

Sunday December 1, 2019 The 1st Sunday of Advent

"Hope"

Welcome.

Thanks for joining us today in worship. We hope you find City Church to be a warm, welcoming community—regardless of your background, beliefs, or life situation. To that end, we recognize that certain parts of the service may feel unfamiliar, so we've provided brief explanations throughout this guide.

Our worship is "liturgical." The Greek word "leitourgia" means a public work, the work of the people. Liturgical worship begins with God's call upon us, his meeting with us, speaking among us, and ministering to us. The flow of our liturgy aims at drawing us further into the life of the Trinity and then moving us outward into our world.

On pages 19-22, you'll find information about our community. We hope this helps you get to know us better and that, in turn, we can get to know you better. Help us welcome you by filling out the contact sheet on the back page and placing it in the offering basket or in our hands after the worship service.

All to say, we are glad you are here and look forward to meeting you.

— The Pastoral Staff

Tuck Bartholomew, Chris Currie, Jonathan Davis

Sunday Info

Nursery, Room 111 Children 4 – 24 months for the duration of the service

Children's, Church Room 112–113 Children ages 2 through 5th grade dismiss just before the sermon. 1st – 5th graders will return prior to communion.

Adult Ed Class No classes are currently meeting.

Accessibility A wheelchair ramp and elevator are on site. A greeter can assist you.

Coffee is available in the SE hallway at 10:15am and before Adult Ed classes when offered.

Reflection

The Word of God was born as Jesus of Nazareth, son of Mary and Joseph. He was born in an ad hoc homeless shelter to a young unwed mother... The particularity of the Incarnation - *this* child, *this* time, *this* place - is both the scandal and the comfort of the Christian faith.

- Leanne Van Dyk, A More Profound Alleluia

Church Calendar

ADVENT

CHRISTMAS
EPIPHANY
LENT
EASTER
PENTECOST
ORDINARY TIME

Advent is a season of hopeful expectation and preparation, as the Church anticipates the coming of Christ – both at his birth in Bethlehem many years ago, and at his future, final coming to judge the world at the end of time. During Advent, we prepare our hearts for the Lord, so that when he comes, he may find us watching and waiting.

GOD SUMMONS US AS HIS PEOPLE

As we meet together each week, we recognize in the preparation that God, through his word and Spirit, gathers us into his presence and calls us into his life and mission.

Prelude

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Reading: Romans 13:11-14

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

A period of silence is kept.

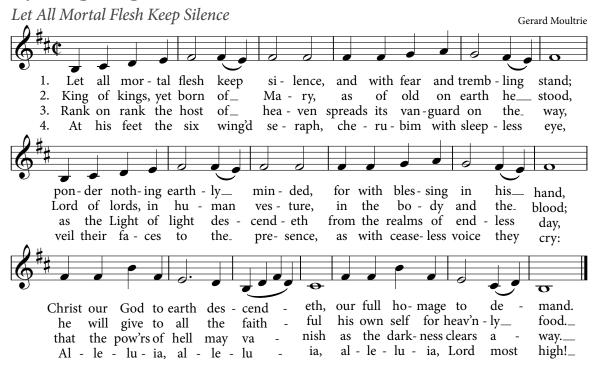
Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All And also with you.

Now is the time to wake out of sleep,

All for now our salvation is nearer
than when we first believed!

Opening Song



Opening of Worship

I was glad when they said to me,

All "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"

Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together.

To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,

as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord.

For there the thrones for judgment were set up,

the thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:

"May they prosper who love you.

Peace be within your walls,

and security within your towers."

For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say,

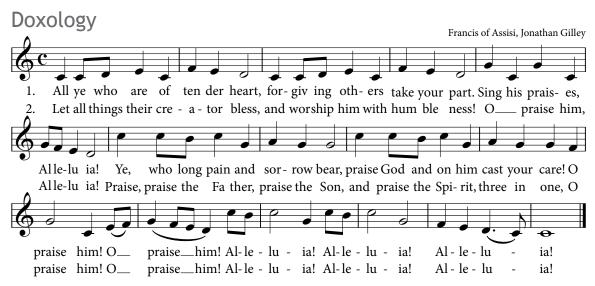
"Peace be within you."

For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,

I will seek your good.

from Psalm 122

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation



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GOD SANCTIFIES US TO HIMSELF

Throughout Scripture, when people find themselves in God's presence, they sense how far short they fall and become aware of their own shame and brokenness. In the same way, we make a confession of sin, both as a community and also silently as individuals. In this. we remember that God is always ready, by his mercy and grace, to forgive us.

