday life gives us many things to remember—people we love, responsibilities we carry, moments we cherish, and challenges we face. In the middle of it all, Psalm 103 gently invites us to pause and remember God's goodness: "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits." It is a reminder to notice the ways God has been present with us and to give thanks.

This Sunday, we will reflect on God's abundant compassion and steadfast love. Psalm 103 reminds us that, in every season of life, God is near to us with mercy, forgiveness, and care. As we pause to remember God's blessings, may our hearts be renewed with gratitude and hope for the days ahead.

# THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

9:00 a.m. Garden Worship

## THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

Abiding Presence; As Your Spirit in the Desert

*Peter Vantine*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Matthew Means

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

*Psalm 90*

Rev. Jasmine Smart

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

**Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing** (*see page 10 .*)

NETTLETON

\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Jasmine Smart

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.**

\* 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

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!**

\* ACCLAMATION OF PRAISE 581

Glory Be to the Father

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

WORD

WORD WITH CHILDREN AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Sarah Ford

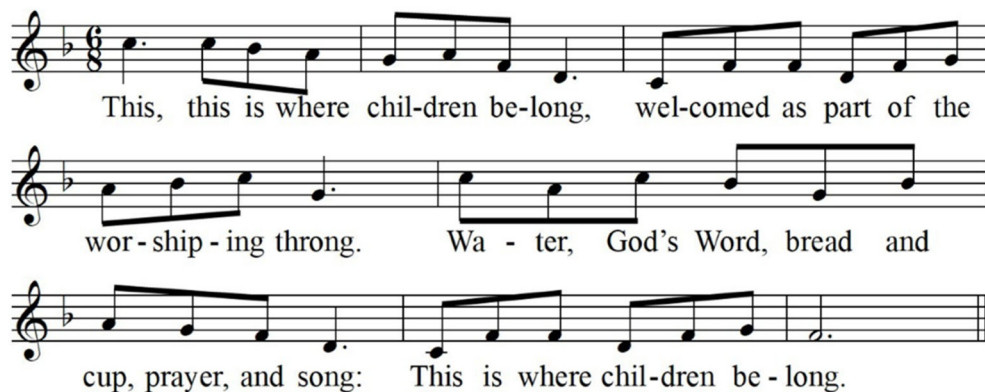
*Children will remain in worship with their parents*

INVITATION HYMN

Where Children Belong

James Ritchie

*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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Matthew Means

SOLO

My Good Lord's Done Been Here

*Traditional, arr. Moses Hogan*

*My good Lord's done been here, blest my soul and gone away,  
My good Lord's done been here, blest my soul and gone.  
Never did I think that he was so nigh, blest my soul and gone.  
He spoke, and he made me laugh and cry, blest my soul and gone.  
Sinner, better min' how you walk on the cross, blest my soul and gone,  
Your foot might slip and your soul get lost, blest my soul and gone.*

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 103

Elder Bobi Tallinger

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**SERMON**

**Summer in the Psalms: The Father's Compassion**

Rev. Rami Almaqsdasi

**SENDING**

**\* HYMN**

**What a Friend We Have in Jesus** (*See page 11.*)

CONVERSE

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*Garden worshippers are encouraged to drop off donations in the baskets located at the Celtic Cross near ramp or at the door to the cloister as you exit to the front patio as you depart. Please see notes on page 6.  
Join us for coffee and fellowship on the patio immediately following service!*

## INFORMATION ON TODAY'S SERVICES

**Feeling called to join Kirk in the Hills?** 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 or call her directly at 248-973-8013.

**Musicians:** Leslie Mason, soprano; Marilyn Biery, keyboard; James Biery, organist.

**About the Music:** The composer of the Garden service preludes, Peter Vantine, is an accomplished pianist and award-winning composer whose music has been featured on stage and across media platforms including the Biography Channel, Discovery Channel, PBS, The Learning Channel, MTV, corporate websites, educational software, museum exhibits, and film. He has produced over 30 albums, both of his own work and in collaboration with others as performer, arranger, and orchestrator.

Moses George Hogan (1957 – 2003) was an American composer, pianist, conductor, and arranger, best known for his settings of spirituals. His works are celebrated and performed by high school, college, church, community, and professional choirs.

J.S. Bach is considered one of the greatest composers of all time. He wrote cantatas, passions, instrumental music and keyboard music, including a significant number of works for organ. The prelude is one of his lesser-known organ works, in the traditional Allegro/

Adagio/Allegro structure, although the opening Allegro is not titled, hence the brackets around the first Allegro.

In 2020 Augsburg Fortress published a set of pieces that Marilyn Biery transcribed from Bach's cantatas: *Ten Organ Chorales in the Schübler Tradition Arranged from the Works of Johann Sebastian Bach, edited by Marilyn Perkins Biery*, and today's postlude is from that set. Marilyn Biery has been keyboard acquisitions editor at Augsburg Fortress since 2021.

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**Stephen Ministers** are available for personal, confidential prayer in the Garden after the 9:00 a.m. outdoor worship and 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.



