

KIRK IN THE HILLS  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)  
9:00 A.M. GARDEN | 11:00 A.M. SANCTUARY WORSHIP  
AUGUST 24, 2025



## A Note from Rev. Dr. Charles B. Hardwick



Grace and Peace! I'm thankful for the chance to preach today. I'm the executive for the Synod of the Covenant, the collection of eleven presbyteries in Ohio and Michigan. Our offices are in the Abbey. I'm always grateful for opportunities to join in your ministry.

Our scripture today, Luke 13:10-17, tells the story of Jesus healing someone whom commentators often call the "stooped woman." She has been unable to stand up straight for eighteen years. On the Sabbath, Jesus heals her, and then promptly gets into a disagreement with the head of the synagogue. In my sermon I'm going to be focusing mostly on that disagreement, so I thought I'd focus on the unnamed woman here.

First of all, calling her the "stooped woman" bugs me. It reduces her to her illness. We don't refer to a friend as the "cancer-riddled man" or the "arthritic woman," so let's give her respect and think about her as Jesus did, a "dear woman." She's a child of God with other sorrows, joys, hopes, and dreams. When we are at our best, we recognize the full humanity of people who are beset with terrible illnesses.

Secondly, I love that Jesus approaches her, rather than vice versa. In most miracle stories in the Gospels, it is the person seeking healing who approaches Jesus, perhaps with the help of friends. Here, though, we see Jesus taking the initiative—seeing her condition, calling her over, and touching her. "Instantly, she could stand straight" (Luke 13:12). I love the mixture of these stories; they remind us that while most of the time we bring our concerns to Jesus, sometimes he answers our prayers even before we lift them up.

Finally, if you or someone you love are seeking miraculous healing, I pray that Jesus gives it to you. He certainly continues to work miracles. It's a mystery, though, why these miracles don't come to everyone. Jesus did not heal everyone who suffered even while he was ministering in Israel, and he does not heal everyone now. It's somehow a sign of grace when miracles come, but not a grace that we all receive. I don't think we'll ever understand why. I pray we'll remember that a lack of healing miracles does not mean a lack of love, and that Jesus offers the miracle of walking beside us to all of us. Lo, he is with us always, even to the end of the age. (Matthew 28:20, alt.)

God bless you,



Rev. Charles B. Hardwick, Ph.D.

# THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

9:00 a.m. Garden Worship

*(Patio seating is "open seating," or use your own chairs/blankets on the lawn)*

PRELUDE

Sicilienne

Maria-Theresia v. Paradis

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

O give thanks to the Lord, for our God is good;  
**God's steadfast love endures forever!**  
Come, let us worship God!

\* HYMN 772

**Live into Hope**

TRURO

*(See page 10.)*

\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Dr. Philip J. Reed

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.  
**Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

Let us confess our personal sins in the silence of our hearts...  
Then, O Lord, I acknowledged my sin to you,  
and I did not hide my iniquity;  
**I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave  
the guilt of my sin.**

\* KYRIE

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. Dr. Philip J. Reed

Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel:  
**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

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.**  
**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.**  
**World without end. Amen.**



