

Worship

What we do and why we do it



ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Nine and Eleven o'clock, Sanctuary

The pre-service music is an opportunity to meditate or pray in the awareness of God's presence in the sanctuary. As the community of faith gathers, the organist plays music, which reflects the musical themes of today's worship service, to help prepare the congregation for worship. On page 2 of the bulletin there is a brief introduction to the worship service and introductory notes on the music to be sung by the congregation and the choir in the service. There is also a prayer, which we invite you to use, if you wish, to help prepare your mind and heart for worship.

OPENING VOLUNTARIES

The ringing of the steeple tower bell announces the time for worship. The service begins when the choir sings the Introit, the introductory worship hymn.

INTROIT

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN

The congregation stands to sing the opening hymn. Words and music for this will be found in the blue Hymnals located in the pew rack in front of you. As this hymn is sung, the procession of worship leaders into the church is led by an acolyte carrying an open Bible, indicating our desire to be led and instructed in worship by the teaching of the Holy Scriptures. The choir and pastors follow, led by an acolyte, carrying a cross and flanked by two acolytes carrying candles, to symbolize our belief that Christ is the Light of the world. The congregation remains standing at the conclusion of the hymn, while the pastor leads us in a brief prayer of adoration of God.

* PRAYER OF ADORATION

Following this prayer the choir sings Amen and the congregation sits.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION — (in unison)

The pastor then leads the congregation in a prayer in which we confess sins to God. The congregation is invited to repeat this prayer with the pastor.

KYRIE ELEISON

The choir sings an ancient hymn asking for God's mercy (Kyrie eleison which means Lord have mercy).

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The pastor declares our belief that God has forgiven us our sins, because we have repented of them. The congregation then stands and sings a hymn of praise for God's goodness.

* GLORIA PATRI

In response to the good news that God forgives our sins we sing the Gloria Patri, which means "Glory to our Father."

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, amen.

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WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The pastor makes a number of announcements, drawing the congregation's attention to important events in the life of the church.

CHORAL PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Because of the importance of properly heeding God's word to us in Scripture, the choir sings a brief prayer for illumination—asking God to enlighten us as we hear the Bible being read.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

The Presbyterian Church lays great emphasis on the teaching of the Bible, which we believe contains the word of God. One of the pastors will read the Scripture lessons, which will provide the theme for today's sermon. Normally two passages of Scripture are read from the Bible.

ANTHEM

Following the Scripture readings, the choir sings the morning anthem, a hymn of praise to the glory of God.

SERMON

The pastor then enters the pulpit to deliver the sermon, which is intended to offer some comment or instruction on the Bible readings in the service and some challenge to the congregation to live the Christian life, or to understand the Christian faith a little better, or to affirm the Christian commitment of their lives. The sermon normally lasts around 20 minutes and is followed by a brief prayer.

* HYMN

The congregation remains standing at the conclusion of the hymn. During this hymn, ushers have come forward to receive from the pastors the plates in which the offerings of the people will be received.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

The work and ministry of Kirk in the Hills is supported by the members and friends of the congregation who have chosen to do so. The Offering is the moment in the service when, out of gratitude to God, members of the community of faith make financial gifts to support the church's work in the world, locally, nationally and internationally. This is a free will offering, and we receive it during worship as a sign that it is an expression of our faith in God. However, many members have given directly to the church by means other than the offering plate. That explains why, at times, Kirk members do not put anything in the plate.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

The congregation remains standing and a pastor will offer a prayer asking God to receive and bless the offerings the people bring, and use them in the service of God's mission to the world. After this prayer, the congregation sits. As the ushers move through the congregation to receive the offering, the choir sings an anthem, to reflect the gratitude towards God of which the offering is an expression.

ANTHEM

* DOXOLOGY

*When the ushers have finished collecting the offering, they will bring it to the front of the church, the pastors will receive it and place it on the altar **and the congregation will stand to sing one of the ancient hymns of praise to God, the Doxology. At the conclusion of this short piece, the congregation sits.***

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.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

We give thanks as we recall God's goodness to us, and bring intercession when we pray for people or topics of concern in the world. This prayer leads into the Lord's Prayer, which we invite you to join in repeating with the congregation if you wish.

THE LORD'S PRAYER — (in unison)

This is the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray. We say it together, in unison, to show we want to be followers of Jesus Christ.

**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.**

* RECESSIONAL HYMN

*The congregation now stands to sing the concluding hymn which normally reflects the message of the sermon and affirms the love that we receive through God's Son, Jesus. It asks that this love will shape and direct our living, until, in the life beyond the grave which we believe Jesus offers us, we arrive at the consummation of God's purposes for his children in his eternal kingdom. During this hymn, the choir processes through the church to the main door. **At the conclusion of this hymn the congregation sits.***

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*The pastor comes forward to pronounce the benediction, a prayer asking for God's blessing on God's people before they leave the worship service. **The people remain seated while the pastors leave the church.** The organ plays an appropriate celebratory piece of music.*

SILENT PRAYER

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

At your convenience, you are now free to leave your place and proceed down the stairs to the Heritage Hall where there will be an opportunity to meet with other worshipers, as well as receive information about Kirk programs and events. All are welcome at this time of fellowship and meeting.

* Congregation standing

** Seating interval

Worship follows the pattern of the Christian year, which is expressed in the colors used in the sanctuary. The year begins with waiting for Jesus in Advent (royal blue) through his birth, life and ministry (Christmas-white; Lent-purple, for penitence), his death, Resurrection (Easter-white), the gift of the Spirit (Pentecost-red, for the fire of the Spirit) and then the Ordinary Sundays of the year (green, for growth) when we learn what discipleship means. All we have discovered is summed up in the final Sunday of the Christian year known as "Christ the King" when we acknowledge that *at the name of Jesus every knee should bend ... and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.* (Philippians 2:10-11)

The *Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church (USA)* describes worship in these terms:

Christian worship joyfully ascribes all praise and honor, glory and power to the triune God. In worship the people of God acknowledge God present in the world and in their lives. As they respond to God's claim and redemptive action in Jesus Christ, believers are transformed and renewed. In worship the faithful offer themselves to God and are equipped for God's service in the world.

At the Kirk, we seek to make our worship central to the life of the church. Worship is reverent, ordered, enriched by the best words and music we can offer to God and committed to strengthening the Christian faith and life of the people.

Services are held each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. A Communion service is held on the first Sunday of each month at 8:00 a.m. in Cedarholm Chapel and on five Sundays at the morning services in the sanctuary.

A less formal service, which includes Church School children for part of the service, is held in the refectory at 9:00 a.m. and is known as the St. Andrew's service. Communion is held in this service on the first Sunday of each month.

We invite you to share the rich experience of Christian worship at Kirk in the Hills.



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