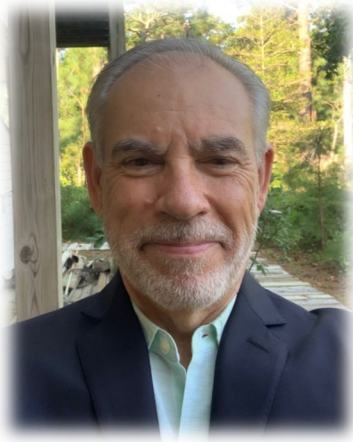


KIRK IN THE HILLS  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
MAY 11, 2025



*Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

—Matthew 11: 28-30



## A Note from Pastor Jim

This morning at the 9:00 a.m. service, we received the 2025 Confirmation Class into the formal membership of the Kirk. It is a right-of-passage in which most of us have participated. Perhaps you can recall your own!

Though it's observed differently in various traditions of the church, the recognition of young people stepping into more adult roles and responsibilities as church members is an ancient one. Recall the story of "Jesus in the Temple"? (Luke 2:41) Yes, even Jesus required religious training and attending to the discipline of his parents! Learning, questioning and exploring what FAITH means at a very personal level is not completed at the time of our Confirmation. It is a lifelong pursuit. The writer of Ephesians insists: "this will continue until we all come into such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ." (Eph. 4:13)

Today's ceremony was not graduation. It is more accurately a "commissioning" which is a Confirmation AND a sending. In a very short while our Confirmands will be launched into the next chapter of their lives. Our prayer is that they will carry with them a growing identity and character as followers of Jesus. By their words and actions, they will become his "ambassadors" each sharing in their own unique ways the Good News of God's caring, keeping and redeeming love. Let today's celebration be an encouragement to us to do the same!

In Christ's Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Moseley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Rev. Jim Moseley | Transitional Executive Pastor

# THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

11:00 a.m., Sanctuary

PRELUDE

**Sheep May Safely Graze**

*J. S. Bach*

WELCOME

Rev. Jim Moseley

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

\* INTROIT

**Love the Lord Your God**

GREAT COMMANDMENT

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart.  
Love the Lord your God with all your soul.  
Love the Lord your God with all your mind.  
Love the Lord your God with all that you are.*

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Jasmine Smart

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark,  
Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone  
had been removed from the tomb.

He is RISEN!

**CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED!**

Then Peter and the other disciples set out  
and went towards the tomb.

He saw the linen wrappings lying there,  
and the cloth that had been on Jesus's head,  
not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself.  
He is RISEN!

**CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED!**

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb.  
Then, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there.  
Jesus said to her, "Mary!"  
And Mary went and announced to the disciples.  
He is RISEN!

**CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED!**

\* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 299

**You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim**

HANOVER

\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord we have denied you,  
**each time we refused to see you in the faces of the hungry  
and the homeless.**  
May the old in us pass away and all things become new.  
Lord we have betrayed you,  
**each time we have kept our distance  
from the anguish of the oppressed and the persecuted.**  
May the old in us pass away and all things become new.  
Lord we have mocked you,  
**each time we have pretended we do not know how radically you call  
us to live.**  
May the old in us pass away and all things become new. *(continued)*

Lord, we are lost and have strayed,  
welcome us into your forgiving arms and make us new.  
May the old in us pass away and all things become new.

\* 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. Jasmine Smart

Friends, in the empty tomb,  
God declares that nothing can separate us  
from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Friends, believe the good news:  
**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**  
**In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation!**

\* ACCLAMATION OF PRAISE 581

Glory Be to the Father

GLORIA PATRI

WORD

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Rev. Jim Mosely, Rev. Jasmine Smart  
& Elder Bobi Tallinger

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,  
Maker of heaven and earth,  
and if Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
he descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand  
of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Ghost;  
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**

*Maisie Lynn Hutchinson, Isabella Jean Snyder*

**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**

**1 John 2:1 & Matthew 11:28-30** (*NT, pages 239 & 12*) Elder Camille Breen  
The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM**

**The Lord Is My Shepherd**

*Thomas Matthews*

*The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:  
He leadeth me beside the still waters.  
He restoreth my soul:  
He leadeth me 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 they comfort me.  
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:  
Thou anointest my head with oil;  
My cup runneth over.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:  
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

**SERMON**

**Lean on Me**

Rev. Jim Moseley

**\* HYMN 802**

**The King of Love My Shepherd Is**

ST. COLUMBA

*(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

### For the Beauty of the Earth

John Rutter

*For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies:  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.*

*For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light:  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.*

*For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,  
Friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild:  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.*

*For each perfect gift of thine to our race so freely given,  
Graces human and divine, flowers of earth and buds of heaven:  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise. (F. S. Pierpoint)*

## \* 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. Jim Moseley

**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.**

## SENDING

### \* RECESSIONAL HYMN 324

#### For All the Faithful Women

NYLAND

### CHARGE AND BENEDICTION (*seated*)

### CHORAL BENEDICTION God Be With You

Marilyn Biery

*God be with you till we meet again.*

### POSTLUDE

#### Paraphrase on a Handel Chorus ("Thine Is the Glory")

Alexander Guilmant

## INFORMATION ON TODAY'S SERVICES

**About the Music:** "Sheep may safely graze" is a soprano aria by Johann Sebastian Bach which is part of the cantata Was mir behagt, ist nur die muntre Jagd, BWV 208 (Only the lively hunt pleases me), also known as the Hunting Cantata. Like Bach's "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring," "Sheep may safely graze" is frequently played at weddings. However, the cantata BWV 208 was originally written for a birthday celebration.

Thomas Matthews (1915-1999) was an American composer. In 1936 he accepted the post of Organist/Choirmaster at St. Martin-in-the-Fields (Chestnut Hill) in Philadelphia, During WWII Dr. Matthews conducted the famous Blue Jacket Choir and after the war assumed the music position at St. Luke's, Evanston, Illinois. He also served on the Northwestern University School of Music faculty and was director of music for Seabury-Western Theological Seminary. Dr. Matthews composed over thirty published anthems of which "The Lord Is My Shepherd" is best known.

Sir John Milford Rutter CBE (born 24 September 1945) is one of the most well-known conductors and composers of sacred choral music in the world today. In 1981, Rutter founded his own choir, the Cambridge Singers, which he conducts, and with which he has made many recordings of sacred choral repertoire. He lives in Cambridgeshire and frequently conducts choirs and orchestras around the world.

**Musicians:** Mila Pitman, soprano; Marilyn and James Biery, organists and conductors.

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**The flowers on the altar** are presented to the glory of God in loving remembrance of her husband, James W. Clark, parents, Ray D. and Wayne Louise Eichler and sister, Marilyn Eichler Dewar by Barbara Eichler Clark and family.

**Today's Cover Art - Yoke** | unknown | iStock; used with permission

**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. *Note: These flowers should not be placed in the columbarium. The vases are glass and can fall over and break creating a hazard on the pathway.*



**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.

**Camera and Phone Usage Guidelines:** Out of respect for your fellow worshipers and those leading worship, we kindly ask you to silence cellphones and other communication devices and to refrain from taking photos or video during worship. Recordings of past worship services and other sanctuary events are available at [kirkinthehills.org/worship/past-messages](http://kirkinthehills.org/worship/past-messages).