## WORD

### WORD WITH CHILDREN AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

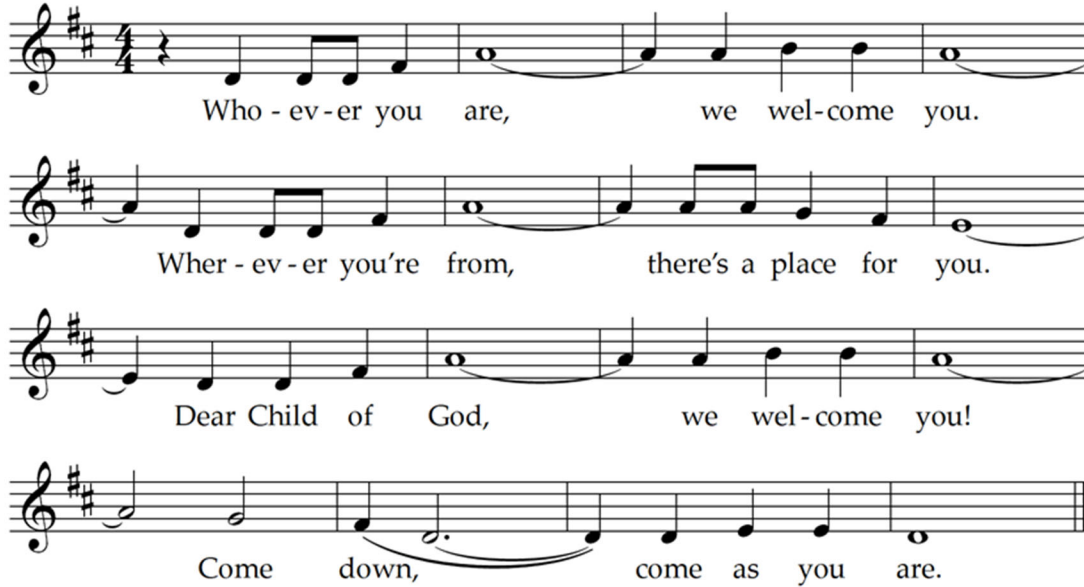
Sarah Ford

*Following the Word with the Children, children and youth remain in worship with their families.*

#### INVITATION HYMN

#### Come as You Are

*Rev. Jim Moseley (text); traditional*



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.

## PRAYER

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Jasmine Smart

#### SOLO

#### Sometimes a Light Surprises

*Anton Bruckner, ed. M. Biery*

*Sometimes a light surprises the child of God who sings, it is the Lord who rises with healing in his wings; when comforts are declining, God grants the soul again a season of clear shining to cheer it after rain.*

*God gives the lilies clothing and gives his children bread; beneath the spreading heavens all creatures will be fed. Though vine nor fig tree neither their longed-for fruit should bear, though all the fields should wither, nor flocks nor herds be there, yet God the same abiding, his praise shall tune my voice, for while in him confiding, I cannot but rejoice! (William Cowper, 1779)*

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**Exodus 20:8-11** (*OT, page 66*)

Elder Henry Hoot

**Luke 12:49-56** (*NT, page 76*)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

**The Lens of Love**

Rev. Dr. Charles B. Hardwick

**SENDING**

**\* HYMN 766**

**The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound**

MC KEE

(*See page 11.*)

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** (*seated*)

**POSTLUDE**

**The Carillon**

*Garden worshippers are encouraged to drop off donations in the baskets located at the Celtic Cross near ramp or at the door to the cloister as you exit to the front patio as you depart. Please see notes on page 6.*

*Join us for coffee and fellowship on the patio immediately following service!*

## INFORMATION ON TODAY'S SERVICES

**About the music:** Maria Theresia von Paradis (1759–1824) was an Austrian musician and composer who lost her sight at an early age. She was well-known as a singer and pianist in Vienna, and had an excellent memory and exceptionally accurate hearing. She was widely reported to have learned over 60 concertos by heart, as well as a large repertoire of solo and religious works. She also composed a considerable amount of music. The beautiful *Sicilienne* (originally for violin and piano) is ascribed to her.

Come sing in one of our choirs! We are actively seeking new members for all the choirs at the Kirk. For information on the children and youth choirs, contact Bobby DeLisle at [bdelisle@kirkinthehills.org](mailto:bdelisle@kirkinthehills.org) (St. Cecilia and Cantamus). If you have a younger chorister, contact Carol Beth Litkouhi for the Joyful Noise Choir at [cblitkouhi@kirkinthehills.org](mailto:cblitkouhi@kirkinthehills.org). Registration for these choirs is now available on the website, as is information on all three groups.

The Kirk Chancel Choir would love to welcome you to sing with us. We recognize that a year-round commitment may not fall into everyone's schedule, so please consider joining for a portion of the year, like Advent/Christmas or Lent/Easter. The Kirk Chancel Choir seeks to provide meaningful music for worship, with the goal of leading us all to a more profound "Amen." We love to sing, we love to laugh, we love to work hard, we love to learn new music, we love to sing the classics and most of all, we love to welcome new people! For more information, contact Marilyn Biery, Director of Music at [mbiery@kirkinthehills.org](mailto:mbiery@kirkinthehills.org), or come up to the organ to chat with James Biery after the postlude.

**Musicians:** Chantel Woodard, Courtney Jolley, sopranos; Merideth Estevez, oboe; James Biery, organist, Eric Whitmer, carillon.

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**Today's Cover Art—Woman with an Infirmary** | James Tissot | Watercolor | from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

**Stephen Ministers** are available for personal, confidential prayer in the Garden after the 9:00 a.m. outdoor worship and 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.



