

KIRK IN THE HILLS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)
SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
FEBRUARY 16, 2025





A Note from Pastor Edwin

I pray that as we continue our series on The Apostle's Creed, you will have learned something new, moved toward deeper reflection and action, and grown in your faith walk with Jesus. By the end, you may have even memorized the Creed! In short form, the Creed helps us to confess our faith as one family in Christ, but it also tells a story: the Father, who is maker of heaven and earth, his Son, who is born and suffers like you and me, raised in glory, the Holy Spirit who enables the holy catholic Church. The stories we remember and tell shape our lives: our search for meaning, our moral conscience, our sense of belonging, our hope for tomorrow.

President's Day is the common name for Washington's Birthday, which is the official name for the third Monday in February that honors the first President of the United States, George Washington (born February 22), who also served as a general in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. Unofficially, however, we have included Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President of the United States (born February 12), in the celebration, who preserved the Union during the Civil War and officially ended slavery. In fact, some states celebrate Lincoln's birthday separately, including Michigan!

No one is perfect, Scripture reminds us, for all have fallen short of the glory of God. Certainly, Washington and Lincoln had their flaws; however, we celebrate them because their stories shaped the American story and leave lessons for us today. Washington led a "ragtag" army for this nation's independence against a professional army of the British Empire, so large that it was described as the empire "on which the sun never sets." Yet, after becoming a national hero, Washington did not use his power for personal gain, but helped create and/or strengthen institutions like the U.S. Treasury, the Federal Judiciary and Supreme Court, establish the traditions of cabinet advisors and two-term service, and advised against dangerous and unwise "foreign entanglements." Lincoln is celebrated for learning to work and negotiate with his adversaries in his famous "divided cabinet" leadership style, navigating the nation through a time so divided it led to the bloodiest conflict the United States has ever known—the Civil War. His skillful rhetoric helped reframe the story of the nation, and his ending of the evil institution of slavery helped reset the course of the country toward a "more perfect union." Both Washington's Farewell Address and Lincoln's Gettysburg Address have been studied and memorized in schools for their significance to the country and the ways they still stir the soul to a greater project beyond itself.

In what has become a Kirk tradition for President's Day weekend, we welcome Rev. Dr. Andrew Pomerville, President of Louisville Seminary in Kentucky, as our guest preacher and speaker. Recognizing the challenges facing many leaders and institutions in our time, I pray, that as Dr. Pomerville elucidates "the communion of saints and the forgiveness of sins," our imaginations and souls might be inspired and moved toward a more perfect union in Christ, through Christ, and for Christ, to the glory of God and by the power of the Holy Spirit for the healing of our world and country. Let us worship God!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edwin".

Rev. Edwin Estevez | Senior Pastor | Head of Staff



THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

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

OPENING VOLUNTARIES **Two Pieces** *Florence Price*
Andante; Allegretto

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Edwin Estevez

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

* **INTROIT** **Cry Out with Joy** *Marilyn Biery*
Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness.
Cry out with joy and come into God's presence with singing!

* **CALL TO WORSHIP** Rev. Jim Moseley, 9:00 a.m.; Rev. Jasmine Smart, 11:00 a.m.
Give thanks to the Lord, who is good,
for God's steadfast love endures forever.
Give thanks to the God of gods,
for God's steadfast love endures forever.
Give thanks to the Lord of lords,
for God's steadfast love endures forever.

* **PROCESSIONAL HYMN 509** **All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly** *Holy Manna*

* **PRAYER OF CONFESSION** Rev. Jim Moseley, 9:00 a.m.; Rev. Jasmine Smart, 11:00 a.m.
**Merciful God, who does freely pardon all who repent and turn from
their ways to the way of Jesus, hear us now, as we confess our personal
sins in the silence of our hearts:**

Hold silence

Gracious God, now fulfill in every contrite heart the promise of redeem-
ing grace; forgiving all our sins, and cleansing us from an evil con-
science; through the perfect sacrifice of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

* **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

Kyrie *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. Jim Moseley, 9:00 a.m.; Rev. Jasmine Smart, 11:00 a.m.
Being therefore justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
Friends, believe the Good News:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation!

God fills our hearts with joy; God's grace and love a - bound. God
 heals all earth - ly bro - ken - ness; Let praise to God re - sound! Re -
 - joice! Re - joice! Re - joice, give thanks and sing!

WORD

WORD WITH THE CHILDREN & PROVERBS 3:5-6 (9:00 a.m.)

