

**Thank you for joining us today. You are invited to worship  
with us each Sunday at 10:00 a.m.**

Participating in our service:  
Rev. Edward Dunn Pastor  
Emmett Scott, Lay Reader  
Justin Gonzalez, Bagpiper  
Woody Johnson, Organist

*Reformation Sunday  
October 29, 2023*



*Westminster - Palma Sola Presbyterian Church  
6510 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave West- Bradenton, FL 34209  
Kirkin of the Tartans*

The Kirkin' of the Tartans service is an occasion to remember and offer thanks to God for the distinctive part of the Body of Christ known as the Presbyterian Church. Our church derives its identity through the Protestant Reformation begun in Europe by Martin Luther and John Calvin, in Switzerland. The reform movement continued with John Knox in Scotland and the establishment of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland.

Presbyterianism was carried from Scotland to the American colonies and Presbyterian clergy and elders were influential in the governance of these new lands. The first Presbytery was established in Philadelphia by Francis Makemie in 1706.

The first Kirkin' service was celebrated at New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC on April 27, 1941. The Rev. Dr. Peter Marshall, was pastor of that congregation and the Chaplain of the U.S. Senate and the St. Andrew's Society of Washington. Dr. Marshall called our nation's attention to the horrific conditions in the United Kingdom during World War II; as they endured repeated bombings by the German army.

Drawing on historic events from English and Scottish history, the Kirkin' service focuses on the Glorious Rebellion of 1745 – a failed attempt by Bonnie Prince Charles to restore the throne of the United Kingdom to the house of King James and the Stuarts.

Following the Battle of Culloden in 1746 in which more than 1500 Scot Highlanders perished, the English government, attempted to purge the Highlands of its identity through an Act of Parliament that disarmed the Highlanders and made the wearing of tartans a criminal offense until it's repeal in 1782.

During this time of proscription there is evidence that Clansmen would carry banned swatches of their tartan to worship where at a point in the service the clergyperson would offer a blessing.

Our Kirkin' includes the presentation and blessing of Tartans, but the true object of our worship of God who calls everyone family. Reformation Day is our commemoration of the faith of many people from different lands and cultures around the world who constitute Christ's body.

We are glad you have joined us for this service and invite you to join us for lunch afterward. We ask that you consider becoming a regular part of our church – a community of faith – that seeks to be Christ's hands and feet; that listens and declares God's goodness and grace; and strives to practice love for neighbors.

### **The Clans and Tartans**

The word clan means family. These family groups were led by a single leader, and consisted of "native" and "broken" men. Native men were those related to the Clan Chief and one another by blood ties. Broken men were those from other clans who sought and lived under the protection of the more powerful clan.

Clans came to be identified by the tartan, or plaid, they wore. Among the Highlanders, these tartans were worn as Kilts. It wasn't until a royal visit in 1822 that tartans and kilts became a symbol of Scotland rather than an icon of the Highland dress. When King George IV visited Edinburgh and called all Clan Chiefs to appear in Highland dress, even the king wore the kilt. Great scurrying was done to locate what tartan each chief would wear. The old sets had been, in some instances, lost or forgotten. New tartans were developed for the royal event and subsequently the tartan made a return to Scottish tradition.

#### *A Scottish Kirk Blessing*

*By Robert Burns*

If after kirk you bide a wee,  
there's some wad like to speak to ye.  
If after kirk you rise and flee,  
we'll all seem cold and stiff to ye.  
The one tha's in the seat wi' ye  
is stranger here than you, maybe.  
All here ha's got their fears and cares;  
add you your soul unto our prayers;  
be you our angel unawares