

# Pilgrim Hill

REFORMED FELLOWSHIP



SERVICE OF COVENANT RENEWAL



THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

21 DECEMBER 2025

## POEM

### GLORIA IN PROFUNDIS

(By GK Chesterton)

There has fallen on earth for a token  
A god too great for the sky.  
He has burst out of all things and broken  
The bounds of eternity:  
Into time and the terminal land  
He has strayed like a thief or a lover,  
For the wine of the world brims over,  
Its splendour is spilt on the sand.

Who is proud when the heavens are humble,  
Who mounts if the mountains fall,  
If the fixed stars topple and tumble  
And a deluge of love drowns all-  
Who rears up his head for a crown,  
Who holds up his will for a warrant,  
Who strives with the starry torrent,  
When all that is good goes down?

For in dread of such falling and failing  
The fallen angels fell  
Inverted in insolence, scaling  
The hanging mountain of hell:  
But unmeasured of plummet and rod  
Too deep for their sight to scan,  
Outrushing the fall of man  
Is the height of the fall of God.

Glory to God in the Lowest  
The spout of the stars in spate-  
Where thunderbolt thinks to be slowest  
And the lightning fears to be late:  
As men dive for sunken gem  
Pursuing, we hunt and hound it,  
The fallen star has found it  
In the cavern of Bethlehem.

## PRELUDE, ANNOUNCEMENTS, & PREPARATION

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### For Preparation

“And he came and preached peace to you who were far off  
and peace to those who were near.” (Ephesians 2:17–18)

\*At points in the worship service annotated (†), please stand if able.

† **The Gloria Patri (Refrain of “Angels We Have Heard on High”)** –*with uplifted hands*–  
(see next page)

The musical score is written for piano in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of two systems. The first system has a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a melody with eighth and quarter notes, and the bass staff has a harmonic accompaniment with quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics 'Glo - - - - - ri - a -' are written below the treble staff. The second system also has a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a melody with quarter and eighth notes, and the bass staff has a harmonic accompaniment with quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics 'in ex - cel - sis De - o. De - - - - o.' are written below the treble staff. There are first and second endings marked with '1' and '2' above the treble staff.

## THE LORD CALLS US

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### The Call to Worship

The Lord be with you!

**And also with you!**

### From Isaiah 62:10-12

Go through, go through the gates;

**prepare the way for the people;**

build up, build up the highway;

**clear it of stones;**

**lift up a signal over the peoples.**

Behold, the Lord has proclaimed

**to the end of the earth:**

Say to the daughter of Zion,

**“Behold, your salvation comes;**

behold, his reward is with him,

**and his recompense before him.”**

And they shall be called The Holy People,  
**The Redeemed of the Lord;**  
and you shall be called Sought Out,  
**A City Not Forsaken.**

## Hymn – “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” (893)

## WE CONFESS AND ARE CLEANSED

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### Corporate Prayer of Confession

Our Lord and our God, we see so many places in our world  
where rebellion is openly celebrated.  
In this moment, we come confessing that rebellion still exists in our own heart.  
As the prophet Nathan said to David: “You are the man!” So it is with us.

**We have judged and envied others.**  
**We have lied with our mouths and lusted with our eyes.**  
**O God, we confess that we have sinned and plead the precious blood of Christ.**

In this Advent season we marvel at your coming in the incarnation to save ruined sinners.  
We confess how deeply we still need you to come in our lives today.  
To renew our minds. To reshape our affections.  
To reinvigorate us in our fight against the world, the flesh and the Devil.

**Gracious Father, forgive us our sins.**  
**Holy Spirit, create in us clean hearts.**  
**Incarnate Christ, we plead your precious blood.**

### Kyrie: “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” (vs. 1 & 3)

1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence,  
and with fear and trembling stand;  
ponder nothing earthly minded,  
for, with blessing in His hand,  
Christ our God to earth descendeth,  
our full homage to demand.