Confession of Sin

May your loving mercy come to me, O Lord, and your salvation according to your word: Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Your word is a lantern to my feet and a light to my path: Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

O let your mercy come to me that I may live, for your law is my delight: Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

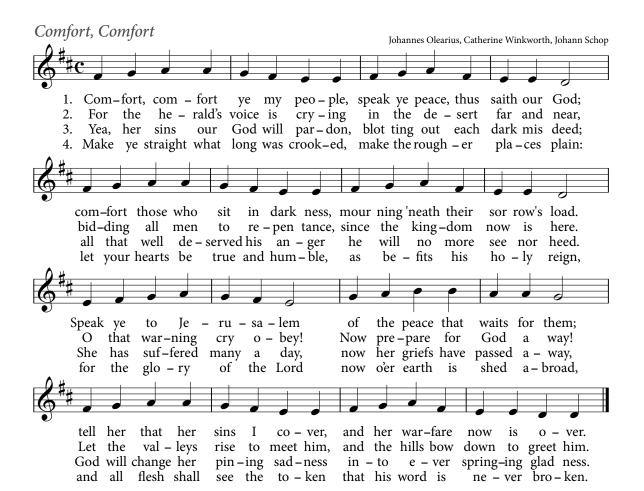
Words of Comfort and Assurance of Pardon

May the almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon and forgiveness of all your sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

Songs of Praise and Thanksgiving





Children attending kindergarten and younger are invited to go to their classes at this time. 1st - 5th graders are invited to Children's Church and will return during the Offering.

Passing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

The Word of God

Old Testament reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. ³His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; 4but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. 5Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. 6The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. 9They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

GOD SPEAKS TO US
IN HIS WORD

In the public reading of the word of God and its exposition in the sermon, God shares the story of his saving mission in Jesus, encouraging us to join in that mission and orienting us again to his priorities.

Gospel reading: Luke 1:26-38

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." 29But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." 34Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 35The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." 38Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

"Hope" - Rev. Chris Currie

Offering and Presentation of Gifts

"I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, he became poor, so that through his poverty you might become rich" - 2 Corinthians 8:8-9

Creed

All I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I 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. The offering is an opportunity to participate in the ministry of City Church. Online giving is available at citychurchphilly. com/give. If you are visiting, please don't feel obligated to give—we're grateful simply for your presence here today.

Having offered ourselves up in faith through the creed, affirming the power of God's redemption, we lift up the church, our world, and other needs to God in prayer for his provision and healing.

Prayers

Members of the congregation lead us in prayer.

Almighty God, in this holy season, draw our eyes to our coming savior. Help us to leave behind the darkness of sin, walk in the light that shines on our path, and renew within ourselves the hope of glory to which he beckons us. For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, come to your world as King of the nations. We pray for an end to violence, oppression, and greed, and we pray that truth, justice, and goodness will abound. Before you rulers will stand in silence. For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Loving Spirit, we pray for all who at this time especially need your pity and protection: the sick in body, mind or spirit; those who suffer from loss of dignity or loss of hope; those who face the future with fear or walk in the shadow of death.

For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

And for what else should we pray?

Members of the congregation may add their own intercessions at this time, ending with,

For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Now gathering our prayers into one, let us pray boldly as our Savior has taught us:

All 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 and ever.
Amen.

Communion

The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

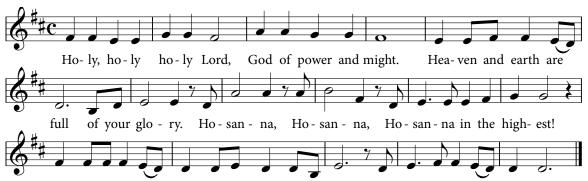
The Eucharistic Prayer

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son.
For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh, he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world to open for us the way of salvation.
Confident that your promise will be fulfilled, we now watch for the day when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.
And so we join our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven to proclaim your glory for ever praising you and singing:

GOD STRENGTHENS US AT HIS TABLE

Communion, also called the Lord's *Supper, is the family* meal of Christians. We invite all baptized followers of Jesus *Christ to participate.* If you are not a follower of Jesus or are not prepared to share in the meal. we encourage you to spend this time in prayer ("Prayers for Reflection" are included below). We hope this time is helpful to you as you consider your relationship with *Iesus Christ and with* his people, the church.

Sanctus



Bles-sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, Ho-san-na in the_high-est.

©2011 Bethany R Brooks

We use wine in Communion. Non-alcoholic white grape juice and a gluten-free option are also available if preferred. Please discard your Communion cup as you leave worship.

If you would like prayer for healing and anointing with oil, please come to the back of the room after you have been served, and an elder will pray for you. This will be a time of liturgical prayer; you will not be asked to share your particular situation.

The minister concludes the Eucharistic Prayer.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The minister speaks the Words of Institution.

