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,

Zh

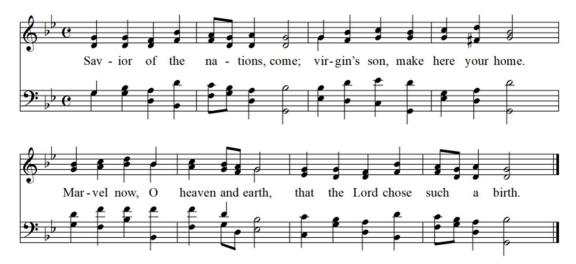
Rev. Edwin Estevez | Sr. Pastor | Head of Staff

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 ri	nging 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 dark Let your light scatter the darkness and enlighten your	
* CALL TO WORSHIP	Let us go into the house of the Lord! 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!	Rev. Jim Moseley
* 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 candl let us confess our failure to be one with Go who is always among us. God of the future, You are coming in power to bring all natior We confess that we have not expected your for we live casual lives, ignoring your prom We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, a and refuse your justice and peace.	d, ns under your rule. [.] kingdom, nised judgement.
	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.	
		Francis Family, 9:00 a.m. loway Family, 11:00 a.m.
	We light this candle of Hope as a sign of th As the Lord has promised, in days to come The nations shall beat their swords into plo And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against natio Neither shall they learn war any more. (Isa	 owshares, on,

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE



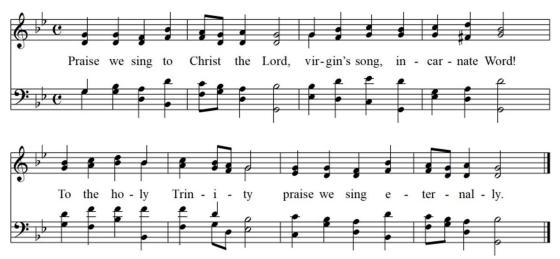
* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

Sarah Ford



WORD

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

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	
PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION	6		
PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION	Emmanuel, God among us, open our hearts to hear you	r Word.	
PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION	6	r Word. Spirit prepare the way	
PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION	Emmanuel, God among us, open our hearts to hear you Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your	r Word. Spirit prepare the way 1ay see the glorious signs	
PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION	Emmanuel, God among us, open our hearts to hear you Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we m	r Word. Spirit prepare the way 1ay see the glorious signs . Amen.	
	Emmanuel, God among us, open our hearts to hear you Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we m of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord Emmanuel, God among us, open our hearts to hear you	r Word. Spirit prepare the way aay see the glorious signs . Amen. r Word.	
PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION SCRIPTURE READING	Emmanuel, God among us, open our hearts to hear you Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we m of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord Emmanuel, God among us, open our hearts to hear you Jeremiah 33:14-16 (NT, page 205) Elde	r Word. Spirit prepare the way aay see the glorious signs . Amen. r Word. er Julie Webb, 9:00 a.m.	
	Emmanuel, God among us, open our hearts to hear you Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we m of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord Emmanuel, God among us, open our hearts to hear you Jeremiah 33:14-16 (NT, page 205) Elde	r Word. Spirit prepare the way aay see the glorious signs . Amen. r Word.	
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(*Please be seated after the hymn.*)

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THANKSGIVING

CALL TO OFFERING AND DEDICATION

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,	

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION & STEWARDSHIP DEDICATION

"Alleluia, alleluia,

alleluia, Lord Most High!"

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

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.

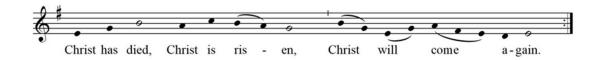
It is right to give our thanks and praise.



MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Richard Proulx

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



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

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

VIOLIN:	Praeludium	Heinrich Biber
CHOIR:	Now the Heavens Start to Whisper	Suo Gân
	The text may be found in the hymnal, #94	

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty God, we thank you for this sacred meal and all the gifts You have given us: all that we have and all that we are. Most of all, we thank You for Jesus who is the perfect steward of your gifts. Accept, O God, the tokens of our love and signs of pledge and commitment which we brought forward today. By your word of blessing and grace, may they blossom forth as leaves on a tree, as flowers in our hearts, as blessings in your kingdom, as joy in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray, Amen.

SENDING

* RECESSIONAL HYMN 93	Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates	Truro
CHARGE AND BENEDICTION	(seated)	
VOLUNTARY	Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 661	J. S. Bach

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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Richard (Dick) Morris, Leslie Sikes, Christian Yousif, Dan Tomlinson

Youth Deacons: Sadie Douglass, Priyanca Skilton





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



Membership Mercy Adams madams@kirkinthehills.org



Preschool Sandy Jewell sjewell@kirkinthehills.org



Choirs and Music Events Marilyn Biery mbiery@kirkinthehills.org



Give Jayne Zellers jzellers@kirkinthehills.org

Kirk in the Hills



Serve Carole Pearl & Amy Davis missionoutreach@kirkinthehills.org



Youth Sarah Ford sford@kirkinthehills.org



Baptisms, Memorials, Weddings Jennifer Morris jmorris@kirkinthehills.org



Questions/Information Erica Ginter eginter@kirkinthehills.org



Congregational Care Wendy Beck wbeck@kirkinthehills.org



Children & Family Sarah Ford sford@kirkinthehills.org



Small Groups Rev. Edwin Estevez revedwin@kirkinthehills.org



Church Leadership Linda Juracek Lipa/Clerk of Session kithclerk@kirkinthehills.org

1340 West Long Lake Road ♀ Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302 (248) 626-2515 ↓ kirkinthehills.org ⊕ facebook.com/kirkinthehills f