3 Rank on rank the host of heaven  
spreads its vanguard on the way,  
as the Light of light descendeth  
from the realms of endless day,  
that the pow'rs of hell may vanish  
as the darkness clears away.

### Silent Prayers of Confession –*kneeling, if able*–

#### ✠ Assurance of Pardon – 1 John 2:2

“He is the propitiation for our sins,  
and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.”

## Sursum Corda

So, lift up your hearts!

**We lift them up to the Lord!**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

**It is right to give him thanks and praise!**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to You, Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth. Therefore, we praise You, Triune God, and we join our voices with the angels, the archangels, and the whole company of Heaven in this hymn of eternal praise:

## THE LORD CONSECRATES US

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### Franklin Sanctus

Chord markings: D, G, Asus, D, G, Asus, G, A, G, D, Asus, G, A D/F# G, D, A/G, G, Asus, G, A D/F# G, A D/F# G, A D/F# G, A D/F# G, A D, A - men.

Lyrics:  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord. Ho - ly, ho - ly,  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord. Ho - ly, ho - ly,  
God of pow'r and might, Heav'n and earth are full of Your glo - ry.  
Ho -  
Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He who  
san-na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est, Ho -  
Ho - san-na in the high - est, Ho - san-na in the  
san-na in the high - est, Ho - san-na in the high - est. A - men.  
high - est, Ho - san-na in the high - est. A - men.

Music: Gregory D. Wilbur, 2009 © wilburmusic.com

Text: Isaiah 6:3, Revelation 4:8, Matthew 21:9

## Profession of Faith – The Apostles’ Creed

We believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth,  
And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hades. On the third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and now sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty,  
from whence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic\* church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*\*catholic refers to the universal collection of God’s people throughout all time and from all places.*

## The Westminster Shorter Catechism: #106-107

Q. 106. What do we pray for in the sixth petition?

**A. In the sixth petition, which is, “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,” we pray, that God would either keep us from being tempted to sin, or support and deliver us when we are tempted.**

Q. 107. What doth the conclusion of the Lord’s Prayer teach us?

**A. The conclusion of the Lord’s Prayer, which is, “For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen,” teacheth us to take our encouragement in prayer from God only, and in our prayers to praise him, ascribing kingdom, power, and glory to him; and in testimony of our desire and assurance to be heard, we say, Amen.**

## Hymn – “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (880)

### Scripture Readings:

Old Testament Reading: Deuteronomy 30:1-6  
*The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!***

New Testament Reading: Ephesians 2:11-13, 17-19  
*The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!***

## ✠ Hymn– “Hills of the North, Rejoice” (860)

### Prayer of Adoration and Intercession

*When you hear, “Lord, in your mercy,” please respond with: “**Hear our prayer.**”*

## Sermon – “Advent & the Unmaking of the Curse: EXILE”

Genesis 3:20-24; John 1:14  
Pastor Brooks Potteiger

### The Lord’s Prayer (see #1108 for music)

Our Father, which 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.

## TITHES AND TRIBUTE OFFERINGS

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God of all provision—  
from Whom all things were created  
and for Whom all things were created  
we recognize in this moment that all we have is from you.

**We are honored to be the King’s stewards.**

You have blessed us richly,  
and we ask for wisdom in all of our financial dealings,  
both personally and corporately.

**Receive this portion of our harvest which we bring to You  
in faith, obedience, and with joy.**

† Hymn – “Good Chrisian Men, Rejoice” (906)

Hymn – “While Shepherds Watched” (888)

## THE LORD COMMUNES WITH US

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### The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

The Words of Institution and the Lord’s Table

*The Lord’s Supper is a sacramental family meal for Christians. We invite all baptized Christians, who are in good standing at a church that proclaims the gospel, to the table. By coming, you acknowledge that you have trusted in Christ alone for your justification before God, that you are currently at peace with God and neighbor, and that you are seeking to grow daily in holiness. If you have any questions, please reach out to Pastor Brooks.*

