Pilgrim Hill

REFORMED FELLOWSHIP

Service of Covenant Renewal

The Second Sunday in Advent

07 December 2025

POEM

Man's Maker was made man,
that He, Ruler of the stars,
might nurse at His mother's breast;
that the Bread might hunger,
the Fountain thirst, the Light sleep,
the Way be tired on its journey;
that the Truth might be accused of false wit-ness,
the Teacher be beaten with whips,
the Foundation be suspended on wood;
that Strength might grow weak;
that the Healer might be wounded;
that Life might die.
(Saint Augustine)

QUOTES

“15 Thus says the LORD: “A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping.
Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children,
because they are no more.” 16 Thus says the Lord: “Keep your voice from weeping,
and your eyes from tears, for there is a reward for your work, declares the Lord,
and they shall come back from the land of the enemy. 17 There is hope for your future,
declares the Lord, and your children shall come back to their own country.”
(Jeremiah 31:15–17)

“‘Son,'he said, 'ye cannot in your present state understand eternity…
That is what mortals misunderstand. They say of some temporal suffering,
"No future bliss can make up for it," not knowing that Heaven, once attained,
will work backwards and turn even that agony into a glory.”
(C.S. Lewis, *The Great Divorce*)

PRELUDE & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

"And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you." (Genesis 17:7)

- **Dakota Blythe DeVault**, 10
- **Caleb Ellis DeVault**, 8
- **Micah Willow DeVault**, 5
- **Gideon Wilder DeVault**, 2
- **Gabriel Thomas Jackson DeVault**, 2 months

Congregation Response – "I Bind unto Myself Today," v. 9 *(for music, see #794)*

9. I bind unto myself today,
The strong name of the Trinity:
By invocation of the same,
The Three in One and One in Three,
Of Whom all nature hath creation,
Eternal Father, Spirit, Word:
Praise to the Lord of my salvation
Salvation is of Christ the Lord!

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

"...all who believed were together and had all things in common." (Acts 2:44)

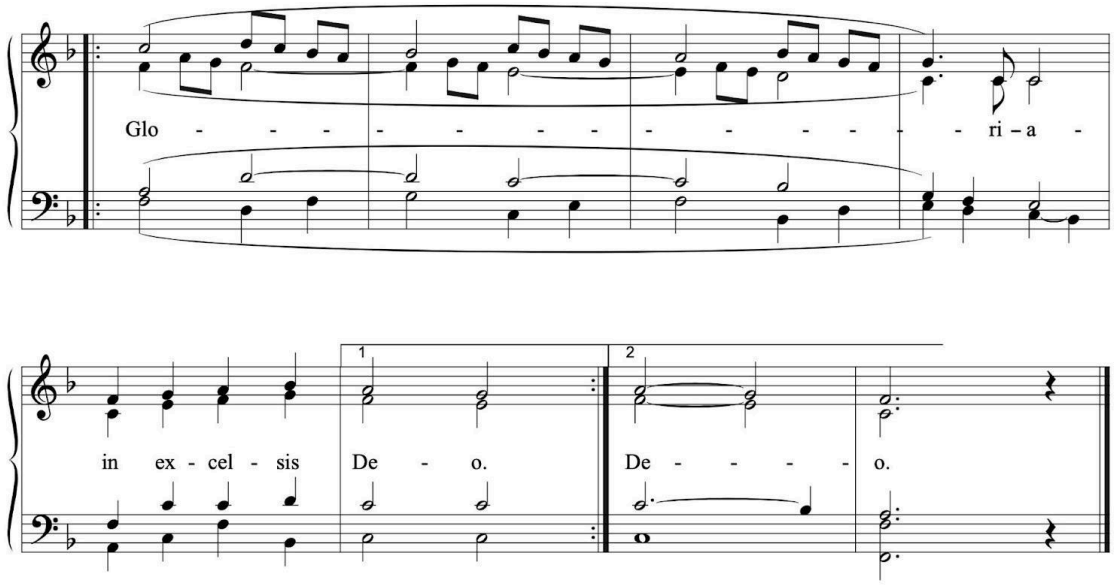
- **The DeVault household**

PREPARATION

For Preparation

"[B]ecause of the tender mercy of our God,
whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace."
(Luke 1:78–79)

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



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 – "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" (873)

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.