**Are you feeling called to be part of the Kirk Church Family or into servant leadership with our neighbors, community, and global partners?** Mercy Adams is here to help you take the next step. You can meet her in the Narthex after Worship or during Coffee Hour to learn more about Kirk Membership or be connected to a small group or Ministry leader. You can also register for the September 14 New Member Class through the QR code.

**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).

**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.

## THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

11:00 a.m., Sanctuary

# PRELUDE

## Sicilienne

*Maria-Theresia v. Paradis*

# WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

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

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez.

O give thanks to the Lord, for our God is good;  
**God's steadfast love endures forever!**  
 Come, let us worship God!

\* OPENING HYMN 35

**Priase Ye the Lord, the Almighty**

LOBE DEN HERREN

**\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez.

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.

**Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

Let us confess our personal sins in the silence of our hearts...  
(silence)

Then, O Lord, I acknowledged my sin to you,  
and I did not hide my iniquity;

**I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,” and you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

\* KYRIE

## 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. Dr. Edwin Estevez

Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel:  
**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

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.  
World without end. Amen.**

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION **Living God**

Arabic Tune

*Living God, help us to hear your Word that we may therefore truly understand. Give us guidance that we would truly follow, seeking to honor and glorify you. Amen.*

## WORD

### SCRIPTURE READING

**Exodus 20:8-11** (OT, page 66)

Elder Jim Wolfe

**Luke 12:49-56** (NT, page 76)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### SOLO

**Sometimes a Light Surprises**

Anton Bruckner, ed. M. Biery

*Sometimes a light surprises the child of God who sings, it is the Lord who rises with healing in his wings; when comforts are declining, God grants the soul again a season of clear shining to cheer it after rain.*

*God gives the lilies clothing and gives his children bread; beneath the spreading heavens all creatures will be fed. Though vine nor fig tree neither their longed-for fruit should bear, though all the fields should wither, nor flocks nor herds be there, yet God the same abiding, his praise shall tune my voice, for while in him confiding, I cannot but rejoice! (William Cowper, 1779)*

### SERMON

**The Lens of Love**

Rev. Dr. Charles B. Hardwick

### \* HYMN 766

**The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound**

MC KEE

*(Please be seated after the hymn.)*

## THANKSGIVING

### CALL TO OFFERING AND DEDICATION

Rev. Dr. Philip J. Reed

*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

**My Spirit Longs for Thee**

Alan Bullard

*My spirit longs for thee within my troubled breast, though I unworthy be of so divine a guest.*

*Of so divine a guest unworthy though I be, yet has my heart no rest unless it come from thee.*

*Unless it come from thee, in vain I look around: in all that I can see there is no rest to be found.*

*There is no rest to be found but in thy blessed love: O let my wish be crowned and send it from above! (John Byrom 1692-1763)*



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. Dr. Philip J. Reed

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 772

Live into Hope

TRURO

#### CHARGE AND BENEDICTION (*seated*)

#### POSTLUDE

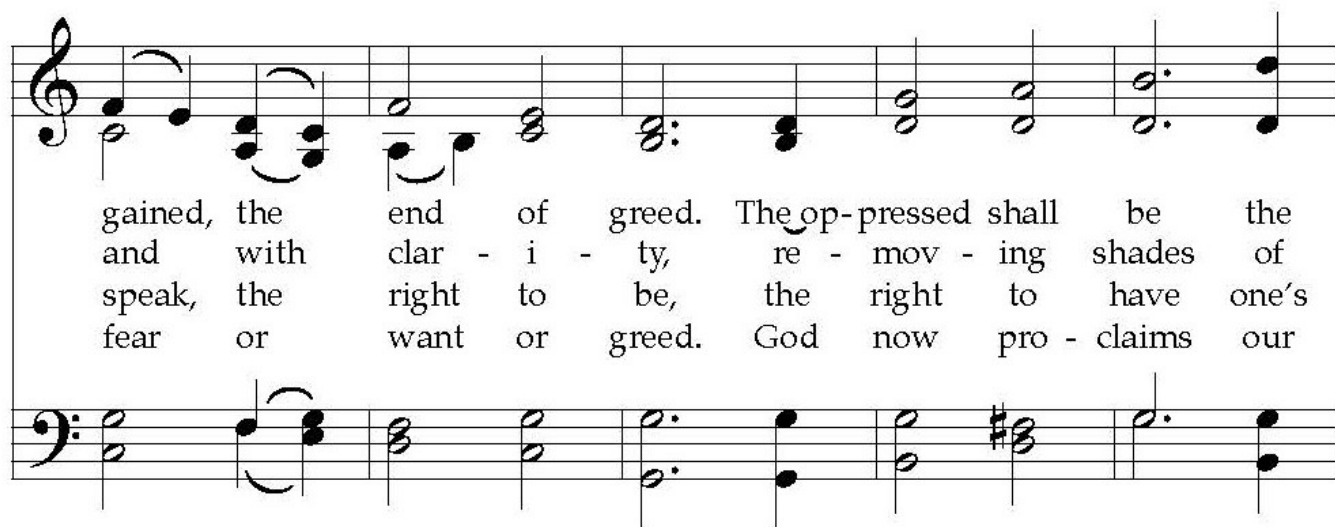
Lobe den Herren, den mächtigen König der Ehren