Rev. Jim Moseley

Following the Word with the Children, children and youth will remain in worship with their parents

INVITATION HYMN

(As the children come forward for the Word with Children the congregation sings while seated)

This, this is where chil-dren be-long, wel-comed as part of the
 wor-ship - ing throng. Wa - ter, God's Word, bread and
 cup, prayer, and song: This is where chil-dren be - long.

Proverbs 3:5-6

**Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
In all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Guide Us, O God

James Biery

*Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit, that in your light we may see light,
in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover peace; through Jesus
Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

SCRIPTURE READING

John 21: 1-14 (NT, page 115)

Elder Bob Heuer, 9:00 a.m.

Genesis 14:17-20 (OT, page 11)

Elder Nancy Lau, 11:00 a.m.

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

ANTHEM

Day by Day

Martin How

*Day by day,
Dear Lord, of thee three things I pray:
To see thee more clearly,
Love thee more dearly,
Follow thee more nearly,
Day by day.*

St. Cecilia and Cantamus Choirs

SERMON

Credo: Communion and Forgiveness

Rev. Dr. Andrew Pomerville

*** THE APOSTLES' CREED**

See page 35, Glory to God Hymnal.

*** HYMN 436**

God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us

O Quanta Qualia

(Please be seated after the hymn.)

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

The Peace of Christ

James Biery

*May peace from Christ come dwell in you,
May love from God envelop you
And bind you close in harmony,
True meekness and humility.*

*For you are called God's chosen ones,
God's holy and beloved ones.
Be clothed anew in loveliness,
Compassion, patience, gentleness.*

*The peace of Christ which dwells in you
Will perfectly be seen through you.
So let your hearts and voices ring—
Let grateful songs to God take wing. (Marilyn Biery)*

*** 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. Amen.
* or God**

PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Edwin Estevez

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.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Peace of God Be with You

Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

Peace of God be with you; As-salaamu lakum.

SENDING

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION *(seated)*

* RECESSIONAL HYMN 435

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

In Babilone

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Fugue in C Major ("Fanfare")

Johann Philipp Kirnberger

INFORMATION ON TODAY'S SERVICES

About the Music: During the month of February, we highlight compositions and arrangements by Black composers. Florence Beatrice Price (1887-1953) was an American composer, pianist, organist and music teacher. Born in Little Rock, Arkansas, Price was educated at the New England Conservatory of Music and was active in Chicago from 1927 until her death in 1953. She was the first African American woman to be recognized as a symphonic composer, and the first to have a composition played by a major orchestra. Price composed over 300 works including symphonies, concertos, choral works, art songs, chamber music and music for solo instruments. In 2009, a substantial collection of her compositions was found in her abandoned summer home.

Our sermon hymn today was written by John J. Moment (1875-1959), the son of a Methodist minister, who was educated at Princeton University and Hartford Theological Seminary. He served Presbyterian churches and was pastor of Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church in Plainfield, New Jersey, from 1919 until his retirement. He stayed in Plainfield until his death in 1959. His 1933 hymn "God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us" is a beautiful meditation on God's forgiveness for our failings. Carl Daw, in his hymnal notes, calls attention to the unusual use of questions in the third stanza: "By ending with questions rather than simple affirmations, this text conveys a strong sense of faith in God's presence and guidance without ignoring how much of the future remains unknown." John Moment's insightful words are sung to a majestic 17th century French melody.

Friday, February 28, 2025, 7:30 pm Hymn Festival at Kirk in the Hills "Singing Our Tradition – A Festival of Scottish Hymnody." Join us for an evening of uplifting hymn singing – an opportunity to join our voices in song and learn about the hymns of our Scottish Presbyterian heritage. Commentary on the stories of each hymn will be offered by guest speaker Michael Silhavy. The singing will be led by the Kirk Chancel Choir, the Kirk Singers, and members of local Presbyterian Church choirs, with organist James Biery. The program will include old familiar favorites "All People That on Earth Do Dwell," "The Lord's My Shepherd," "Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise," "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say, and "The King of Love My Shepherd is," as well as some engaging newer hymns from the past few decades.

Musicians: Bobby DeLisle, director, St. Cecilia and Cantamus Choirs; Merideth Estevez, oboe; James Biery and Marilyn Biery, organists and directors.

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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.

On the Cover— **Great Catch** | John August Swanson | Eyekons

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.

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.



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



Membership

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Choirs and Music Events

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Baptisms, Memorials, Weddings

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