



Kirkwood Presbyterian Church

Sunday, August 16, 2026
12th Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering

Welcome and Ministry Announcements

Dr. Yvan Kelly

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

***Opening Hymn**

“House of the Lord”

***Call to Worship (from Psalm 67)**

Worship Leader

Leader: May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations.

People: Let the people praise you, O God; let all the people praise you.

Leader: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.

People: Let the people praise you, O God; let all the people praise you.

Leader: The earth has yielded its increase; God has blessed us.

All: May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere him.

A Time for Children

Dr. Yvan Kelly

(Children will go to Sunday School)

Gathering Prayer

Leah Hadrava

Call to Confession

Dr. Yvan Kelly

Prayer of Confession

Dr. Yvan Kelly

People: Merciful God, your world cries out. The fruits of our disobedience are harming others. You tasked us to be good stewards of your creation and we have fallen short. You challenged us to love God and love our neighbor, and we have failed to show that love. You promise to bring all people joyfully together in a house of prayer on your holy mountain. We find ways to stay apart. Bring us together, O Lord. Empower us with a spirit of love for you and love for all our neighbors. Help us live lives of service to you so that all your children will know your peace. Forgive us when we fall short and continue to transform your world, leading us to your promised kingdom.

Leader: Please continue in silent confession....Amen.

*please stand

Leader: Paul writes: "I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means!

People: For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable." God has shown us mercy and God will be merciful to all.

Leader: Hear and believe this good news:

All: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Word

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 45:1-15

Leah Hadrava

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there: since there are five more years of famine to come - so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading

Matthew 15:21-28

Dr. Yvan Kelly

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the

children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

Reader: The word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**

Message "Crumbs or a Chair at the Table?" Dr. Yvan Kelly

***Middle Hymn** Glory to God Hymnal #14 v. 1, 2, & 4
"For the Beauty of the Earth"

***Affirmation of Faith** (from The Confession of 1967)

God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful men and women. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love. Amen.

Prayers and Offering

Prayers of the People/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.

Giving Thanks to God with Our Gifts and Offerings

Offertory Song

***Doxology**

***Prayer of Dedication**

People: Holy God, you tell us that "offerings will be accepted on your altar, for your house shall be called a house of prayer." Thank you for all that you have given us. Continue to guide us as we dedicate these offerings and our lives to you. Amen.

Sending

***Closing Hymn** "Open Up the Heavens"

Charge and Blessing Dr. Yvan Kelly

Announcements

Help Moving Pews August 16 - After worship today, August 16, Mike and Shawn will need help moving the pews for voting. If you can help out, please stay after worship on August 16. Don't forget to vote on election day, Tuesday, August 18!

Dinner and Comedy Show August 29 - DeAndre Stringer will be returning to Kirkwood Presbyterian Church on Saturday, August 29. The evening will start at 6:00 p.m. with a family-style spaghetti and meatball dinner (salad, rolls, dessert, and drinks all included). DeAndre's comedy show starts at 7:00 p.m. **The last day to purchase tickets is Sunday, August 23.** See Deborah Ruth to purchase a ticket. Seating is limited, so purchase your tickets soon. The cost is \$30.00 per person (adult or child).

Broken to Beautiful Support Group Meeting September 10 - The Broken to Beautiful Support Group will meet on Thursday, September 10, at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Bunko September 12 - The next Bunko night will be held on Saturday, September 12, at 6:00 p.m. No experience is required, and it's fun for all ages. A \$10.00 donation is asked from each person and includes dessert. Prizes are awarded at the end of the evening.

Blood Drive September 13 - On Sunday, September 13, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., the Big Red Bus will be in the parking lot hosting a blood drive. All who donate will receive a \$20.00 eGift card and a wellness check. Visit <https://www.oneblood.org/donate-now> and use sponsor code 31712 to register in advance.

Wills and Gifts Sunday September 13 - On Sunday, September 13, Rev. Dana Walters from the Presbyterian Foundation will be preaching. He is coming from Savannah and will answer questions and lead a discussion about wills and gifts during a lunch provided by the church. Everyone is invited to attend this lunch and learn more about wills and gifts.

Session Meeting September 20 - The Session will meet after worship on Sunday, September 20.

Sign-in and Financial Giving - To sign in, scan the QR code. You may also donate by scanning the QR code, placing your offering in the offering plate, dropping off a check at the office, mailing it, or using our online giving portal, which can be accessed [here](#).



Song credits: "House of the Lord" – Jonathan Smith and Phil Wickham © 2020 Be Essential Songs; Cashagamble Jet Music; Phil Wickham Music; Simply Global Songs; "For the Beauty of the Earth" – Public Domain; "Open Up the Heavens" - Andi Rozier, James Macdonald, Jason Ingram, Meredith Andrews, and Stuart Garrard © 2012 Curb Songs; Mesmerized Music; All Essential Music; HBC Worship Music; Open Hands Music; So Essential Tunes; Stugio Music Publishing. Opening and closing hymns used by permission. CCLI License #11509317. Liturgy adopted from the Presbyterian Outlook.



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