

Pilgrim Hill

REFORMED FELLOWSHIP



SERVICE OF COVENANT RENEWAL



THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

14 DECEMBER 2025

POEM

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN (By GK Chesterton)

Said the Lord God, "Build a house,
Build it in the gorge of death,
Found it in the throats of hell.
Where the lost sea muttereth,
Fires and whirlwinds, build it well."

Laboured sternly flame and wind,
But a little, and they cry,
"Lord, we doubt of this Thy will,
We are blind and murmur why,"
And the winds are murmuring still.

Said the Lord God, "Build a house,
Cleave its treasure from the earth,
With the jarring powers of hell
Strive with formless might and mirth,
Tribes and war-men, build it well."

Then the raw red sons of men
Brake the soil, and lopped the wood,
But a little and they shrill,
"Lord, we cannot view Thy good,"
And the wild men clamour still.

Said the Lord God, "Build a house,
Smoke and iron, spark and steam,
Speak and vote and buy and sell;
Let a new world throb and stream,
Seers and makers, build it well."

Strove the cunning men and strong,
But a little and they cry,
"Lord, mayhap we are but clay,
And we cannot know the why,"
And the wise men doubt to-day.

Yet though worn and deaf and blind,
Force and savage, king and seer
Labour still, they know not why;
At the dim foundation here,
Knead and plough and think and ply.

Till at last, mayhap, hereon,
Fused of passion and accord,
Love its crown and peace its stay
Rise the city of the Lord
That we darkly build to-day.

PRELUDE, ANNOUNCEMENTS, & PREPARATION

For Preparation

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
(Isaiah 40:3)

*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 and voice. It consists of two systems. The first system shows the vocal line with the lyrics "Glo - - - - - ri - a -" and the piano accompaniment. The second system shows the vocal line with the lyrics "in ex - cel - sis De - o. De - - - - o." and the piano accompaniment. The piano part features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a more active bass line in the left hand.

THE LORD CALLS US

The Call to Worship

The Lord be with you!

And also with you!

From Isaiah 40:1-5

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,

and cry to her

that her warfare is ended,

that her iniquity is pardoned,

that she has received from the Lord's hand

double for all her sins.

A voice cries: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;

make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,

and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

Hymn – “O Come, All Ye Faithful” (904)

WE CONFESS AND ARE CLEANSED

Corporate Prayer of Confession

Gracious Father, Light has come into the world through our Savior Jesus Christ.
And we have been redeemed and remade by that Light.
Yet, the darkness of sin still corrupts our thoughts and deeds.

We walk in the light now. Forgive us Father, for all the sins of this past week.

We know that our flesh loves the darkness,
and our Enemy wants us to remain there.
But it's in the light where we receive forgiveness
and where fellowship is restored.

We walk in the light now. Forgive us Father, for all our sins.

Holy Spirit, where presumptuous sins have gone undetected, expose them now.
Search us thoroughly with the light of holy conviction.

**Keep your servants back from presumptuous sins.
Let them not have dominion over us.**

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 Peter 2:24

“He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.”

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

Sanctus

with vigor
fff Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Lord, God of Hosts! Hea-ven and earth are
full of Your glo-ry! Ho - san-na in the High - est! Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the High - est.

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: #103-105

Q. 103. What do we pray for in the third petition?

A. In the third petition, which is, “Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven,” we pray, that God, by his grace, would make us able and willing to know, obey, and submit to his will in all things, as the angels do in heaven.

Q. 104. What do we pray for in the fourth petition?

A. In the fourth petition, which is, “Give us this day our daily bread,” we pray, that of God’s free gift we may receive a competent portion of the good things of this life, and enjoy his blessing with them.

Q. 105. What do we pray for in the fifth petition?

A. In the fifth petition, which is, “And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors,” we pray, that God, for Christ’s sake, would freely pardon all our sins; which we are the rather encouraged to ask, because by his grace we are enabled from the heart to forgive others.

† Hymn – “The Angel Gabriel” (869)

Scripture Readings:

Old Testament Reading: Psalm 127:1-2

*The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!***

New Testament Reading: Luke 1:46-56

*The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!***

† Hymn– “God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen” (911)

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: Adam’s Frustration”

Genesis 3:16b-20; 1 Corinthians 15:57-58

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

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 – “My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord” (1099)
Hymn – “Prepare the Way, O Zion” (944)

THE LORD COMMUNES WITH US

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 – “The First Noel” (see next page)

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

The First Noel

1. The first No - el the an - gel did say Was to cer - tain poor
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star Shin-ing in the
 3. And by the light of that same star Three wise men
 4. This star drew nigh to the north - west; O'er Beth - le -
 5. Then en - tered in those wise men three, Full rev - 'rent -
 6. Then let us all with one ac - cord Sing prais - es

shepherds in fields as they lay; In fields where they lay, keep-ing their
 east, be - yond them far; And to the earth it gave great
 came from coun - try far; To seek for a King was their in -
 hem it took its rest, And there it did both stop and
 ly up - on their knee, And of - fered there, in His pres -
 to our Heav'n - ly Lord That made both heav'n and earth of

sheep, On a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
 light, And so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
 tent, And to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No -
 stay, Right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.
 ence, Their gold and myrrh and frank - in - cense.
 naught And with His blood man - kind hath bought.

el, No - el, No - el, Born is the King of Is - ra - el!

Music: English traditional melody, in William Sandys' *Christmas Carols*, 1833
 Text: English carol, in Davies Gilbert's *Some Ancient Christmas Carols*, 1823

THE FIRST NOEL
 Irregular

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 – “Brightest and Best of the Sons” (872)

Charge

Benediction (1 Corinthians 15:58)

“Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable,
always abounding in the work of the Lord,
knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”

Closing Doxology –with uplifted hands–

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here be low;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Music: *Genevan Psalter*, 1551
Text: Thomas Ken, 1709

OLD 100th
8 8. 8 8.

Pastor: Peace be with you.

People: And also with you.

For Family Worship

Daily Catechesis

- **Weekly Westminster Shorter Catechism:** #103-105 (see liturgy, pg. 5)
- **Hymn of the Week:** “The First Noel” (see liturgy, pg. 7)
- **Verse of the Week:** “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.” (Colossians 3:23)
- **Poem:** (see liturgy, pg. 1)

Prayer Requests

Current

- For Scotty Rowlett's uncle. He has internal bleeding and the source of the bleed has yet to be located. Pray that the doctors can quickly discover and remedy the situation.
- 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 Wes's stepfather, who had surgery to remove skin cancer from his leg this week. That the cancer would be fully removed, and his recovery would speed along well.
- 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.
- For opportunities to share the gospel with unbelieving family members this Christmas season. That we would seek out opportunities, and take them in faith.
- Physical comfort Mr. and Mrs. Hays amidst some pesky physical ailments.
- For our college students, Taylor Frost and Anna Smith.
- For a new job for Coleman Philips.
- For Caleb Haymes, and his ongoing physical issues.
- For those who are waiting to hear back about job promotions, and the opening of other vocational doors. May the Lord bless us with productive plows and fruitful fields.
- For the mothers who are with child. Safety for all the mommas and babies.
- For the folks who are newer to our community. That they would get established quickly.
- For our own place in God's timing.

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

CAROLING - December 17th

- From 6-7pm
- The neighbor TBD

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**

WEEKLY WEDNESDAY VIRTUAL PRAYER MEETING

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

Officers:

The Session:

- Pastor Brooks Potteiger – pastor@pilgrimhill.church
- Assistant Pastor Clint Lum – 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.