**THE BREAD – “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”** (see next page)

*To display our unity, please wait to eat the bread until instructed.*

## It Came upon the Midnight Clear

Capo 1:

1. It came up - on the mid - night clear, That glo - rious song of old,  
 2. Still through the clo - ven skies they come With peace - ful wings un - furled,  
 3. And ye, be - neath life's crush - ing load, Whose forms are bend - ing low,  
 4. For lo! the days are has - t'ning on, By proph - et - bards fore - told,

From an - gels bend - ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:  
 And still their Heav'n - ly mu - sic floats O'er all the wea - ry world;  
 Who toil a - long the climb - ing way With pain - ful steps and slow,  
 When with the ev - er - cir - cling years Comes round the age of gold

"Peace on the earth, good will to men, From Heav'n's all - gra - cious King!"  
 A - bove its sad and low - ly plains They bend on hov - 'ring wing,  
 Look now! for glad and gold - en hours Come swift - ly on the wing.  
 When peace shall o - ver all the earth Its an - cient splen - dors fling,

The world in sol - emn still - ness lay To hear the an - gels sing.  
 And ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds The bless - ed an - gels sing.  
 Oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road, And hear the an - gels sing!  
 And the whole world send back the song Which now the an - gels sing.

Music: Richard S. Willis, 1850  
 Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1850

CAROL  
 8 6. 8 6. 8 6. 8 6.

## THE WINE

*We pass the wine with "the peace of Christ." You are welcome to drink the wine immediately and to fellowship freely during this time. If juice is desired, it will be the lighter liquid in the tray.*



# THE LORD COMMISSIONS US

## \* Commissioning Hymn – “Lo! He Comes”

522

### Lo! He Comes

1. Lo! He comes, with clouds de - scend - ing, Once for  
 2. Ev - 'ry eye shall now be - hold Him, Robed in  
 3. Ev - 'ry is - land, sea, and moun - tain, Heav'n and  
 4. Now re - demp - tion, long ex - pect - ed, See in  
 5. Yea, a - men! let all a - dore Thee, High on

fa - vored sin - ners slain; Thou - sand thou - sand  
 dread - ful maj - es - ty; Those who set at  
 earth, shall flee a - way; All who hate Him  
 sol - emn pomp ap - pear! All His saints, by the  
 Thine e - ter - nal throne; Sav - ior, take the

saints at - tend - ing Swell the tri - umph of His  
 naught and sold Him, Pierced, and nailed Him to the  
 must, con - found - ed, Hear the trump pro - claim the  
 man re - ject - ed, Now shall meet Him in the  
 pow'r and glo - ry, Claim the king - dom for Thine

train: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 tree, Deep - ly wail - ing, Deep - ly wail - ing,  
 day, Come to judg - ment! Come to judg - ment!  
 air: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 own: O come quick - ly; O come quick - ly;

Al - le - lu - ia! God ap - pears on earth to reign.  
 Deep - ly wail - ing, Shall the true Mes - si - ah see.  
 Come to judg - ment! Come to judg - ment, come a - way!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! See the day of God ap - pear!  
 O come quick - ly. Al - le - lu - ia! Come, Lord, come.

## Charge

### **Benediction** (Aaronic Blessing from Numbers 6)

The LORD bless you and keep you;  
the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.  
the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

### **Closing Doxology** –*with uplifted hands*–

#### **Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus** (vs. 1)

Come, thou long expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.