*J. S. Bach, ed. M. Biery*

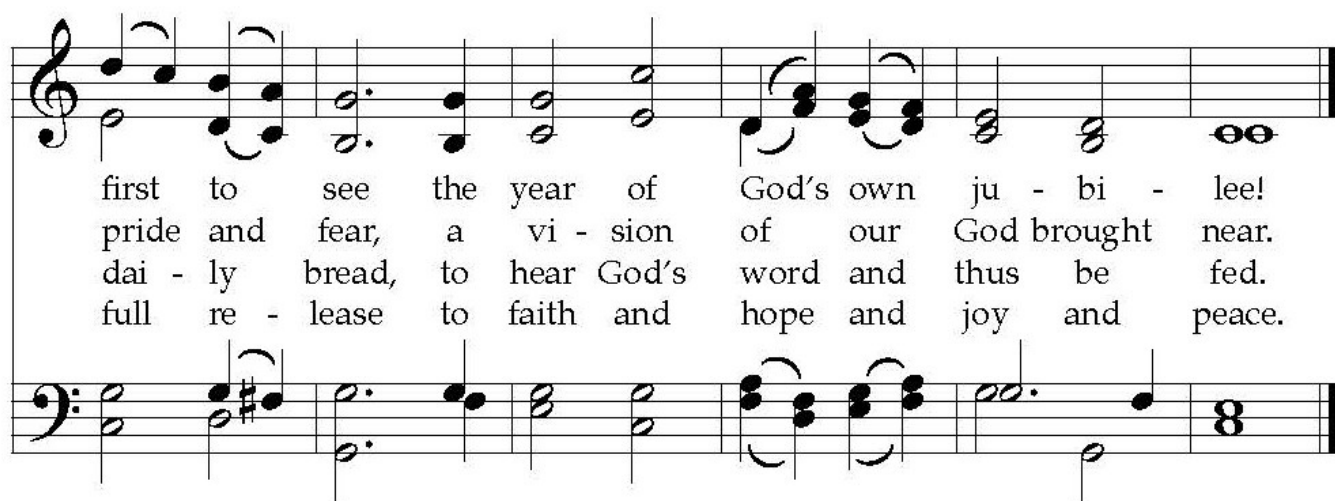
## Live into Hope



1 Live in - to hope of cap - tives freed, of sight re -  
 2 Live in - to hope! The blind shall see with in - sight  
 3 Live in - to hope of lib - er - ty, the right to  
 4 Live in - to hope of cap - tives freed from chains of



gained, the end of greed. The op-pressed shall be the  
 and with clar - i - ty, re - mov - ing shades of  
 speak, the right to be, the right to have one's  
 fear or want or greed. God now pro - claims our



first to see the year of God's own ju - bi - lee!  
 pride and fear, a vi - sion of our God brought near.  
 dai - ly bread, to hear God's word and thus be fed.  
 full re - lease to faith and hope and joy and peace.

766

# The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound



1 The church of Christ can - not be bound by  
2 True faith will o - pen up the door and  
3 True love will not sit i - dly by when  
4 If what we have we free - ly share to  
5 The church of Christ can - not be bound by



walls of wood or stone. Where char - i - ty and  
step in - to the street. True ser - vice will seek  
jus - tice is de - nied. True mer - cy hears the  
meet our neigh - bor's need, then we ex - tend the  
walls of wood or stone. Where char - i - ty and



love are found, there can the church be known.  
out the poor and ask to wash their feet.  
home - less cry and wel - comes them in - side.  
Spir - it's care through ev - ery self - less deed.  
love are found, there can the church be known.

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



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