



**MEADOWVIEW**  
REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Presbyterian Church in America

*“...that in all things Christ might have first place.”*  
Colossians 1:18

**The Lord’s Day**  
December 8, 2024

*The mission of Meadowview Reformed Presbyterian Church  
is to savor the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and to be servants of that grace locally and globally.*

## Reflection Before the Service

The greatest good that God intends for his people, many times he works it out of the greatest evil; the greatest light is brought out of the greatest darkness. Says Luther, “It is the way of God; he humbles, that he might exalt, — he kills, that he might make alive; he confounds, that he might glorify.” This is the way of God, says he, but everyone does not understand this; this is the art of arts, and the science of sciences; the knowledge of knowledges, to understand this that God uses; when he will bring life, he brings it out of death; he brings joy out of sorrow, and he brings prosperity out of adversity. Yes, and many times he brings grace out of sin, that is, makes use of sin to work furtherance of grace; it is the way God uses to bring good out of evil; not only to overcome the evil, but to make the evil to work towards good: here is the way of God. When the soul comes to understand this, it will take away our murmuring, and bring contentment into our spirits. (p. 103-104)

There is no work that God has made, the sun, moon, and stars, and all the world, wherein so much of the glory of God appears, as in a man that lives serenely in the midst of adversity... That is the trial of grace, when you find Jesus Christ in your hearts to be peace... You may think you find peace in Christ, when you have no outward troubles; but is Christ your peace when the Assyrian comes into the land—when an enemy comes? (109-110)

Jeremiah Burroughs, *The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment*,  
(Kindle)

## Today's Service

**Call to Worship & Opening Prayer:** *Hebrews 12:28-29*

**Song:** *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

**Song:** *10,000 Reasons (Bless The Lord)*

**Song:** *Psalm 62 (I'll Not Be Shaken)*

### **Corporate Confession of Sin:**

Heavenly Father, We thank You that You are a righteous judge. You define goodness and fairness in Your universe, and we can trust You far more than we can ever trust our own sense of justice.

We also thank You for Your patience with us, which staggers our imaginations. Lord, we speak hard words against You in our hearts every day. If we examined every thought that flows through our minds, we would discover countless grumblings and accusations against You. O God, have mercy on us and forgive us. If You were to give us what we truly deserve, we couldn't endure it for a moment.

We thank You for Jesus. You poured out on Him the anger that we deserve, and He did endure it. Our holy judge was judged in our place, and now we stand in His goodness with all the righteousness we need. Thank You for looking on His life and death, and for pardoning us.

Humble us, we pray, with the remembrance of Christ's unbelievable love and patience with us. Fill us with desire to worship and adore Him. Amen.

### **New Members Vows**

**Declaration of Faith:** *Philippians 2:5-11*

<sup>5</sup>Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup>And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup>Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

### **Gloria Patri**

**Sermon:** *Isaiah 8-9 "No More Gloom"*

**Song:** *Hark The Herald Angels Sing*

### **Benediction**

## Isaiah 8 - 9

<sup>8:11</sup> For the LORD spoke thus to me with his strong hand upon me, and warned me not to walk in the way of this people... <sup>17</sup> **I will wait for the LORD**, who is hiding his face from the house of Jacob, and **I will hope in him...** <sup>22</sup> And they will look to the earth, but behold, **distress & darkness**, the **gloom** of **anguish**. And they will be thrust into **thick darkness**.

<sup>9:1</sup> But there will be no **gloom** for her who was in **anguish**. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun & the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. (Matt 4:15-16, Luke 2:4,39)

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness (1 John 1:7, Ephesians 5:8)  
have seen a **great light**; (Matt 4:15-16, Acts 26:18)  
those who dwelt in a land of deep **darkness**, (2 Cor. 4:6)  
on them has **light** shone. (John 8:12, 9:15, Luke 2:32)

<sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation;  
you have increased its **joy**;  
they **rejoice** before you  
as with **joy** at the harvest,  
as they are **glad** when they divide the spoil.

<sup>4</sup> For the yoke of his burden,  
and the staff for his shoulder,  
the rod of his oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian. (Judges 7)

<sup>5</sup> For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult  
and every garment rolled in blood  
will be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup> **For to us a child is born,** (Luke 2:7,11, Matt 1:23)  
**to us a son is given;** (Isaiah 7:14, Psalm 2:7)  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and **his name shall be called**

Wonder(ful), Counselor, (Su,12/15)  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, (Su, 12/22)  
Prince of Peace. (Tue, 12/24)

<sup>7</sup> Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there will be no end, (Luke 2:14, Psalm 2)  
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it (2 Sam 7:12-13, Matt 1:20)  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and forevermore. (2 Sam 7:16, Psalm 2)

**The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.**

**No More Gloom**  
Pastor George Sayour

Sadness: Distress & Darkness

A Son: Light & Laughter

Solace: Faith & Freedom

## Prayer Requests

*He will cover you with His feathers. He will shelter you with His wings.  
His faithful promises are your armor and protection. Psalm 91:4*

