

KIRK IN THE HILLS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)
THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 23, 2025





A Note from Pastor Jasmine

At the beginning of Lent a few weeks ago, I shared in the children's moment about "burying the Alleluia." During the season of Lent, our music and liturgy does not feature this word which is a proclamation of praise and rejoicing. I grew up in a church that did not recognize Lent as a season, instead there would usually be a pretty dramatic retelling of the crucifixion and then an elaborate Easter celebration.

In recent years, I'm so grateful for the opportunity to join Christians around the world who journey with Jesus in the season of Lent, including in the practice of our music selections. Giving the alleluias a rest for the season builds the anticipation for when we get to bring them out again, reminding us all that there are some seasons in life when our sorrow will cloud the sense of joy. But the resurrection hope is always at the back of our mind, not forgotten.

Lent is often a time we remember Jesus' forty days in the wilderness before beginning his ministry (from Luke's gospel). In today's passage from Mark, we have similar themes of hunger in the desert. Often these passages have multiple layers of meaning: there is of course the physical hunger, but there is also spiritual hunger, and that is what has drawn these crowds to Jesus. Jesus is the bread of life, and he extends that by both physically feeding the people, and spiritually providing them with everlasting life and abundance.

This season of 40 days (plus Sundays) is just long enough to get us through the end of winter here in Michigan. When everything around us seems dead, and it seems like life will never bloom again, we have to remind ourselves that spring will come. Our alleluias will come again. But for now, we look to the cross, recognizing the suffering in the world and in our own lives, and that God is with us even when the alleluias are hidden or buried. And that is good news. Thanks be to God, even (or especially) when our alleluias are hard to find.

Rev. Jasmine Smart

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Jasmine Smart". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Transitional Pastor for Congregational Care | Kirk in the Hills

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

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

PRELUDE

Sonata for Oboe and Continuo in G Minor: Largo
From *Tafelmusik*, Part 3

Georg Philipp Telemann

WELCOME

Rev. Edwin Estevez

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

* SONG OF APPROACH

God of Love, We Lift Up Our Eyes

Marilyn Biery

God of Love, we lift up our eyes to the heavens.

From whence does our help come?

Jesus our hope, we lift up our voices, praising your name.

Our help cometh from the Lord.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 103

Rev. Jasmine Smart

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless thy holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all God's benefits—
who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,

who redeems your life from the Pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
who satisfies you with good as long as you live
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 182

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

KINGSFOLD

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Jasmine Smart

Let us confess our shortcomings in the presence of God
and one another.

Most merciful God,

We confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed.

We have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

Silent prayer

In your mercy **forgive what we have been,**

Help us to amend what we are,

And direct what we shall be;

That we may do justly, love mercy,

And walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

* SONG OF PENITENCE Jesus, Lamb of God

Franz Schubert

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

grant us your peace, grant us your peace.

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Jasmine Smart

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation!

* SONG OF ASSURANCE

Jesus, Lamb of God

Franz Schubert

Je - sus, Lamb of God: grant us your peace.

WORD

WORD WITH THE CHILDREN & THE LORD'S PRAYER (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.

INVITATION HYMN

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

Come! Come! We Welcome You Here!

Rev. Edwin Estevez (text), M. Biery (music)

Come! Come! We wel - come you here! Come! Come!

All God's chil - dren, young and old, we wel - come you here!

Wel - come! Wel - come! Come clos - er, draw near!

All God's chil - dren, young and old, you are wel - come here!

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.

PRESENTATION

BAPTISMAL HYMN 482
(seated)

Baptized in Water (*verse 3*)

BUNESSAN

**Baptized in water, sealed by the spirit,
Marked with the sign of Christ our King;
Born of the Spirit, we are God's children;
Joyfully now God's praises we sing.**

* 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.**

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Ramona Dorothy Roth

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION **Gracious God, Our Way in the Wilderness**

arr. M. Biery

*Gracious God, our way in the wilderness,
Guide us, by your Word, through these forty days,
So that we may be restored and renewed,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 8:1-13
(*NT, page 43*)

Tyler Webb, Confirmand, 9:00 a.m.
Elder Bob Heuer, 11:00 a.m.

