

KIRK IN THE HILLS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)
9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M. SANCTUARY WORSHIP
WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY | OCTOBER 4, 2026





A Note from Pastor Edwin!

*Friend there is a welcome in this church for thee;
Come in and rest and think and kneel and pray;
What men have builded for God's glory see;
Give thanks and so in peace be on thy way.*

(as seen above the red front exterior door of our Sanctuary)

Whether you have worshiped at Kirk in the Hills for generations or are joining us for the very first time, **welcome. We are glad you are here.**

Today, we welcome Dr. Maher Samuel to the pulpit and, to the classroom with our confirmands, Hossam Garas, as our scholars-in-residence for our annual **Kyes Weekend**. This tradition, established in honor of Roger M. Kyes, who served in President Eisenhower's Cabinet, invites distinguished Christian thinkers to help us consider the questions of faith, culture, and the Church with intellectual curiosity, spiritual depth, and hope.

This year's theme, "**God's Mission: Toward a Theology of Presence**," invites us to consider a simple but profound question: **What if our mission begins not with what we think we must do for God, but with discerning where God is already at work—and joining in?**

Our preacher, Dr. Samuel, is a physician, psychiatrist, author, Christian apologist, and founder of CredoLogos, devoting his ministry to helping "believers think, and thinkers believe." We are grateful for the gift of his presence among us.

His sermon will explore two healings in the Gospel of John, reflecting on these two signs of Jesus' ministry—the healing of the man at Bethesda and the man born blind—in order to explore the Church's calling to, in Dr. Maher's words, "labor alongside a God who is already at work, without either overestimating or abandoning our role in the salvation of others." I am eager to listen with you as he shares God's message to God's people.

Looking ahead, we begin a new sermon series next Sunday, *Full Sail Church: A Seafaring Faith*. The nautical imagery of our cathedral reminds us that the Church is not meant simply to remain safely in harbor. We are a people on a journey—with **Christ as our captain, the Holy Spirit as the wind in our sails, and God's future as our destination.**

So, whether you are a longtime member, a returning friend, or a first-time guest, there is a place for you in this vessel we call the Church—and there is a horizon ahead that God is calling us toward.

Let us worship God!

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez
Sr. Pastor | Head of Staff | Kirk in the Hills

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

9:00 a.m. | Sanctuary Worship

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

Prelude in B Minor

Cesar Franck

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

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

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Elder Ann Hartzell

From every nation, from every people and language,
God gathers us as one family in Christ.

We come from many places, but we belong to one Lord.

Christ is our peace; in him, the dividing walls are broken down.

We are one body, one Spirit, one hope in Christ.

Let us worship God!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 321

The Church's One Foundation

AURELIA

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Dr. Philip J. Reed

Merciful God,

You have called us into one body,

Yet we have built walls where you have made a way.

**Forgive us for the divisions we create, the neighbors we overlook, and
the love we withhold.**

Make us one in Christ, gentle in spirit, steadfast in hope,
and generous in love.

**Heal what is broken among us and make us instruments of your peace.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (*Silence is held.*)**

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Dr. Philip J. Reed

Hear the good news:

Christ has broken down the dividing wall of hostility
and has reconciled us to God through the cross.

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

WORD WITH CHILDREN

Sarah Ford

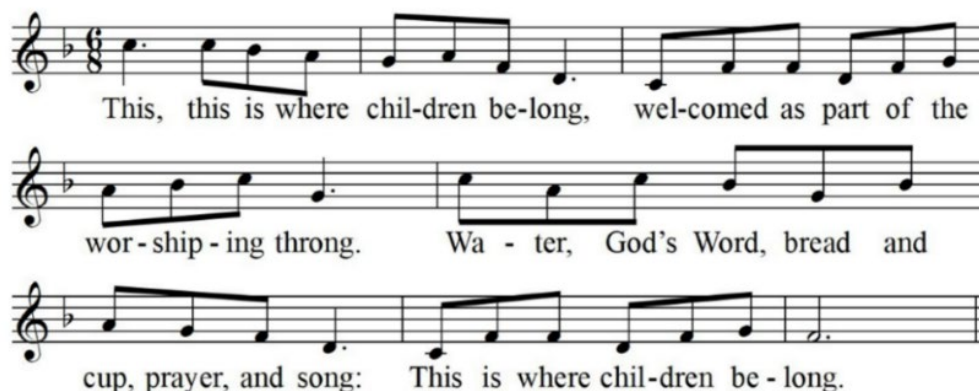
Following the Word with Children, children and youth ages 3 through grade 8 will be dismissed for Sunday School.