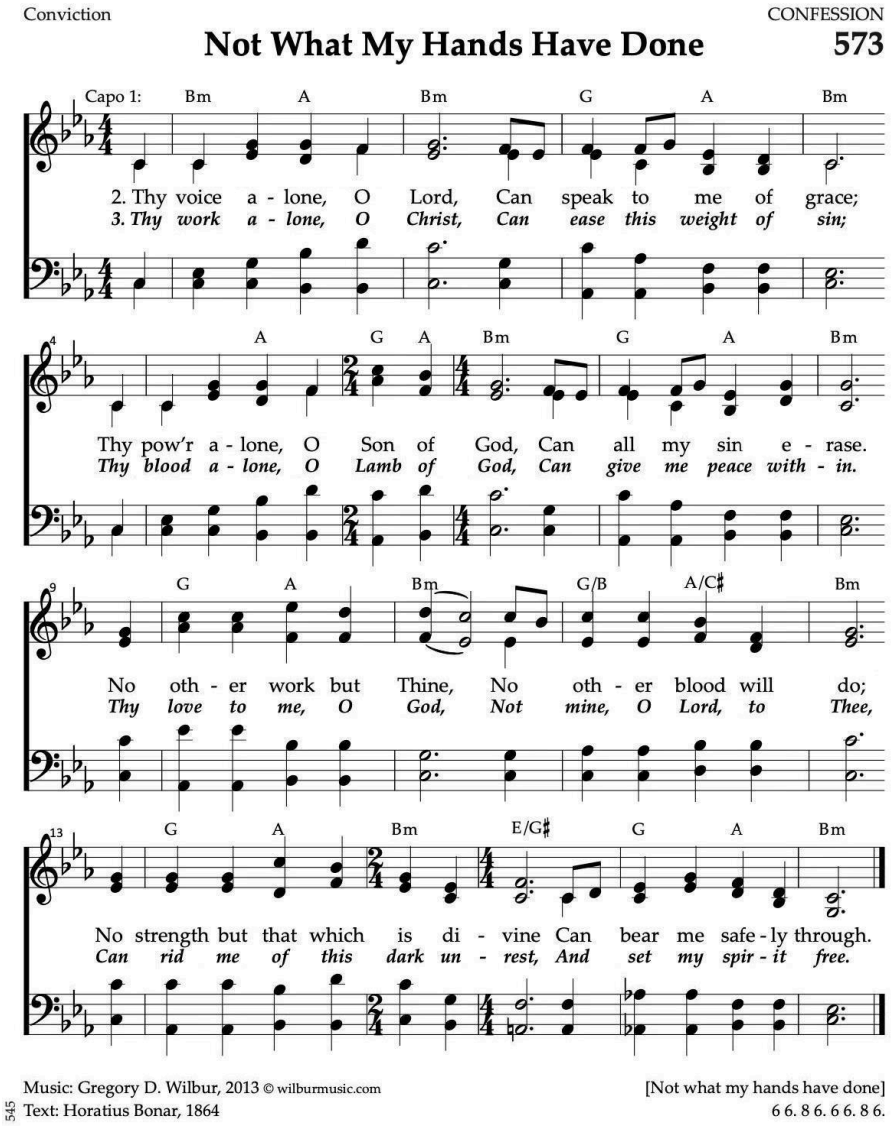
We walk in the light now. Forgive us Father, for all the sins of this past week.

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.



