

**Entrance**

Gathering *(As we gather to worship please greet those persons sitting around you.)*

Prelude *(Please use this time to prepare yourself for worship.)*

*Lord, Let Thy Spirit* - arr. D. Paxton

*The Garden* - L. Shackley

Chiming of the Hour

Greetings and Welcome *(During this time please pass the pew notebooks.)*

Time of Centering Chris Dodson, organ

*Interlude on "Give Me Jesus"* - arr. R. Lau

Lighting of the Altar Candles

\*Call to Worship *(read responsively)*

*Psalm 121*

Leader: I lift up my eyes to the hills. From whence does my help come?

**All: My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

Leader: He will not let your foot be moved, he who keeps you will not slumber.

**All: Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.**

Leader: The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand.

**All: The sun shall not smite you by day, nor the moon by night.**

Leader: The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

**All: The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and for evermore.**

\*Extinguishing of a Lenten Candle John 3:19

*...the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light...*

\*Invocation

\*Opening Hymn No. 102

*Now Thank We All Our God*

**Proclamation**

Epistle Lesson Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

Stewardship Moment

\*Sharing the Peace of Christ

*(Children age 4 - 1st grade may leave for children's church.)*

Gospel Lesson John 3:1-17

Meditation Rev. Dr. H. Gray Southern

**Response**

Joys and Thanksgivings/Prayer Concerns

Silent Prayers

Congregational Prayer of Confession *(in unison)*

**Loving God, we confess our day to day failure to be truly human. We confess that we fail to love with all we have and are, often because we do not understand what loving means, often because we are afraid of risking ourselves. We cut ourselves off from each other and we erect barriers of division. Lord, we confess that by silence and ill-considered word we have built up walls of prejudice, and by selfishness and lack of sympathy we have stifled generosity and left little time for others. Gracious God, speak to us anew. Come and fill us with your presence. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer *(please pray in unison)*

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Offering of Our Gifts

Offertory

*A Closer Walk* - D. Allen

*(8:30 a.m. - Coffee Chorus)*

*Take My Life and Let It Be* - T. Keesecker

*(11:00 a.m. - Chancel Choir)*

\*Doxology *(sung in unison)*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**Thanksgiving and Communion**

Sacrament of Communion

*All who worship with us today are invited to participate with us in the celebration of the sacrament of the Eucharist or Holy Communion. This is a celebratory act of our community in which we give thanks for the ever-abiding presence of God's spirit and the all-inclusive reach of God's grace. The Sacrament is a mystical reality in which the presence of Christ*

*is made real to us, and by God's grace it forges us into one body so that together we can extend the merciful touch of Christ into the world. Welcome to the table.*

*In an effort to meet the needs of the gathered community it is our goal to have gluten free bread available for Communion. Please notify your server when you come forward to receive the Sacrament.*

The Great Thanksgiving

Clergy: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Clergy: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Clergy: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Clergy: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, almighty God.

**People: For you are the creator and sustainer of our lives.**

*[The rehearsing of the tradition]*

Clergy: Let us pray. Loving and gracious God, in remembrance of these your grace-filled acts, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

Clergy: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and cup. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, now and for ever.

**People: Amen.**

Giving the Bread and Cup

Closing Prayer

**Sending Forth**

\*Closing Hymn

*Be Thou My Vision*

No. 451

\*Pastoral Benediction

\*Postlude

*I Could Sing of Your Love Forever* - arr. J. Koerts

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*\*please rise in body or in spirit*

*If you are looking for a church home in the Raleigh area we would love for you to become part of our church family here at Pleasant Grove. Please contact the church office for more information about church membership.*

*We welcome The Reverend Dr. H. Gray Southern to our pulpit this morning. Gray was born in Smithfield, N.C., and graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill (B.A.) and Yale University Divinity School (M.Div.), subsequently receiving his doctorate at Columbia Theological Seminary. He has served churches in Goldsboro, Oriental, Wilson, Durham, Greenville, and Apex, and has served twice as a District Superintendent (Durham and the Capital Districts). Gray's interests are focused in spiritual formation, preaching, and outreach. He has been to General Conference as a member in 2008, 2012, 2016/2019, as well as, the associated Southeastern Jurisdictional Conferences. Gray currently serves as the Assistant to the Bishop & Conference Secretary, and is a member of Wespeth's Board of Directors, our denominational pension and investment agency.*

### **Weekly Announcements**

**Families are invited to join us for dinner and a mission project tomorrow evening from 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.** Please contact Ashley Yohman at [ashley.yohman@pgumc.org](mailto:ashley.yohman@pgumc.org) to sign up. Sign ups will end tonight at midnight.

**We are offering three CPR/AED classes at Pleasant Grove this month for a discounted rate of \$47 per person.** The three-hour classes will be lead by instructors from Wake Tech and will be certified through the American Heart Association. A certification card will be mailed to you after the class. To sign up, please contact Lucinda Sullivan at [dannyandlucinda@gmail.com](mailto:dannyandlucinda@gmail.com).

**Volunteers are needed for our annual Spring Clean Up scheduled for Saturday, March 25, from 8:00 a.m. - noon.** Please bring wheelbarrows, shovels, rakes, pitch forks, trimmers, blowers, and strong backs to help spread mulch and trim a few bushes. If anyone wants to provide flowers, we can plant those as well. Coffee, donuts, and water will be available. Contact Bart Halbert at [purplestang69@gmail.com](mailto:purplestang69@gmail.com) for more information.

**The Habitat for Humanity build day scheduled for March 11 for partners PGUMC and Piney Grove AME has been postponed.** Habitat has been unable to get the permits required to get started on Old Poole Place. We expect the build day to be scheduled later this spring. For more information please contact Jane Albright at [janealbright3@gmail.com](mailto:janealbright3@gmail.com).

**Registration has begun for summer camp opportunities at all three N.C. United Methodist camp and retreat centers.** For more information about Camp Chestnut Ridge, Camp Don Lee, or Camp Rockfish please visit the camping ministries website at [www.ncumcamps.org](http://www.ncumcamps.org).

### **Church Ministry Team**

**Rev. Jay Minnick:** Minister  
[jay.minnick@pgumc.org](mailto:jay.minnick@pgumc.org)

**Chris Dodson:** Director of Worship Arts  
[chris.dodson@pgumc.org](mailto:chris.dodson@pgumc.org)

**Isaac Pyatt:** Director of Contemporary  
Worship Arts  
[isaac.pyatt@pgumc.org](mailto:isaac.pyatt@pgumc.org)

**Ashley Yohman:** Director of Children & Youth  
Ministries  
[ashley.yohman@pgumc.org](mailto:ashley.yohman@pgumc.org)

**Deborah Horton:** Volunteer Coordinator  
[deborah.horton@pgumc.org](mailto:deborah.horton@pgumc.org)

**Jill Boliek:** Accompanist  
[jill.boliek@pgumc.org](mailto:jill.boliek@pgumc.org)

**William Holley:** Media Specialist  
[william.holley@pgumc.org](mailto:william.holley@pgumc.org)

**Julie Lebria:** Church Office Administrator  
[julie.lebria@pgumc.org](mailto:julie.lebria@pgumc.org)

**Warren Williams:** Custodian  
[warren.williams@pgumc.org](mailto:warren.williams@pgumc.org)