KIRKIN

O' THE TARTANS



Hendersonville Presbyterian Church
Hendersonville, North Carolina

October 18, 2026

11:00 am

Kirkin' O' the Tartans

The History

"Kirkin'" comes from the Scottish Gaelic word, "kirk", which means church, and "Tartan" refers to the traditional plaid emblem of Scottish clans. The ceremony of Kirkin' O' the Tartans service is of American origin, though based on Scottish history and legend. After Bonnie Prince Charlie's Scottish forces were defeated by the English at the Battle of Culloden in 1746, Scotland once again came under British rule. To control the Scots, a special Act was passed that forbade the carrying of arms and the wearing of kilts, plain or any tartan which represented Scottish heritage. Orders were given for British troops to kill upon sight any person dressed in Highland garb or displaying the tartan.

This Act prompted the stubborn Scots to secretly carry with them a piece of their tartan as they went to the Kirk. The minister then slipped a blessing (a Kirkin') into the service for the tartans. The prohibition against the tartan lasted for nearly 50 years. At the repeal of the Act, the Church of Scotland celebrated with a Service of Family Covenant, at which time the tartan of each family was offered as a covenant expression for the Lord's blessing.

The First Kirkin'

The Kirkin' O' the Tartans service was created, or "revived", during World War II by the late Rev. Dr. Peter Marshall. The first Kirkin' was hosted by the Saint Andrew's Society of Washington, D.C.. Dr. Marshall, himself an eloquent Scot, and pastor of New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, led the service in 1943, choosing "Kirkin' O' the Tartan" as the title of his sermon. In 1947, he was elected Chaplain of the U.S. Senate.

Since then,

The ceremony was at that time held in Presbyterian churches of Scottish heritage across the United States. Today, the celebration is not limited to Presbyterian churches, but can be found in Episcopalian, Methodist, Roman Catholic, Orthodox, and other denominations around the world. In the present-day celebration, the Highlander patriotism, faithfulness, and strong independence are remembered by the displaying of tartans and public parade of the clans to the bagpipe. In churches, and even at Scottish Highland Games, the Kirkin' is celebrated by Scots – and those who would be Scots.

Human nature must be changed if we are ever to have an end to war or to correct the wrong situations that make our lives uneasy and our hearts sore. Now Christianity, the power of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit of God, is the only force that can change people for good.

-Rev. Peter Marshall

Clan Crests

The Clan Crest, or Coat of Arms, goes farther back in Scotland's history as a clan identifier than does the tartan. A clan's official crest design was approved and granted to the chief of the clan by the Lord Lyon King of Arms. Its acceptance and authenticity were then recorded in the Public Register of All Arms and in Bearings in Scotland – a register established in 1592 during the reign of James VI (before he also became James I of England) and kept today in the Court of the Lord Lyon in Edinburgh. It is acknowledged as the most magnificent heraldic manuscript in Europe.

In ancient times, it was the custom for clan chiefs to give their relations and followers a metal plate of their crest to wear as a badge indicating clan allegiance. It was affixed to their clothing by a buckle and strap usually inscribed with the Chief's motto. Only a Chief or his direct heir was permitted to wear the crest without the strap and buckle.

The Evolution of the Kilt

No doubt the most identifiable garment worn by the Scots is the kilt, regardless of the fabric. The kilt of modern times is made with eight yards of tartan, pleated together in the back, left unpleated in the front, and designed like a wrap-a-round apron. Laid out flat it would have pleats in the middle, with two unpleated, flat sections on either side. In examining its history, it also helps to remember that the modern kilt is made to cover only the lower half of the body, from the waist down to the knees. In the late 1500's, the "Feileadh Mhor," or the Great Kilt, as we saw on William Wallace in *Braveheart*, was made to cover most of the body, from the knees to the neck, and sometimes even the head. It was made using twice the width of cloth as a modern kilt. One laid out the yardage of the very wide cloth on the ground and proceeded to pleat the center on the fabric, leaving the two flat sections on either side. It would look much the same as the modern kilt when spread out, but with the two flat side sections being twice as long.