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

Assurance of Pardon – 1 Peter 3:18a

"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God…"

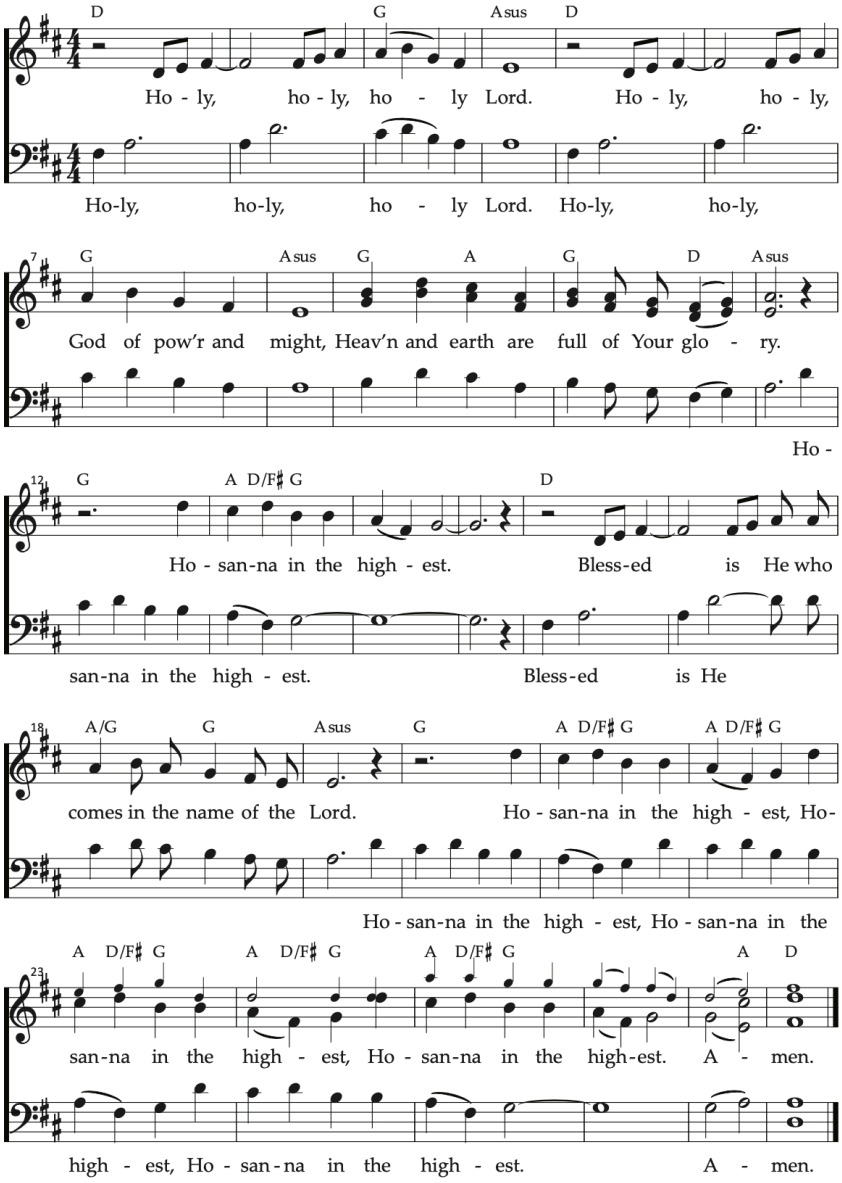
Sursum Corda

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

Franklin Sanctus



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: #101-102

Q. 101. What do we pray for in the first petition?

A. In the first petition, which is, "Hallowed be thy name," we pray, that God would enable us, and others, to glorify him in all that whereby he maketh himself known, and that he would dispose all things to his own glory.

Q. 102. What do we pray for in the second petition?

A. In the second petition, which is, "Thy kingdom come," we pray, that Satan's kingdom may be destroyed; and that the kingdom of grace may be advanced, ourselves and others brought into it, and kept in it; and that the kingdom of glory may be hastened.

