

KIRK IN THE HILLS  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)  
9:00 & 11:00 A.M. SANCTUARY WORSHIP  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2025





## A Note from Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

### Welcome to Worship at Kirk in the Hills!

We are glad you are here this morning—whether you are a longtime member, a returning friend, or visiting for the first time. If you are seeking a church home, we invite you to join us for our Membership Brunch following the 9:00 a.m. service. At this event, you will have the chance to learn more about the central tenets of the Christian faith, Presbyterianism, and the mission and vision of Kirk in the Hills.

For families, today also marks the kickoff of our **Sunday School** and **Confirmation Class**, both beginning after the 9:00 a.m. service. Our **Youth Group** gathers this evening at 5:30 for fellowship, faith formation, and fun. If your children love to sing, we hope you'll consider involving them in one of our choirs—**Joyful Noise, Cantamus, or St. Cecilia's**—which help nurture faith through music and are leading us in worship today.

This morning, we continue our sermon series, **PRODIGAL**, rooted in Jesus' well-known parable of the Prodigal Son. At its heart, this story is about our relationship with God: how we see God, how we understand grace, and how we live as God's beloved children. Is our connection with God one-dimensional, self-centered, transactional, or even obscure? Or might the Spirit be inviting us into something deeper, richer, and more life-giving? Together, we will reflect on these questions and discover anew the boundless love of God as depicted by Jesus in this powerful story.

Friends, whether you are here for the first time or the thousandth, you belong in this moment of worship—may this hour of worship draw you closer to the living God who welcomes us all with open arms.

Looking ahead at the rest of our **PRODIGAL** sermon series:

September 21 – Squandered: What we waste, and the grace that meets us.

September 28 – The Other Brother: Knowing who our brother is and how this changes everything.

In Christ,

Sr. Pastor | Head of Staff  
Kirk in the Hills

# THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

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

INTRODUCTION TO HYMN 345

James Biery

PRELUDE

**Andante in E-Flat Major**

*Bedřich Smetana*

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

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

\* INTROIT

**This Is the Day**

*Marilyn Biery*

*This is the day that the Lord has made.*

*Let us rejoice and be glad in it!*

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

As we gather,

Rev. Jasmine Smart

**We come together as people of the cross and resurrection.**

We come as children of the Father

**reconciled by grace through the Son**

and filled with God's love through the Spirit.

**Let us worship the Living God.**

\* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 620

**Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven**

LAUDA ANIMA

\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Jasmine Smart

God of Love, we trust that we can boldly approach you with our confession because you have drawn near to us in Jesus Christ.

**Forgive us, Lord, if we have lacked hospitality toward strangers. Forgive us if we've acted out of greed, pride, jealousy, insecurity, or debilitating fear. Forgive us, O God, if we have lacked compassion, wisdom, and devotion. Teach us, Lord, to open our doors in welcome, our hands in service, our hearts in obedience, and our lips in praise. Teach us, O God, to love you, to love ourselves, and to love our neighbors, in the proper order and through Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

\* 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. Jasmine Smart

Therefore, having been justified by faith through Christ, we have peace with God.

Beloved, hear the Good News:

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

**In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation!**



## WORD

### WORD WITH CHILDREN AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (9:00 a.m. only)

Sarah Ford

*Following the Word with the Children, children and youth ages 4 through grade 8 will be dismissed for Sunday School.*

#### INVITATION HYMN 188

#### Jesus Loves Me

JESUS LOVES ME

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 FOR ILLUMINATION

#### Gracious God

*Arabic Tune*

*Gracious God you are the source of all light. By your Word you give light to the soul. Pour on us the source of your wisdom that we may hear your Word through Jesus Christ. Amen.*

#### SCRIPTURE READING

**Luke 15:11-24** (NT, page 78)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

9:00 a.m.: Elder Glenda Herb

11:00 a.m.: Elder Wendy Beck

#### ANTHEM

#### O Bless the Lord, O My Soul

*Ippolitov-Ivanoff*

*O bless the Lord, O my soul; and all within me bless his (holy) name.*

*O bless the Lord, O my soul; and forget not all his benefits.*

*He is gracious and plenteous in mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.*

*As the heavens are high above the earth, so great his love toward those who bless his name. O bless the Lord...(from Psalm 103)*

\* HYMN 345

**In an Age of Twisted Values** (*Stanza 1; Choir, Stanzas 2-4; All*)

*(Please be seated after the hymn.)*

CHURCH UNITED

**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**

**The Heavenly Music**

*James Biery*

*If I could listen with my heart  
To hear the heavenly music ring,  
Its myriad layers, part on part  
Would thrill my soul and make it sing.*

*Such glorious music, soul to song,  
Enraptures earth and heaven as one;  
With phrases floating, rhythm strong,  
Such silky resonance is spun.*

*And as we still to hear these sounds,  
Dissolved in endless, whispered prayer,  
The One whose universe resounds  
With shouts of love is listening there*

*With arms outstretched, God draws us near,  
Where we become the hymns of praise  
That echo long with stanzas clear  
And sing with love for endless days. (Text by 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 at 11:00 a.m.*)

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 774	<b>There is Now a New Creation</b>	STUTTGART
CHARGE AND BENEDICTION	<i>(seated)</i>	
CHORAL RESPONSE	<b>Amen</b>	<i>P. C. Lutkin</i>
POSTLUDE	<b>Sortie</b>	<i>César Franck</i>



## INFORMATION ON TODAY'S SERVICES

**About the music:** During this month's sermon series on the parable of the Prodigal Son, we are introducing the hymn "In an Age of Twisted Values" (Hymn 345). The words, written by Martin Leckebusch in 1995, explore some of the themes in the parable. The hymn laments the loss of truth in today's society and calls for God's help in guiding people toward a path of righteousness and unity. Leckebusch was born in 1962 and is an elder at a Baptist church in Gloucester, England. The music was composed by Alfred Fedak, who was Minister of Music and Arts at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Albany for 31 years, retiring in 2021. Mr. Fedak served on the editorial committee for the *Glory to God* hymnal. The tune we sing today makes clever use of repeated melodic segments, making it easy to learn.

Mikhail Mikhailovich Ippolitov-Ivanov (1859-1935) was a Russian and Soviet composer, conductor and teacher. He was born near St. Petersburg, where his father was a mechanic employed at the palace. He later added the name Ippolitov, his mother's maiden name, to distinguish himself from a composer and music critic with the exact same name. He was a choirboy at the cathedral of St. Isaac, where he also had musical instruction, then entered the St. Petersburg Conservatory in 1875. In 1882 he completed his studies as a composition pupil of Rimsky-Korsakov, whose influence was to remain strong.

César Auguste Jean Guillaume Hubert Franck (1822 – 1890) was a French Romantic composer, pianist, organist, and music teacher born in present-day Belgium. He moved to Paris and in 1859 he became titular organist at the church Sainte-Clotilde, a position he retained for the rest of his life. He became professor at the Paris Conservatoire in 1872; he took French nationality, a requirement of the appointment. Franck wrote several pieces that have entered the standard classical repertoire, including symphonic, chamber, and keyboard works for pipe organ and piano.

**Musicians:** Merideth Estevez, oboe, James Biery, Marilyn Biery, organists and directors.

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**Today's Cover Art—Return of the Prodigal Son** | Rembrandt | public domain

**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.



**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. Click QR code to register.

**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.

**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 the 11:00 a.m. service. See an usher for direction or further details.



1340 West Long Lake Road  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302  
(248) 626-2515  
[kirkinthehills.org](http://kirkinthehills.org)  
[facebook.com/kirkinthehills](https://facebook.com/kirkinthehills)