Source: Clothing I: What's up with the Guy in the Skirt?
(www.Shetlandpiper.com: Volume I, Issue 5, April 30, 2001)

Opportunities for Worship and Service

WELCOME GUESTS!

We would like to welcome all our guests who are joining us for worship today, both in-person and online! We are so glad you are here. If you have any questions about the HPC Family, please make a note in the friendship pad, online on the comment bar, message us through Facebook, or email the office. Thank you for joining us today! We hope you will have an encounter with the Living God and join us again in worship.

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

We are One Church with two styles of worship:
Modern Worship Service at 9:00 am in the Chapel
Traditional Worship Service at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary
Come join us for a wonderful worship opportunity!

SUNDAY SCHOOL:
Adult Sunday school meets at 9:30 am.

The Service of the Lord's Day

October 18, 2026 - 11:00 am

Preparatory Meditation

On August 17, 1560, reformer John Knox and five of his colleagues presented the first Reformed Confession of Faith written in the English language to the Parliament of Scotland. "The Scots Confession," as it is now known, united all of Scotland in its politics and in the church. From that day on, the nation was united under a Protestant Flag, emblazoned with the Cross of St. Andrew. It was the birth of the Church of Scotland, and Presbyterians became a new denomination of Christians. Just as the clans of Scotland were united by faith in Jesus Christ, we cry out to God today to unite our country and bring peace to a warring world in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. So, with voices singing, drums beating and bagpipes playing, let us celebrate our faith heritage while lifting up the Name of Jesus, "the only name that is above every name, that at the mention of the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, of those in heaven, those on earth and those under the earth and that every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the Glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:9)

Prelude:

Morning Has Broken — a Scottish hymn by Eleanor Farjeon

Tolling of the Trinity:

Three tolls to honor God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Welcome:

Rev. Dwayne Durham

Call to Worship:

Leader: O God, you summon the day to dawn; you teach the morning to waken the earth.

People: Great is Your name. Great is Your love.

Leader: For You the valleys shall sing for joy; the trees of the field shall clap their hands. For Great is Your name and great is Your love.

People: For You the monarchs of the earth shall bow; the poor and persecuted shall shout for joy. For great is Your name and great is Your love.

All: Your love and mercy shall last forever, fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise. Great is Your name. Great is Your love.

Procession of Pipes:

Highland Cathedral — Traditional

Worship Leaders, Pipe Band, and Tartans

(Please remain seated throughout the entire processional.)

Calling of the Clans:

Rob McClelland & Chuck Rouse

Carriers in the Processional

McClellan	Rob McClelland
Morrison (Ancient)	Chuck Rouse
House of Boyd	Dennis Boyd
Davidson (Ancient)	Turner Rouse, Sr.
Campbell (Dress)	Gib Campbell
MacGowan	Taylor McClelland
Hamilton (Dress)	Randy Wilder
Bruce	Stephen Charles Lipe
Colquhoun	Steve Kilpatrick
Cameron	Scott Perry
Gordon	James Gordon
McClintock	Lynnette Stark
MacDonald	Mary Lavery-Perry
Henderson	Vicki Clauson
MacMillan	Robbie Hever Lipe
Irvine (Ancient)	John Irvin
Wallace	Sharon Wallace Ferrell
MacDonald of the Isles (Ancient Hunting)	Richard A. McDonald
District of Carolina	Evie Bowen
Lindsay	Linda Stephens
MacPherson	Sally Hursey
MacGregor (Modern)	Bill Grier
Stewart (Dress)	Edwin Story
McLeod of Raasay	Rich Shader
Cunningham	Terry Schultz
Richardson	Marilyn Frenier
Magill	Stacy McClelland
MacNaughton	Sandy Dublynn
Campbell of Bredalbane	Christi Mobley
Fraser	Hannah Pope Beck
Buchanan	Lauren Mobley
MacKay (Weathered)	Stuart Pope MacKenzie
Morgan	Caryl Mobley
MacKenzie	George Pope
Galloway	Jonell Grier