Hymn – "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" (863)

Scripture Readings:

Old Testament Reading: Psalm 113
The Word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God!***

New Testament Reading: Luke 1:39-45
The Word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God!***

Hymn– "While Shepherds Watched" (888)

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: Eve's Anguish"

Genesis 3:16a; Romans 8:22-23
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 – "O Savior, Rend the Heavens" (859)
Hymn – "My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord" (1099)

THE LORD COMMUNES WITH US

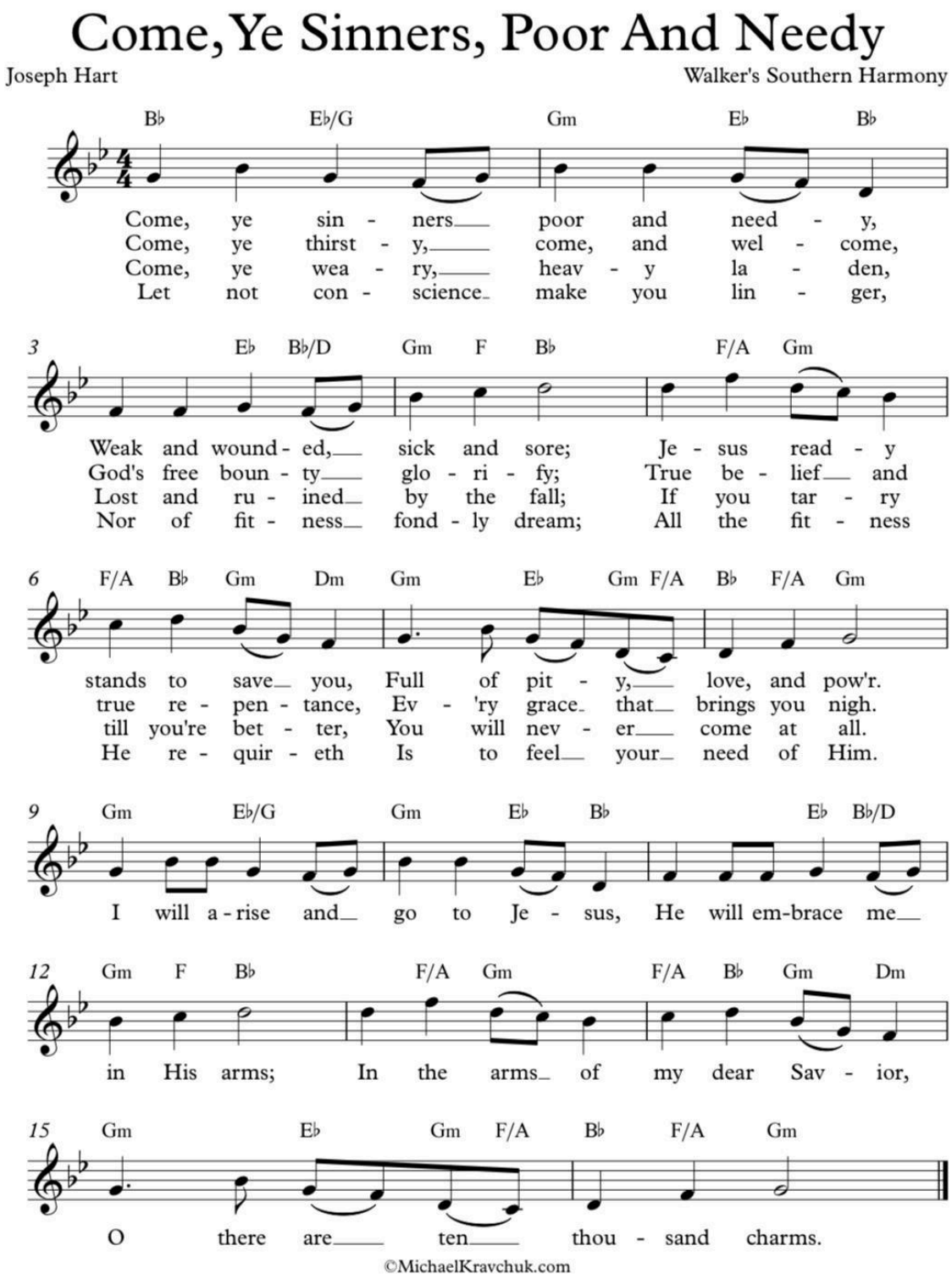
The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

