

KIRK IN THE HILLS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)
9:00 A.M. GARDEN | 11:00 A.M. SANCTUARY WORSHIP
15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST | SEPTEMBER 6, 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.

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. Marilyn Borst

This coming Friday marks a solemn remembrance in the life of our country: September 11. Twenty-five years ago, on what began as an unremarkable Tuesday, everything changed as 4 planes wreaked destruction in 3 places and took 2799 innocent lives, initially. Many of us can picture exactly where we were when we heard the news as the shock and disbelief set in, with the accompanying tears to follow...

King David was no stranger to sorrow, as his life was filled with betrayal from *within* his own close circle of family and friends and from violent attacks from his enemies *without*. This fierce warrior had a tender heart which was often broken and from which he gave voice in his poignant "psalms of lament", like Psalm 6. From the man who painfully shares that "I flood my bed with weeping" comes the assurance that God has *heard* that weeping.

This Sunday we will explore how we find our way forward when life overwhelms us even as we follow the One whose body was broken and whose blood was shed for us--- the Very One who has "known our grief and carried our sorrows."

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

9:00 a.m. Garden Worship

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 90

Rev. Rami Almaqdasi

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

How Firm a Foundation (*see page 10 .*)

FOUNDATION

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Rami Almaqdasi

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. Rami Almaqdasi

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

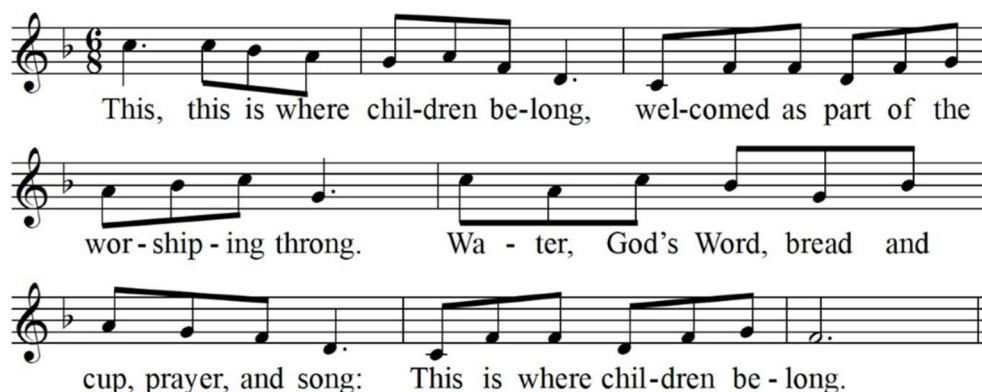
Children will remain in worship with their parents

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

Psalm 98 from *Biblical Songs*

Anton Dvorak

*Sing ye a joyful song unto the Lord,
Who hath done marvelous things.
Praise the Lord all the earth!
Sing praises, shout, and be joyful!
Let the sea roar and all that is therein,
The round world and all they that dwell there.
Lift your voices, floods and tempests.
Mountains, clap you hands for joy!
Let the fields laugh and sing, with waving corn,
And let all the trees of the forest be joyful!*

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 6

Elder Bob Heuer

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Summer in the Psalms: Fragile

Rev. Marilyn Borst

SENDING

*** HYMN**

Be Still, My Soul (*See page 11.*)

FINLANDIA

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: Jinho Park, baritone; Dr. Horst Buchholz, organist.

About the Music: **George Shearing (1919–2011)** was a British-born jazz pianist and composer who immigrated to the United States shortly after World War II. Known for his distinctive harmonic language and the famed “Shearing sound,” he brought a refined jazz sensibility to a wide range of repertoire. In the late 1970s he produced several jazz-inflected arrangements of early American hymn tunes. His setting of *Jerusalem, My Happy Home*, using the tune **LAND OF REST**, is among the most beloved—gentle, warm, and harmonically luminous.

Antonín Dvořák (1841–1904) composed his *Biblical Songs*, Op. 99, in 1894 during his tenure in New York City. This cycle of ten psalm settings reflects a period of deep personal reflection: within the previous year, Dvořák had lost his father, and the musical world had mourned the deaths of Tchaikovsky and Gounod. Originally written for voice and piano, Dvořák later orchestrated the set, revealing even more of its expressive depth and spiritual resonance.