Pastor: Peace be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

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## **For Family Worship**

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### ***Daily Catechesis***

- **Weekly Westminster Shorter Catechism:** #106-107 (see liturgy, pg. 5)
- **Hymn of the Week:** “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” (see liturgy, pg. 7)
- **Verse of the Week:** “But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.” (Ephesians 2:13)
- **Prayer/Poem:** (see liturgy, pg. 1)

## Prayer Requests

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### **Current**

- For the Tawls as they grieve the passing of grandma Deloris - a 98 year old saint who is now surely in the arms of her Savior.
- For Amanda Kitchen as she suffered a miscarriage last week.
- For Scotty Rowlett's uncle who has struggled with some internal bleeding
- For St. Mark Reformed - the church they rent from is disbanding as a congregation at the end of the year. Pray the Lord allow the building to come to St. Mark.
- For Caitlin Prieskorn's grandma, as the diagnosis has come back as cancerous and likely terminal. Pray for peace for the whole family, and that her hope in Christ would only grow and sweeten as she faces what's ahead.
- Salvation for our unbelieving family members - thinking especially of Ryan Heft's cousin (Connor), and Becky's sister (Laura), brother (Orly) and his wife (Amanda) and daughters (Rose, Evey, and Arya).
- For Caleb Haymes, and his ongoing physical issues.
- For the folks who are newer to our community. That they would get established quickly.
- For our own place in God's timing.
- For the mothers who are with child. Safety for all the mommas and babies.

- **Marti Cochran** - any time
- **Brooke Stanifer** - Feb
- **Sandy Huffman** - March
- **Madison Haymes** - March
- **Colby Abrams** - April
- **Joy Tingle** - April
- **Kimberly Hodges** - June
- **Tay Hoeks** - July
- **Paige Llewellyn** - August
- **Holly Carter** - Sept

*If you become with child and want to be added to the prayer list, please email [naomi@pilgrimhill.church](mailto:naomi@pilgrimhill.church)*

### **Ongoing**

- For a teaching elder for the new CREC plant in Columbia, King's Cross Reformed Church
- For the CREC church plant in DC that launched in July
- Favor and wisdom for those who have businesses, or are dreaming of starting one.
- Provision, peace, wisdom, and diligence for those feeling the financial pinch
- Great wisdom for Pete in his role as SecDef and continued protection - both spiritual and physical - for the Hegseths
- For the ministries we financially support:
  - Cumberland Crisis Pregnancy: Provision, protection, and wisdom
  - The Joint Eastern European Project (J.E.E.P.): See their website for current prayer requests
  - Recovery Refuge House in Ridgetop

## Upcoming Events

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### **A SERVICE OF LESSONS, CAROLS, & CANDLELIGHT - December 24th**

- At the church from 4:30-5:30pm

### **NEW in 2026 - MID-WEEK THURSDAY GATHERINGS**

- 6:00-6:40pm Food | 6:45-7:15 Bible Study | 7:15-7:30 Singing
- JANUARY- 8th & 22nd | FEBRUARY 12th/26th | MARCH 12th/26th | APRIL 9th/23rd | MAY 7th

### **MEN'S WEEKLY BOOK STUDY - *The Holiness of God*, by R.C. Sproul**

- Fridays at 6:15 am on Pastor Brooks's back porch

### **MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP MEALS**

- First Sunday of every month
- Immediately following the service at the church
- No Sunday School on these days
- **If you would like to serve on the fellowship team, email Sharon Haney at [daylily1980@comcast.net](mailto:daylily1980@comcast.net)**

### **WEEKLY WEDNESDAY VIRTUAL PRAYER MEETING**

- Beginning August 13th
- From 7-7:30pm

### **Officers:**

#### The Session:

- Pastor Brooks Potteiger – [pastor@pilgrimhill.church](mailto:pastor@pilgrimhill.church)
- Assistant Pastor Clint Lum – [pastorclint@pilgrimhill.church](mailto:pastorclint@pilgrimhill.church)
- Josh Boyd (Ruling Elder)

#### The Diaconate:

- Chris Boyd
- Shelvy Huffman
- Scotty Rowlett

**Submit a question for Pastor Brooks  
for an upcoming Q&A:**



**Church-wide Signal Thread  
for Announcements:**



**Meal sign-up for Recovery Refuge:**



*WE AT PILGRIM HILL are striving to cultivate sturdy, maturing Christians across generations for the glory of the Lord and the gladdening expansion of His Kingdom.*