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

SOLO

O Divine Redeemer

Charles Gounod

*Ah, turn me not away, receive me though unworthy.
Hear thou my cry, hear thou my cry,
Behold, Lord, my distress!
Answer me from thy throne,
Haste thee, Lord, to mine aid!
Thy pity show in my deep anguish.*

*Let not the sword of vengeance smite me,
Though righteous thine anger, O Lord!*

*Shield me in danger, O regard me!
On thee, Lord, alone will I call!*

*O divine Redeemer, O divine Redeemer!
I pray thee grant me pardon, and remember not my sins!
Forgive me!*

*Night gathers round my soul
Fearful, I cry to thee,
Come to mine aid, O Lord!
Haste thee, Lord, haste to help me!
Hear my cry, save me, Lord in thy mercy;
Hear my cry! Come and save me, O Lord!*

*Save in the day of retribution
From death shield thou me, O my God!
O divine Redeemer, have mercy!
Help me, Savior.*

SERMON

Sailing Not Drifting

Rev. Edwin Estevez

* **HYMN 751**

From the Nets of Our Labor (*choir will sing stanzas 1-2*)

HAMILTON

(*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

Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

C. Hubert H. Parry

*Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
Forgive our foolish ways;
Reclothe us in our rightful mind;
In purer lives, thy service find,
In deeper reverence, praise.*

*In simple trust like theirs who heard,
Beside the Syrian sea,
The gracious calling of the Lord,
Let us, like them, without a word,
Rise up and follow thee.*

*Drop thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease:
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess*

The beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire

Thy coolness and thy balm;

Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;

Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,

O still small voice of calm! (Whittier)

* 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 at 11:00 a.m. — see page 5*)

Rev. Jasmine Smart

SENDING

* RECESSIONAL HYMN 170

You Walk along Our Shoreline

WIE LIEBLICH IST DER MAIEN

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION (*seated*)

CHORAL RESPONSE

May You Know the Presence of God

arr. Marilyn Biery

*May you know the presence of God our keeper;
with us by day and with us by night.*

With us in our coming and our going;

with us all from this time forth and forever. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Prelude on I to the Hills Will Lift My Eyes

C. Hubert H. Parry

INFORMATION ON TODAY'S SERVICES

About the Music: Georg Philipp Telemann (1681-1767) was almost completely self-taught in music, having become a composer against his family's wishes. He entered the University of Leipzig to study law but changed his career to music and became music director for Hamburg's five main churches in 1721. One of the most prolific composers in history, he was favorably regarded in comparison to his friend Johann Sebastian Bach, (who named him godfather and namesake to his son Carl Philipp Emanuel), as well as to Handel, whom he also knew. His music is regarded as an important link between the late Baroque and early Classical styles.

Our Invitation Hymn for the Children's Message was a collaborative effort by Edwin Estevez and Marilyn Biery. At the January staff retreat of the worship leaders, Marilyn asked Edwin for the words of invitation and later set it to music.

Charles-François Gounod (1818 – 1893), usually known as Charles Gounod, was a French composer. He wrote twelve operas, of which the most popular has always been *Faust* (1859). He composed a large amount of church music, many songs, and popular short pieces including his "Ave Maria," where he wrote a melody that juxtaposed the Ave Maria text onto the first (C Major) Prelude of Bach's *Well Tempered Clavier*. His song *Repentir* ("O Divine Redeemer"), for mezzo-soprano and orchestra, was published posthumously in 1894.

Sir Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848 – 1918), was an English composer, teacher and music historian. Born in Richmond Hill, Bournemouth, Parry's first major works appeared in 1880. He is best known for the hymn tune JERUSALEM, found in our hymnal twice, his coronation anthem "I Was Glad, and the hymn tune REPTON which also appears in our hymnal to two different texts. It forms the basis for our offertory anthem, "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind." The lines "Take from our souls the strain and stress/ And let our ordered lives confess/The beauty of thy peace" are a powerful mantra for the season of Lent.

Musicians: Chantel Woodard, soprano; Merideth Estevez, oboe; Andrew McIntosh, cello; James Biery, organist; Marilyn Biery, director.

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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— St. Brendan Sets Sail © 2025 James Fissel | 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.

WORSHIP NOTES

WORSHIP NOTES



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



Membership

Mercy Adams
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