INVITATION HYMN

Where Children Belong

James Ritchie

Please join in singing.



AFFIRMATION OF FAITH WITH CHILDREN

The Apostles' Creed (*Hymnal, page 35.*)

SCRIPTURE READING

John 5:1-17; 9:1-6, 35-38 (*NT, page 96.*)

Elder Ann Hartzell

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

**Working with God: The Church's Responsibility
in the Great Commission**

Dr. Maher Samuel

* HYMN 499

Bread of the World in Mercy Broken

RENDEZ A DIEU

THANKSGIVING

CALL TO OFFERING AND DEDICATION

Rev. Matthew Means

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

Antiphon "Let All the World in Every Corner Sing"

Ralph Vaughan-Williams

*Let all the world in every corner sing, My God and King!
The Heavens are not too high, His praise me thither fly.
The earth is not too low, His praises there may grow.
Let all the world in every corner sing, My God and King!
The church with psalms must shout, No door can keep them out.
But above all, the heart must bear the longest part!
Let all the world in every corner sing, My God and King!*

CELEBRATING WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Today we celebrate World Communion Sunday, remembering our Christian brothers and sisters around the world who also celebrate this holy feast. We remember that this is our Lord's Table, and all who seek Jesus are welcome.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez, Rev. Rami Almaqdasi
& Rev. Marilyn Borst

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING | SYMBOLS OF BREAD

You are encouraged to look up and see the bread lifted and identified during our litany. These breads are a reminder that the church around the world shares its unity in the sacrament and its diversity in the elements.

Matzah is unleavened bread which reminds us of all the refugees who, like the enslaved ancient Israelites, leave their homes and flee from danger.

We pray, O God, for your church among those with no place to call home.

Frybread reminds us of Africa, called the cradle of civilization, where Christianity continues to flourish. We acknowledge the painful legacy of the African slave trade.

We pray, O God, for your church in places where it flourishes, and we confess the times and places when we have enslaved our brothers and sisters.

Na'an is an Indian bread that reminds us of Asia, where Christians are a minority and are often threatened by persecution.

We pray, O God, for your church in places where Christianity is dangerous, politically or socially.

Tortillas remind us of Central and South America, where a rich history of Christianity continues to grow, but also where Christians often live amid violence and conflict.

We pray, O God, for your church in places beset by violence and still colored by hope.

The baguette reminds us of Europe, with its vast cathedrals that keep faith alive in lean times, reminding us that the church is not only a building, but a community of people.

We pray, O God, for your church in places where its power is diminished and its followers are few.

GREAT THANKSGIVING AND SANCTUS *(Please sing with the choir.)*

Holy, Holy: 552

LAND OF REST

LITANY CONTINUES

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION *(Please sing with the choir.)*

Acclamation: 553

LAND OF REST

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.**

AMEN *(Please sing with the choir.)*

Amen: 554

LAND OF REST

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING IN THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

This morning the congregation is served in procession. Please remain seated until you are prompted by an usher to be served. For those unable to process forward, stay seated and a server will bring the sacrament to you. Gluten-free bread is available in the center of the bread trays. Empty glasses are placed in the baskets provided near the communion servers.

*We receive the bread with “**Amen**” after the server says, “This is the body of Christ.”*

*We receive the cup with “**Thanks be to God**” after the server says, “This is the cup of the new covenant”*

COMMUNION MUSIC

555 O Lamb of God

LAND OF REST

(Please sing with the choir.)

CHORAL MUSIC

Psalm 23

John Rutter

*He shall feed me in a green pasture,
and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.
He shall convert my soul and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for his Name's sake.
Yea, though 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 comfort me.
Thou shalt prepare a table for me against them that trouble me:
Thou hast anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full.
But thy loving kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

You have met us at the table, Lord Jesus, to unite us with you and with brothers and sisters around the world. Go with us now into that world, that we might be a living sign of welcome among refugees, freedom among the oppressed, hope amid persecution, peace amid violence, living faith amid a culture of skepticism, and loving kindness toward the earth and all her inhabitants. Amen.

SENDING

* HYMN 298

Lord, You Give the Great Commission

ABBOT'S LEIGH

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Cortège *(improvisation, reconstructed by Maurice Duruflé)*

Louis Vierne

WORSHIP NOTES

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 in the narthex or call her directly at 248-973-8013.