Memorial Acclamation

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.

All Therefore, let us keep the feast.

Prayers for Reflection

Prayer for those searching

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and lead me to the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise.

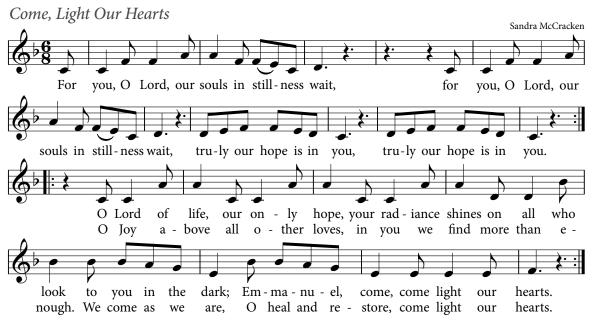
Prayer of belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weak and sinful, but through you, I am loved and accepted. I thank you for taking my place in death in order to offer me forgiveness and renewal. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and my Lord.

Prayer for those struggling with sin

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and faithfully follow you in life.

Communion Song



©2014 Drink Your Tea

Prayer after Communion

All O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;
that, when he shall appear,
he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service
and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Blessing and Sending



GOD SENDS US
INTO THE WORLD

We have responded to God's call, heard his word, offered ourselves to his service, and received strength at his table. Now, at the close of worship, God sends us out to carry forward the gospel story.

Benediction

May Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Dismissal

Let us go forth to serve the world as those who love our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

All Thanks be to God.

Jennifer Cho: liturgist

Tuck Bartholomew: celebrant

Bethany Danel Brooks: piano, voice

Brad Hinton: guitar, voice Charlie Muench: bass

CONNECT

COMMUNITY GROUPS range in size from 10-15 people and meet weekly in the home of a group member for spiritual formation and friendship. We encourage you to visit multiple groups to see which one might be a good fit. Contact a leader if you plan to visit. Contact Jonathan Davis, jonathan@citychurchphilly.com if you have questions.

West Philly

- 50th & Springfield, Tuesdays 7_{PM} Jessie Taylor, jessie.f.taylor@gmail.com
- 52nd & Larchwood, Tuesdays 7_{PM} Jade Avelis, jade.avelis@gmail.com
- 48th & Baltimore at Linda's, Wed 6:30_{PM} Janet Nygren, janetnygren@gmail.com
- 49th & Baltimore, Thursdays 6_{PM} Vieen Leung, vieenleung@gmail.com
- 48th & Baltimore at Dick's, Thursdays 6:30_{PM} Joel Bassett, jbassett4@gmail.com

Fairmount

- Ringgold & Poplar, Wednesdays 7_{PM}
 Su Jin Kim, splujin@gmail.com
- 22nd & Poplar, Sundays 4_{PM}
 Bonnie Currie, bonnie.currie@gmail.com

South Philly

 12th & Wharton, Wednesdays 7:30_{PM} Kirstin Peth, kirstin.peth@gmail.com

Roxborough

Tuesdays 6:30_{PM}
 Cale Weatherly, cale.weatherly@gmail.com

FAMILY MINISTRIES come alongside families as they disciple their children, seeking to help them cultivate friendships, connect with the wider church community, and grow into maturity as people of faith.

- Children's Ministry. Our children's classes use a gospel-centered curriculum with scripture, stories, and activities to allow them opportunities to form spiritual friendships with their peers and teachers. See page 2 for details. Contact Amy Lee, amy@citychurchphilly. com.
- City Church Youth, Sundays 12:30-2:30pm. Students and Volunteer Leaders gather at a Woodland Presbyterian Church (42 & Pine) for fellowship, bible study, and prayer. Lunch is provided each week. Contact Eric Burrows-Stone, eric@citychurchphilly.com

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS The

Gathering is an intentional Community Group for college students from any university in West Philly that meets once a week for a (FREE) meal and topical discussion. Tuesdays, 6-7:30pm in Houston Hall 225. Contact Natalie Harvey, natalie@citychurchphilly.com.

55+ is a group of older people attending City Church who gather monthly after Sunday services for a shared meal and shared prayer. Contact Miriam Wattenbarger, mwattenb@hotmail.com.

WOMEN'S DAYTIME BOOK STUDY Tuesdays 9:30AM, Childcare available. Contact Eeva, eevaduddleston@gmail.com.

GROW

City Church is a community committed to growing in our life of joy and peace through communion with God in Christ. God uses many means to form his children into his likeness. As a church family, City Church focuses on eight practices that Christians historically have embraced for their growth. At right are a few links to help you get started.