**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).

**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.

**Cover Art:** "Psalm 103" by Hannah Dunnett. Copyright © 2015 by Ben and Hannah Dunnett. Scripture verses from NIV © Biblica 2011, used by permission of Hodder & Stoughton

# THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

11:00 a.m. Sanctuary Worship

## THE GATHERING

### PRELUDE

**Fantasia in G, BWV 571**  
[Allegro], Adagio, Allegro

*J. S. Bach*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Matthew Means

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

*Psalm 90*

Rev. Jasmine Smart

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 475

**Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing**

NETTLETON

### \* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Jasmine Smart

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.**

### \* 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

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!**

### \* ACCLAMATION OF PRAISE 581

**Glory Be to the Father**

GLORIA PATRI

## WORD

### THE SACRAMENT OF ADULT BAPTISM

Rev. Rami Almaqdasi, Rev. Matthew Means  
& Elder Bob Beck

#### 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.

*Please be seated.*

### THE SACRAMENT OF ADULT BAPTISM

*Darrien-Raquel Robertson*

#### ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS

Rev. Rami Almaqdasi, Rev. Matthew Means & Elder Bob Beck

*Chris Ajlouny, Erika Burdt, Roy Fanning, Nathan Field, Kim Fields,  
Kaelyn Matsos, Barbara Michael, Dr. Frederick Michael,  
Darrien-Raquel Robertson, Grace Strickland, Jeremy Strickland*

#### WELCOME

*Please read along with the leader...*

With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you into Christ's church to  
share with us in his ministry, for we are all one in Christ.

**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**

**Psalm 103 (OT, page 554.)**

Elder Bob Beck

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SOLO**

**My Good Lord's Done Been Here**

*Traditional, arr. Moses Hogan*

*My good Lord's done been here, blest my soul and gone away,  
My good Lord's done been here, blest my soul and gone.  
Never did I think that he was so nigh, blest my soul and gone.  
He spoke, and he made me laugh and cry, blest my soul and gone.  
Sinner, better min' how you walk on the cross, blest my soul and gone,  
Your foot might slip and your soul get lost, blest my soul and gone.*

**SERMON**

**Summer in the Psalms: The Father's Compassion**

Rev. Rami Almaqsadi

\* HYMN 465

**What a Friend We Have in Jesus**

CONVERSE

**THANKSGIVING**

**CALL TO OFFERING AND DEDICATION**

Rev. Jasmine Smart

*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**

**Give Me Jesus**

*arr. Moses Hogan*

*In the mornin' when I rise,... give me Jesus,...you may have all this world,  
give me Jesus.  
Dark midnight was my cry,... give me Jesus,...  
you may have all of this world, give me Jesus.  
Oh, when I comes to die,... give me Jesus, nobody but Jesus,  
you may have all of this world, give me Jesus. Nobody but Jesus, oh,  
you may have all of this world, give me Jesus.*

\* 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.  
\* or God**

**PRAYER**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Rev. Matthew Means

**Our Father, who art in heaven... (debts & debtors)**

## SENDING

\* HYMN 65

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

CWM RHONDDA

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Now Praise, My Soul, the Lord, BWV 28/2

Bach/M. Biery

### Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 475

1 Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
2 Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith-er by thy help I'm come;  
3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be!

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.  
and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar - rive at home.  
Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to thee.

Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove;  
Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God;  
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;

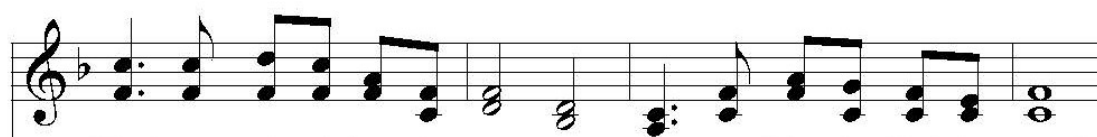
praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un-chang-ing love!  
he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter-posed his pre-cious blood.  
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

# 465 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

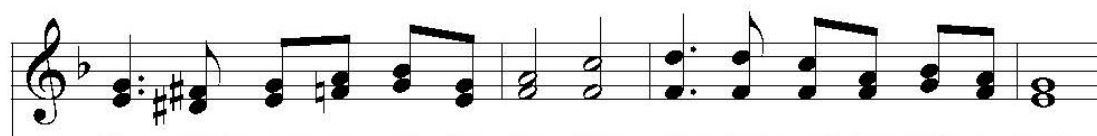
죄짐맡은 우리구주



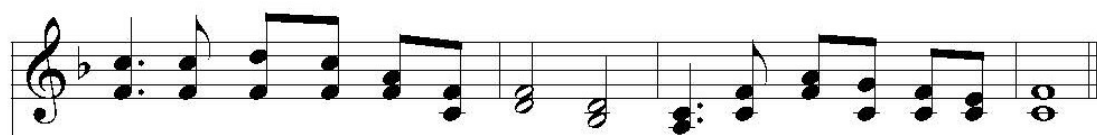
1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?  
 3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - ery - thing to God in prayer!  
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged; take it to the Lord in prayer!  
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge; take it to the Lord in prayer!



O what peace we of - ten for - feit; O what need - less pain we bear,  
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?  
 Do thy friends de - spise, for - sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - ery - thing to God in prayer!  
 Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak - ness; take it to the Lord in prayer!  
 In his arms he'll take and shield thee; thou wilt find a so - lace there.



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