

KIRK IN THE HILLS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)
FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT
DECEMBER 1, 2024



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Advent 1: Hope

Since at least the 5th Century, Christians have been observing Advent—from the Latin *adventus* for coming or arrival—in a variety of ways: through fasts and prayers, hymns and the study of the Bible. For many, it served to parallel Lent, a season of preparation for Holy Week, which led to reflection on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Advent, then, was a season dedicated to reflection upon the arrival and birth of Jesus, Emmanuel (God With Us) and Incarnation (God in the flesh). The Church Worldwide also recognizes that Advent is a time for reflecting on the ways we receive Christ's arrival

into our hearts through communal gathering for worship and the sacraments, in our personal devotion, as well as looking ahead to Christ's Second Coming. The promise of Scripture is that Christ's return promises to bring, finally, peace on earth, the justice we seek, and the love we all long for.

Over centuries, each Sunday in Advent has reflected on themes related to the season. This year, we will reflect on hope, peace, joy, and love over four Sundays, and you'll hear from each of our pastors. Except for Gaudete Sunday—the Latin for rejoice—the other themes have been celebrated in a variety of orders across the Church Universal.

Today marks our First Sunday in Advent, and we begin with hope. It has been said that hope is a powerful thing, but what is hope? When you look at this world, your country, your family, your life, what does your heart long for? I believe that the advent of Jesus Christ has brought a hope that not only meets what our hearts truly long for, but goes beyond. I hope you'll reflect on your innermost hope and pray that it aligns with the hope God brings in Jesus Christ.

A Blessed First Sunday in Advent to you and yours!

In Christ,

Rev. Edwin Estevez | Sr. Pastor | Head of Staff

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

9:00 & 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary

PRELUDE

**Mystery Sonata No. 1, "The Annunciation"
Aria and Variations**

Heinrich Biber

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Edwin Estevez

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

* INTROIT

Jesus Christ is the Light of the World

James Biery

Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome.

Let your light scatter the darkness and enlighten your church.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us go into the house of the Lord!

Rev. Jim Moseley

Let us meet God with joy!

God builds us up like a great city.

May peace be within our walls.

Let us seek the goodness of God;

Let us go into the house of the Lord!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (*stanzas 1-3, 7*)

Veni Emmanuel

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

As we gather to light the first Advent candle,

let us confess our failure to be one with God,

who is always among us.

God of the future,

You are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule.

We confess that we have not expected your kingdom,

for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgement.

We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth,

and refuse your justice and peace.

God, in your mercy, forgive us.

Grant us wisdom to welcome your way,

And to seek things that will endure

When Christ comes to judge the world.

* LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Francis Family, 9:00 a.m.

(as the candle is lit the liturgist reads...)

The Galloway Family, 11:00 a.m.

We light this candle of **Hope** as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

As the Lord has promised, in days to come...

The nations shall beat their swords into plowshares,

And their spears into pruning hooks;

Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,

Neither shall they learn war any more. (Isaiah 2:4)

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.

Mar - vel now, O heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.

The musical score consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Every valley is lifted up; every mountain, made low.
Now the glory of the Lord is revealed,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Amen.

* ACCLAMATION OF PRAISE

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, vir - gin's song, in - car - nate Word!

To the ho - ly Trin - i - ty praise we sing e - ter - nal - ly.

The musical score consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

WORD

WORD WITH THE CHILDREN & ISAIAH 11:1-3 (9:00 a.m.)

Sarah Ford

Following the Word with the Children, children and youth ages 4 through grade 8 will be dismissed for Sunday School.

Isaiah 11:1-3

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
From his roots a Branch will bear fruit.
The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord—and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.
Praise the Lord!

As the children recess to Sunday School, all will sing...

HYMN 115 (*seated*)

Away in a Manger

Mueller

**Be near me, Lord Jesus;
I ask thee to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children to thy tender care
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

(11:00 a.m.)

Rev. Edwin Estevez, Rev. Jasmine Smart

& Elder Linda Juracek-Lipa

Abigail Kate Maloziec, Hadley Lowell Mathias, Genevieve Marie Yousif

PRESENTATION

*** PROFESSION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Emmanuel, God Among Us

Mode I Chant

*Emmanuel, God among us, open our hearts to hear your Word.
Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit prepare the way
in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs
of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
Emmanuel, God among us, open our hearts to hear your Word.*

SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16 (*NT, page 205*)

Elder Julie Webb, 9:00 a.m.