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 – "Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy" (see next page)

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



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

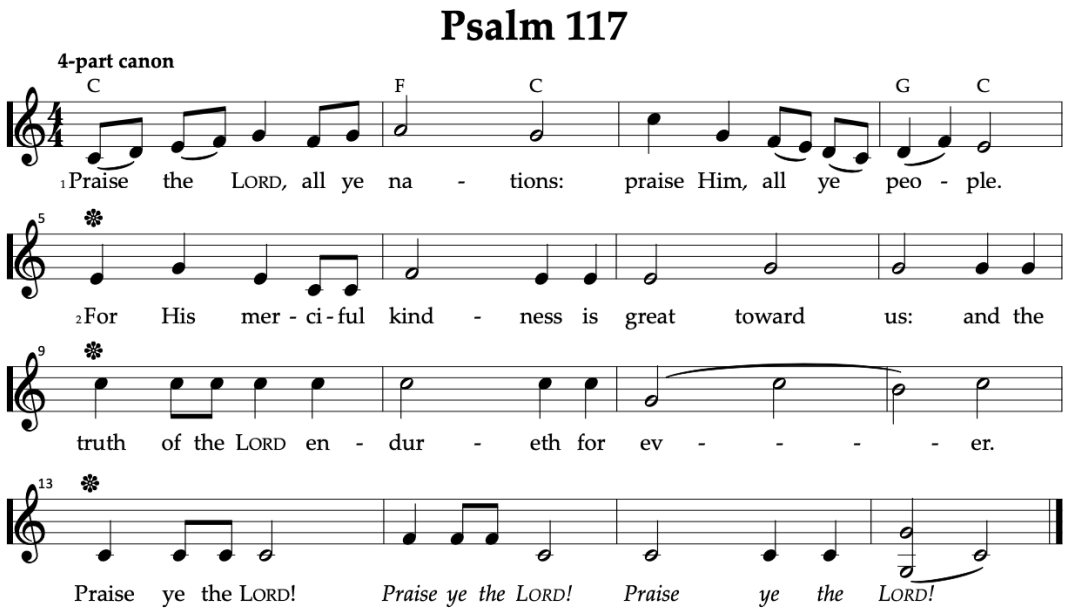
Commissioning Hymn – "Angels We Have Heard on High" (892)

Charge

Benediction (Romans 16:19-20)

"For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you."

Closing Doxology *–with uplifted hands–*



Music: David R. Erb, 2005 © derb@nsa.edu
Text: *Holy Bible, King James Version*, 1611; alt.

Pastor: Peace be with you.
People: And also with you.

For Family Worship

Daily Catechesis

- **Weekly Westminster Shorter Catechism**: #101-102 (see liturgy, pg. 6)
- **Hymn of the Week:** "Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy" (see liturgy, pg. 8)
- **Verse of the Week:** "We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28)
- **Poem:** (see liturgy, pg. 1)

Prayer Requests

Current

- 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.
- Praise for the salvation for Nick Hodge's friend, Freddy, whom Nick shared the gospel with some years back. Prayers that he would get quickly established in a solid church community.
- for Caitlin Prieskorn's grandma, and the potentially cancerous tumor on her brain. For clear diagnosis, that it'd be benign, and that the treatment would be effective, whichever path is needed.
- For opportunities to share the gospel with unbelieving families members this Christmas season. That we would seek out opportunities, and take them in faith.
- Quick recoveries for Frank Gorgie and Tommy Coppers, who both had surgery recently.
- 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

LADIES' FAVORITE THINGS CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION - December 9th

- 5:30 @ Jennifer Smith's (see Signal for address)
- Dinner provided
- Favorite things gift swap $25
- 2nd Annual Cookie Exchange

CAROLING - December 10th & 17th

- From 6-7pm
- The neighbor TBD

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

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

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.