Peter I. Tchaikovsky (1840–1893) is celebrated for his ballets, symphonies, and concertos—cornerstones of the Romantic repertoire. The *Psalm 23* heard today, however, is not by Tchaikovsky himself. This arrangement, created by radio tenor **Richard Maxwell** and **Fred Feibel**, organist of New York’s Paramount Theater, adapts the famous melody from Tchaikovsky’s **Fifth Symphony** into a devotional setting. The result is a touching fusion of Romantic lyricism and sacred text.

Highland Cathedral, composed in 1982, has become one of the most iconic melodies associated with Scottish heritage. Interestingly, its creators—**Michael Korb** and **Uli Roever**—were German musicians who simply wished to write a stirring piece for bagpipes. Their tune quickly gained international popularity and has been arranged for countless ensembles. The organ version performed here is by **Antony Baldwin**, whose treatment preserves the grandeur and ceremonial sweep of the original.

Copyright acknowledgements: The following is used with permission, OneLicense.net License No. 717156-A. All rights reserved. “Where Children Belong,” by James Ritchie, © 1999 Abingdon Press (admin. By The Copyright Co., Nashville, TN).

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.

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: For Those in Darkness [Light is Dawning] | Pittman, Lauren Wright | from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt University Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

11:00 a.m. Sanctuary Worship

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

Jerusalem, My Happy Home

George Shearing

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 90

Rev. Rami Almaqdasi

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 463

How Firm a Foundation

FOUNDATION

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Rami Almaqdasi

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. Rami Almaqdasi

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 6 (OT, page 491.)

Elder Carol Beggs

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SOLO

Psalm 98 from Biblical Songs

Anton Dvorak

Sing ye a joyful song unto the Lord,

Who hath done marvelous things.

Praise the Lord all the earth!

Sing praises, shout, and be joyful!

Let the sea roar and all that is therein,

The round world and all they that dwell there.

Lift your voices, floods and tempests.

Mountains, clap you hands for joy!

Let the fields laugh and sing, with waving corn,

And let all the trees of the forest be joyful!

SERMON

Summer in the Psalms: Fragile

Rev. Marilyn Borst

*** HYMN 396**

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship

HOLY MANNA

THANKSGIVING

CALL TO OFFERING AND DEDICATION

Rev. Edwin Estevez

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 23 "The Lord is my Shepherd"

Peter Tchaikovsky

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures, beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Tho' I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;

Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me, in the presence of mine enemies:

My cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

*** 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**

(Following the Doxology, the congregation will remain standing to sing the last stanza of America in recognition of Labor Day.)

Our fathers' God, to thee, Author of liberty, to thee we sing;

Long may our land be bright, with freedom's holy light;

Protect us by thy might, great God, our King. Amen.

PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Matthew Means

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

SENDING

* HYMN 819

Be Still, My Soul

FINLANDIA

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Highland Cathedral

Korb/Roever/Baldwin

463

How Firm a Foundation

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dis - mayed,
 3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als thy path - way shall lie,
 5 "The soul that on Je - sus hath leaned for re - pose,

is laid for your faith in God's ex - cel - lent Word!
 for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
 the riv - ers of sor - row shall not o - ver - flow;
 my grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can be said than to you God hath said,
 I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
 for I will be near thee, thy trou - bles to bless,
 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign
 that soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
 and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.
 thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.
 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."

819

Be Still, My Soul

1 Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.
 2 Be still, my soul: thy God doth un - der - take
 3 Be still, my soul: the hour is has - tening on

Bear pa - tient - ly the cross of grief or pain.
 to guide the fu - ture sure - ly as the past.
 when we shall be for - ev - er with the Lord;

Leave to thy God to or - der and pro - vide,
 Thy hope, thy con - fi - dence let noth - ing shake;
 when dis - ap - point - ment, grief, and fear are gone,

who through all chang - es faith - ful will re - main.
 all now mys - te - rious shall be bright at last.
 sor - row for - got, love's pur - est joys re - stored.

Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heaven - ly Friend
 Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
 Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past

through thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.
 his voice who ruled them while he dwelt be - low.
 all safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.