Elder Linda Juracek-Lipa, 11:00 a.m.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

God Among Us: Hope

Rev. Edwin Estevez

*** HYMN 97**

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night (*Stanzas 1 & 2*)

Aberystwyth

(Please be seated after the hymn.)

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

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Gustav Holst

*Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly minded,
for, with blessing in his hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
our full homage to demand.*

*King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
in the body and the blood.
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heav'nly food.*

*Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth
from the realms of endless day,
that the pow'rs of hell may vanish
as the darkness clears away.*

*At his feet the six-winged seraph,
cherubim with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the Presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry,
"Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, Lord Most High!"*

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION & STEWARDSHIP DEDICATION

Rev. Dr. Keith O. Provost & Rev. Jasmine Smart

As families come forward for communion, please bring your 2025 pledge cards and place in the basket in front of the chancel. If you've already returned your pledge, please use one of the "I've already pledged" cards found in your pew rack.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

SANCTUS (from "Missa Emmanuel")

Richard Proulx

Choir:
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and God of might.

All:
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and God of might.

Choir:
Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho-san - na in the high - est, ho-san-na in the high - est.

All:
Ho-san - na in the high - est, ho-san-na in the high - est.

Choir:
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho-san - na in the high - est, ho-san-na in the high - est.

All:
Ho-san - na in the high - est, ho-san-na in the high - est.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Richard Proulx

Remembering . . . Great is the mystery of faith.... (Choir, then all)

Christ has died, Christ is ris - en, Christ will come a-gain.

INFORMATION ON TODAY'S SERVICES

Musicians: Haixin Wu, violin; James Biery, Marilyn Biery, organists and directors

About the Music:


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The Prayer for Illumination was arranged especially for Kirk in the Hills for this year's Advent services, and combines an Advent Prayer for Illumination with an ancient Gregorian Chant that is traditionally sung during the season of Advent.

Gustav Theodore Holst (Gustavus Theodore von Holst 1874 – 1934) was an English composer, arranger and teacher. Best known for his orchestral suite *The Planets*, he composed many other works across a range of genres, including music for the church. His distinctive compositional style was the product of many influences, Richard Wagner and Richard Strauss being most crucial early in his development. The subsequent inspiration of the English folksong revival of the early 20th century, and the example of such rising modern composers as Maurice Ravel, led Holst to develop and refine his style. The anthem sung today is one of his most well-known pieces of church music.

Richard Proulx (1937, St. Paul, Minnesota - 2010, Chicago, Illinois) was an American composer and editor of church music, including anthems, service music, hymn concertatos, organ music and music for handbell choir. The pronunciation of his name is suggested by the section of his catalog entitled "Noulx [new] from Proulx."

Heinrich Ignaz Franz Biber (1644- 1704)] was a Bohemian-Austrian composer and violinist. Biber worked in Graz and Kroměříž before he illegally left his employer, Prince-Bishop Karl Liechtenstein-Kastelkorn, and settled in Salzburg, where he remained for the rest of his life. Biber was among the major composers for the violin in the history of the instrument. Biber wrote operas, sacred music and music for chamber ensemble.[5] He also wrote one of the earliest known pieces for solo violin, the monumental passacaglia of the Mystery Sonatas.

 **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.

The flowers on the altar are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of Anne R. Sherwood and Lloyd C. "Skip" Sherwood by *The Sherwood Family*.

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 service today. See an usher for direction or further details.

Meet Our Membership Coordinator! Stop by the Visitor's Table in the Narthex after service to say hello to our Membership Coordinator, Mercy Adams. If this is your first visit to the Kirk, Mercy would love to meet you and answer all your questions about being a member. If you're interested, she can sign you up for one of our upcoming New Member Classes.



Need to reach a pastor?? - Our pastors can be reached at the following email addresses: Rev. Edwin Estevez, revedwin@kirkinthehills.org; Rev. Jim Moseley, revjlm@kirkinthehills.org; Rev. Jasmine Smart, revjasmine@kirkinthehills.org; Rev. Dr. Keith O. Provost, revkop@kirkinthehills.org.

WORSHIP NOTES

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We envision a world where every heart experiences God's transforming love.



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