Murray of Atholl (Dress)
Elliott
MacArthur (Modern)
Davidson (Modern)
Taylor
McKean
District of Aberdeen
District of USA

Steve Spangler
Jill Kutsch
Jack Dublynn
Jan Demirgian
Larry Mobley
Sherry Thomas
Ragena White
Clay Haskins

Tartans displayed in the loft for Blessing

Anderson
Burns
Farquharson
Galloway (Hunting)
Graham of Montrose (Modern)
Graham of Montrose (Ancient)
Gunn
Hamilton (Ancient Hunting)
Hardie
Hay
Home
Nisbet
MacDonald (Dress)
MacDonald of Glencoe
MacDonald (Lord of the Isles)
MacGregor (Ancient)
MacKay (Modern)
MacRae
Watt
District of Perthshire House of Edgar
St. Andrews Flag of Scotland

The Blessing of the Clans and Families of our Church: Rev. Dwayne Durham

Leader: The Tartans! (Pause until all Banner bearers lift high their tartans.)

People: On behalf of all clans and families represented here, we raise these tartans before Almighty God in gratitude for our heritage and pray God's blessing on his servant people in all lands.

Leader: Eternal God, our Father, bless all the families represented in our church that they may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with Thee, through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Posting of Tartans:

*Hymn: *Amazing Grace* (verses 1-4, 6) No. 460

Unison Prayer of Confession: (adapted from Peter Marshall) Rev. Dwayne Durham

Merciful God, we humble ourselves in Thy presence, confessing our unworthiness and sinfulness in Thy sight. We have broken Thy holy law. We have not sought first Thy kingdom and righteousness. We have been anxious and troubled about many things and have neglected the things that belong to our peace. We have not loved our neighbor as ourselves or done to others as we would hope they would do to us. Most gracious God, our heavenly Father, who hast given Thy Son, Jesus Christ, to save Thy people from their sins; forgive us, we beseech Thee; cleanse us from all unrighteousness, and renew a right spirit within us.

Silent Confession and 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.

Assurance of Pardon:

The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you, the Lord turn His countenance towards you, and grant you His peace. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen!

Passing of the Peace:

The Peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Affirmation of Faith: (from the Scots Confession)

As we believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, so we firmly believe that from the beginning there has been, now is, and to the end of the world shall be, one Kirk, that is to say, one company and multitude of people chosen by God, who rightly worship and embrace God by true faith in Christ Jesus, who is the only Head of the Kirk, even as it is the body and spouse of Christ Jesus.

Response: The Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Offertory	*Thanks Be To God*	Traditional arr. Sheldon Curry
Scripture Reading:	**Ephesians 6:10-20**	Pastor Rob McClelland
Sermon:	**Battle Ready!**	
*Hymn:	*Be Thou My Vision*	No. 642
*Benediction		Pastor Rob McClelland
*Recessional:	*Scotland the Brave* Worship Leaders, Tartans, and Pipe Band	Traditional

**Those who are able may stand.*

The flowers are given to the Glory of God by Richard A. McDonald
in remembrance of the H. M. McDonald family
and in grateful recognition for the Christian heritage interwoven
in the fabric of our Scottish heritage.

Participating in this morning's service:

Worship Leaders:
Rev. Robert McClelland
Rev. Dwayne Durham
Linda-Boyle Smith, Director of Worship
Chancel Choir
Tim Browning, Accompanist
Joe Bailey and the Montreat Scottish Pipes and Drums
Calling of the Clans: Chuck Rouse, Rob McClelland
Paraments made by Carol Saluppo
The custom-made tartan racks were designed and built by Richard A. McDonald,
Peter Summerville, and the late Kevin Patterson.
Program Director: Carol Broyles

CCLI Streaming Plus #22659681, CCLI #305041, CCS Perform Music #22659667