Musicians: Dr. Merideth Hite Estevez, oboe; David Enos, organ; The Kirk Chancel Choir; Dr. Horst Buchholz, director.

About the Music: **Cesar Franck** (1822-1890), born in Belgium and active for most of his life in Paris, is widely regarded as one of the foremost composers of French Romantic organ music. His **Prelude in B Minor** remains among his most cherished works, admired for its lyrical beauty and expressive depth. Today, it is presented in a transcription for oboe with organ accompaniment.

Today's **Introit** is drawn from the **Genevan Psalter** of 1561, the landmark collection of metrical psalm settings associated with the Swiss Reformation. The harmonization of Psalm 34 is by the distinguished French composer Claude Goudimel, whose settings played a significant role in shaping the Psalter's musical legacy.

Our Offertory Anthem is taken from *Five Mystical Songs*, the celebrated song cycle by **Ralph Vaughan Williams** (1872-1958). The texts are drawn from the poetry of George Herbert, the Welsh-born Anglican priest and one of the finest devotional poets in the English language. While most of the cycle is scored for baritone soloist and orchestra, the concluding movement, **Antiphon** (Let All the World in Every Corner Sing) is an exuberant and triumphant setting for SATB choir, expressing unrestrained joy and praise.

During the past three Sundays, we have explored six different musical settings of Psalm 23, the beloved psalm of the Good Shepherd and perhaps the most familiar of the 150 psalms. Through choral works and congregational hymns inspired by its timeless message of comfort and trust, we have reflected on the richness of this cherished text. Our final setting comes from **John Rutter's** *Requiem*, where the psalm is given a serene and deeply moving treatment, featuring a lyrical oboe solo accompanied by choir and organ, or orchestra.

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About today's World Communion Liturgy: © Presbyterian Outlook, 2024 | Liturgy written by Heather Prince Doss and provided for free distribution. [Edited 25 Sept at 8am]

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.



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: **Christ at the Pool of Bethesda** | Wolffort, Artus, 1581-1641. | from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt University Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

The flowers on the altar are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of Robert "Bobby" A. Tremain, Jr. by Mason and Sharon Capitani.

The flowers in Cedarholm are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of Robert Tremain and Bobby Tremain by The Tremain Family.

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

11:00 a.m. | Sanctuary Worship

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

Prelude in B Minor

Cesar Franck

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

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

* INTROIT

Psalm 34

Genevan Psalter

*The Lord I will extol, at all times bless His holy name.
I will not cease to sing His praise; His goodness I proclaim.
I glory in the Lord; Let the afflicted hear my voice.
Oh, magnify the Lord with me! With me in Him rejoice!*

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Elder Lynda Wilds

From every nation, from every people and language,
God gathers us as one family in Christ.
We come from many places, but we belong to one Lord.
Christ is our peace; in him, the dividing walls are broken down.
We are one body, one Spirit, one hope in Christ.
Let us worship God!

* HYMN 321

The Church's One Foundation

AURELIA

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God,
You have called us into one body,
Yet we have built walls where you have made a way.
Forgive us for the divisions we create, the neighbors we overlook, and the love we withhold.
Make us one in Christ, gentle in spirit, steadfast in hope,
and generous in love.
Heal what is broken among us and make us instruments of your peace.
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. Dr. Philip J. Reed

Hear the good news:
Christ has broken down the dividing wall of hostility
And has reconciled us to God through the cross.
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

John 5:1-17; 9:1-6, 35-38 (NT, page 96.)

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The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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GREAT THANKSGIVING AND SANCTUS *(Please sing with the choir.)*

Holy, Holy: 552

LAND OF REST

LITANY CONTINUES

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION *(Please sing with the choir.)*

Acclamation: 553

LAND OF REST

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
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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.**

AMEN *(Please sing with the choir.)*

Amen: 554

LAND OF REST

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COMMUNION MUSIC
(Please sing with the choir.)

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LAND OF REST

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Thou hast anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full.
But thy loving kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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brothers and sisters around the world. Go with us now into that world,
that we might be a living sign of welcome among refugees, freedom
among the oppressed, hope amid persecution, peace amid violence,
living faith amid a culture of skepticism, and loving kindness toward
the earth and all her inhabitants. Amen.**

SENDING

*** HYMN 298**

Lord, You Give the Great Commission

ABBOT'S LEIGH

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Threefold Amen

ST. FRANCIS

POSTLUDE

Cortège *(improvisation, reconstructed by Maurice Duruflé)*

Louis Vierne



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