- Read about our approach to Spiritual Formation | citychurchphilly.com/spiritualformation
- Sign up to receive Daily Prayer in your inbox citychurchphilly.com/daily-prayer
- Check out current and upcoming Adult Ed classes | citychurchphilly.com/adult-ed

GIVE

The intentional financial participation of those who consider City Church their church home is vital. If you are not already tithing regularly, please prayerfully consider doing so. Our desire in giving is not only to meet our own needs but to be able to serve others in our city and neighborhoods. Here are a few ways that you can contribute financially to City Church:

- Place cash or check in the offering basket on Sundays
- Give online | citychurchphilly.com/give
- Text any amount to 84321, follow the link, and select City Church Philadelphia
- Checks may be mailed or arranged through Electronic Bill Pay to be sent to: City Church, PO Box 30902, Philadelphia, PA 19104

SERVE

We seek to be a church that demonstrates the love of Christ to our city. Over the years, our deacons have cultivated partnerships with several local organizations. To view current opportunities to serve, please visit citychurchphilly.org/serve-city.















REDEMPTION HOUSING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Officer Nominations Close TOMORROW** We are accepting nominations for the offices of Elder and Deacon through December 2nd. To learn more and submit nominations, visit citychurchphilly. com/nominate.
- Service of Lessons & Carols, Sunday, December 8 at 5 pm Plan to join us for this annual tradition. Childcare is available for children under 5 years old. Stay to enjoy the after party in the West Catholic library! If you're able to bring something sweet or savory to share, please sign up via the link in the enews or on the website. Please note: there will not be a morning service on this Sunday.
- Help Congregation Sing at Lessons & Carols Enthusiastic singers are invited to help lead two congregational songs in our Lessons & Carols service on December 8. The only required rehearsal will happen shortly before the service on the 8th; you can learn the music at home with the help of emailed sheet music and recordings. To participate, please email Bethany at bethany@citychurchphilly.com.
- Advent Prayer Guide Starts TODAY Join us in the practice of waiting and longing this Advent season through an Advent Prayer Guide. We'll also be sending these daily readings out each day via our regular morning & evening prayer emails (one reading per day). If you aren't a regular prayer email subscriber but want to join for Advent, you can sign up for advent emails at citychurchphilly. com/daily-prayer. If you'd like a print copy of this resource, please contact Jonathan at jonathan@citychurchphilly.com
- **4th Sunday Prayer on Sunday, November 24** All are welcome to join the Congregational Care deacons as they lead a time of prayer for our church community and city on Sunday, November 24, at 9:30 am in the Library. If there's a way they can be praying for you, please email Shannon Sarracino at sgsarracino@gmail.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

December

- 2 Officer nominations end
- 8 Lessons & Carols, 5 pm (No AM service)
- 18 Seekers' Group
- **24** Christmas Eve Service, 5 pm

November 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Daylight Savings Time					1	2
Baptisms, Youth Fund- raiser Lunch	4	5	6	7	8	9 City Church 101
Seminar: Navigating School Choice, 9:15 am	11	12	13	14	15	16
Adult Ed: Missionary Report	18	19	Seekers' Group, 7:30 pm	21	22	23
4th Sunday Prayer	25 Consistory Meeting	26	27	28 Thanksgiving	29	30

Staff

Tuck Bartholomew

Senior Pastor tuck@citychurchphilly.com

Eric Burrows-Stone

Youth Ministry eric@citychurchphilly.com

Dan Cason

Sunday Volunteers dan@citychurchphilly.com

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Site Pastor, Fairmount chris@citychurchphilly.com

Bethany Danel Brooks

Worship Director bethany@citychurchphilly.com

Jonathan Davis

Assistant Pastor jonathan@citychurchphilly.com

Natalie Harvey

University Ministry natalie@citychurchphilly.com

Amy Lee

Children's Program Administrator amy@citychurchphilly.com

Anne Smith

Children's Lead Teacher anne@citychurchphilly.com

Liz Voboril

Communications Coordinator liz@citychurchphilly.com

Instagram @citychurchphilly Twitter @citychurchphl Facebook @city.church.philadelphia

Help us welcome you.

ame(s):
hildren & their ages:
undergrad or grad student, school & year:
ddress:
hone number(s):
mail(s):
ease send me: ☐ Weekly Newsletter ☐ Morning & Evening Prayer
lease contact me about:
 □ Community Groups □ Neighborhood Service Opportunities □ Volunteering on Sundays □ Children's & Youth Ministries □ Meeting with a Pastor □ Other:
Prayer Requests Our staff prays weekly on Tuesdays, and our deacons pray monthly on 4th Sundays. Fill out your name above if you'd like to be prayed for by name.

Please tear off this back page and place in the offering basket.