- Homebound** – Jackie Shelley – Summerstone Health and Rehab - kidney failure; possible stroke
- Service Member** – Carter Beck – US Coast Guard – (Grandson of Homer and Linda Curry)
- Paul Clodfelter** - cancer scan results; healing following surgery to replace kidney stents
- Lainey Shoaf** – (Infant daughter of Nolan and Caitlin Shoaf) – diagnosed with leukemia; biopsy to determine type; beginning chemo: peace, comfort for family; complete healing for Lainey
- Ashley Richardson** – healing from flu
- Danny Peterson** – requesting prayer
- David Arrowood** – (Mark Arrowood’s brother) – recovery from stent procedure; upcoming bypass procedure
- Karen Pfohl** – peace; comfort, following Gary’s death
- Joy** – (wife of Roger Allen’s friend) – please pray for Joy, who has cancer
- Larry Wilson** – (Ann Wilson’s husband) - healing; rehab at Pine Acres following knee surgery
- Matt Young** – (grandson of Betty Milam) – biopsy results; treatment; healing for lymphoma
- Kent Pressley** – upcoming prostate biopsy
- Larry and Debbie Ogden** – healing; relief; strength, for the family ongoing healing for Larry; protection for Debbie from illness; Debbie’s upcoming joint fusion
- David Pressley** – (brother of Kent Pressley & Kathy Snider) – prostate cancer
- Bobby Burgess** – (request from Gerry James) – wisdom for serious health issues
- Ethan and Lauren Harmon** – preparations for moving; listing house in Dec.
- Loretta Owen** – healing for fractured hip
- Kim Swicegood** – (Mark Shipton’s cousin) – treatment for cancer
- Terry Shoaf** – (Luke Shoaf’s father) – comfort; healing; skeletal issues
- Doris Trogdon** – strength; endurance for ongoing rehab at home
- James Pressley** – (brother of Kent Pressley & Kathy Snider) - bladder cancer
- David Bowen** – (brother of Ali Shoaf) – provision of a new job
- Ali Shoaf** – wisdom to learn and retain material in PTA Program
- BJ** – (Son-in-law of Mara Lovejoy’s sister, Jana) – continued healing
- Kathy Snider** – ataxia; effective medications
- Tom Mekis** – stage IV prostate cancer; healing; peace; wisdom for next steps
- Rachel Everhart** - ongoing healing; relief from pain; peace, strength

*To be included in updates on our prayer chain or to submit a prayer request,  
email: Debbie Thompson at [pray4meadowview@gmail.com](mailto:pray4meadowview@gmail.com).*

## Upcoming Events

### Savoring the Grace of God: Sundays

- 8:30-8:50am – Pray for Worship in the Library (all are welcome)
- 9am Bible Hour
  - *The Book of Daniel* (Fellowship Hall)
  - Women’s Bible Hour: *The Book of Acts* (Room 203)
- 10:30am Worship

### Living in the Grace of God

Mon. 12/09: 6:30-8:30 pm. **Women’s Christmas: “Embrace the Gift”**  
(Tickets required)

Wed. 12/11 – Meal & Activities: 5:00 – 7:15 pm

- 5 pm: Pintos, Stewed Potatoes, Greens, Cornbread, Salad, & Dessert
- 5:45 – 6:15 Prayer Group
- 5:45 Youth / 6:00 Children
- 6:15 Adult Class – The Majesty of Mystery

Sat. 12/14: **Senior Adults Christmas Luncheon\*** @ 12 pm

Wed. 12/18: **Wednesday Night Meal & Christmas Caroling**

Tue. 12/24: **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @ 5 pm** (Catered event – sign up is required, see bulletin insert for sign up)

### Ministering the Grace of God

- Foster Elves Christmas Party\* 12/13 @ 6 pm  
(see bulletin insert to sign up as a volunteer)
- Angel Tree Christmas Party\* 12/14 @ 12 pm  
(see bulletin insert to sign up as a volunteer)
- Baptist Children’s Home (Thomasville) – Christmas Party: 12/20  
6 pm – 8 pm (see Mike Maness for more information)
- Pastor’s Pantry: December – Dry Pasta & Sauce

*\*Indicates sign-up requirement/opportunity on bulletin insert*

**For more information about all events, scan the QR code or visit  
MeadowviewPCA.org/events.**

#### **General Fund as of 11/30/24**

**2024 Giving:** \$683,595.98

**2024 Expenses:** \$829,555.75

**Shortfall:** (\$145,959.77)\*\*

\*\*Last year’s Shortfall at this time: (\$59,807)

This year is more due to planned  
Renovations & A/C Replacements

#### **Faith Promise as of 11/30/24**

**2024 Giving** \$39,565.59

**2024 Committed** \$98,700.00

**Shortfall:** (\$59,134.41)

