



Return to Me

Kirkwood  
baptist church

**Our Worship of God**  
Sunday, March 22, 2026  
Fifth Sunday in Lent

+ *This symbol invites you to rise in body as you are able, or in spirit.*

Chiming of the Hour Julia Matthews

Welcome and Life of the Church Matt Vandagriff

Centering Prayer

Voluntary **Adagio in G Minor** Julia Matthews  
Tommaso Albinoni

Lighting of the Christ Candle and Opening of the Bible

+ Call to Worship Malcolm Sandvos

Let us worship God, who has done great things.

**We rejoice in our God, who made a way through the desert of this world.**

Let us worship God, who has caused streams of mercy to flow in the wasteland.

**We are the people God has formed through Christ;**

**We worship him, and we rejoice!**

Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

**We praise God for the grace that has saved us.**

**Praise God! We rejoice!**

Choral Music **Holy Is the Lord** Young Musicians  
Franz Schubert

**Rejoice in the Lord Always**  
Richard W. Gieseke

+ Hymn 34 **Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart** MARION

Psalm Responsorial Psalm 130 Kyle Damron, cantor



Lord, from the depths to you I cry; Lord, hear my prayer.

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Call to Confession Brandon Moncada

Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, we confess that we can cry out with one side of our mouths, “Hosanna! Jesus is our King,” yet with the other side of our mouths we honor the powers of this world to rule our lives. We participate with the crowd shouting for crucifixion, allowing fear, anger, and the pressure of the crowd to shape our words and actions.**

**Like Pilate, we cling to the illusion of control. Like Pilate and the crowd, we trust in the powers and systems of this world—large and small. We like influence, security, and self-protection more than we trust in the reign of Christ. Like the religious leaders who declared, “We have no king but the emperor,” we confess that our loyalties are divided. We choose power over mercy, comfort over courage, and the kingdoms of this world over the kingdom of your Son.**

**Ultimately, like the crowd, we participate in systems that benefit us while disadvantaging others. Too often we choose self-preservation over care for others. We resist sacrificial love. We avoid self-denial. We struggle to love our neighbors as ourselves.**

**Forgive us, O God. Open our eyes to see Christ standing before us—the true King who reigns not through abuse, domination, or violence but through sacrificial love. Turn our hearts again toward his kingdom, that we may follow him in humility, truth, and faithful obedience.**

*Silence for personal confession.*

Lord, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon (Psalm 130, *The Message*)

“If you, God, kept records on wrongdoings, who would stand a chance? As it turns out, forgiveness is your habit, and that’s why you’re worshiped.” Friends, through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.  
**In Christ, we are forgiven!**  
**Thanks be to God for this indescribable gift!**

+ Gospel Reading	John 19:1-16A	Allison Felter, Hal Morse, Bobby Olsen
The Gospel of our Lord. <b>Praise be to Christ.</b>		
Choral Music	<b>Caesar Is Our King</b> Taylor Scott Davis	Sanctuary Choir Steve Mitchener, soloist
Sermon		Matt Vandagriff
+ Hymn	<b>My Song Is Love Unknown</b> <i>See Insert</i>	RHOSYMEDRE
Offering and Offertory	<b>Ah, Holy Jesus</b> arr. Dale Wood	Julia Matthews
Silent Dedication of our Offering and Tithes		
Choral Blessing	<b>A Benediction of Peace</b> Randy Edwards   Claude L. Bass	Sanctuary Choir
Benediction		Matt Vandagriff
Postlude	<b>Finale</b> Gilbert M. Martin	Julia Matthews

*The flowers today are in honor of Douglas Copeland on his special birthday,  
from his loving wife MH and children Greg and Maggie.*



Scan to view our  
*On Mission*  
guide and learn  
all about KBC!

Whether you are worshipping with us online or in-person, welcome! We are happy you are here. If you are interested in becoming a member of Kirkwood Baptist Church, or if you have questions about the church, we encourage you to go to [www.kirkwoodbaptist.org](http://www.kirkwoodbaptist.org) where you might find some answers. **Additionally, you can find answers to questions or register for events by emailing [twright@kirkwoodbaptist.org](mailto:twright@kirkwoodbaptist.org) or calling 314-965-2349.**

A nursery is available for birth - Pre-K children and hearing devices are available upon request. Please see an usher for help.

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access online  
Giving



Call to Worship – *The Worship Sourcebook, Second Edition*, Copublished by The Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, Faith Alive Christian Resources, Baker Books, ©2013.

Call to Confession and Words of Assurance written by Jane Holtzclaw and provided for free distribution by Presbyterian Outlook, © Presbyterian Outlook, 2026; The Rev. Dr. Jane Holtzclaw is a Board Certified Psychiatrist and is ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). She is a member of Homestead Presbytery.

Prayer of Confession written by Kyle Damron and based on the episode “What Is Truth?” from the *I Love to Tell the Story* Narrative Lectionary Podcast, hosted by Karoline Lewis, Rolf Jacobson, and Kathryn Schifferdecker.

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#### Worship Leaders

Deacon for the Week/Reader	Allison Felter
Candle Lighter/Bible Opener/Reader	Malcolm Sandvos
Readers	Brandon Moncada, Allison Felter, Hal Morse, Bobby Olsen
Camera Operator & Videographer	Steven Vance
Sound Operator	Matt Forbis
Young Musicians	Mark & Ginny Lawson and Debbie Mitchener, Directors
Organ & Piano	Julia Matthews
Sanctuary Choir	

#### Staff

Rev. Dr. Matthew Vandagriff	Senior Pastor
Rev. Kyle Damron	Associate Pastor, Music and Worship
Krissi Vandagriff	Minister for Education and Spiritual Formation
Aaron Huffman	Youth Minister
Tracy Slezak	Worship Care

# My Song Is Love Unknown

RHOSYMEDRE

My song is love un - known, my Sa - vior's love for  
He came from hea - ven's throne sal - va - tion to be -  
Some - times we crowd his way and his sweet prais - es  
Un - heed - ing, we will have our dear Lord made a  
Here might I stay and sing, no sto - ry so di -

me; love to the love - less shown that they might love - ly  
stow; but they re - fused, and none the longed - for Christ would  
sing, re - sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas to our  
way, a mur - der - er to save, the prince of life to  
vine: nev - er was love, dear King, nev - er was grief like

be: but who am I, that for my sake my  
know: this is my friend, my friend in - deed, who  
king: then "cru - ci - fy" is all our breath, and  
slay. Yet stead - fast he to suf - fering goes, that  
thine. This is my friend in whose sweet praise I

Lord should take frail flesh and die? my Lord should take frail  
at my need his life did spend, who at my need his  
for his death we thirst and cry, and for his death we  
he his foes from thence might free, that he his foes from  
all my days could glad - ly spend, I all my days could

flesh and die?  
life did spend.  
thirst and cry.  
thence might free.  
glad - ly spend.