

KIRK IN THE HILLS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)
9:00 & 11:00 A.M. SANCTUARY WORSHIP
ADVENT TWO | DECEMBER 7, 2025





A Note from Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

Advent 2025: *The Gifts We Seek: Peace*

Welcome to the second Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of Peace. We might have arrived carrying December's full mixture of joy, stress, longing, and anticipation; we might have arrived carrying questions of the heart—questions about meaning, stability, and the possibility of real peace in a restless world. Into all of this, the angels declare, *"Glory to God... and on earth peace"* (Luke 2:14).

But this is not the world's fragile peace—the momentary quiet we grasp at. It is a peace rooted not in circumstance but in the presence of Christ Himself. Jesus promises, *"Peace I leave with you... not as the world gives"* (John 14:27).

The shepherds heard the angels' song while still in their ordinary fields. God meets us where we are—in our work, our homes, our anxieties, our dreams. In a season that can easily fill with noise, Advent invites us to listen for the stillness of the holy. In a world marked by conflict, Advent invites us to glimpse God's reconciling promise. In the fullness of family life, Advent invites us to reclaim moments of sabbath.

If you are exploring faith or seeking a community to call home, we invite you to connect with **Mercy Adams, our Membership Coordinator**, or one of our pastors, who would be delighted to help you explore membership and belonging at the Kirk.

We also warmly invite you to **Christmas Eve** worship, where peace finds its center in Christ:

- **11 a.m. & 5 p.m. Family-Friendly Services**, including youth choirs and a children's message
- **8:30 p.m. & 11 p.m. Candlelight Services**, each preceded by **30 minutes of prelude music**, preparing our hearts for the Feast of the Nativity

May the peace of Christ settle over you today. May you hear the angels' song. And may you discover anew that Christ Himself is our Peace. Let us worship God!

In Christ,

Sr. Pastor | Head of Staff | Kirk in the Hills

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary

PRELUDE

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645

J. S. Bach

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

OUR FAITH IN ACTION

Angel Tree

Ann Manning

** Please rise in body or spirit at the ringing of the bell.*

*** INTROIT**

Jesus Christ Is the Light of the World

James Biery

Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome.

Let your light scatter the darkness and enlighten your church.

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Jasmine Smart

Let us go into the house of the Lord!

Let us meet God with joy!

God builds us up like a great city.

May peace be within our walls.

Let us seek the goodness of God;

Let us go into the house of the Lord!

*** PROCESSIONAL HYMN 96**

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

WINCHESTER NEW

*** LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE & PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

9:00 a.m.: The Chon Family | 11:00 a.m.: The Way Family

As we gather to light the second Advent candle, let us confess our failure to be one with God, who is always among us.

God of the future,

You are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule.

We confess that we have not expected your kingdom,

For we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment.

We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace.

God, in your mercy, forgive us.

Grant us wisdom to welcome your way,

And to seek things that will endure

When Christ comes to judge the world.

As the candle is lit, these words are said:

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

As the Lord has promised, in days to come...

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,

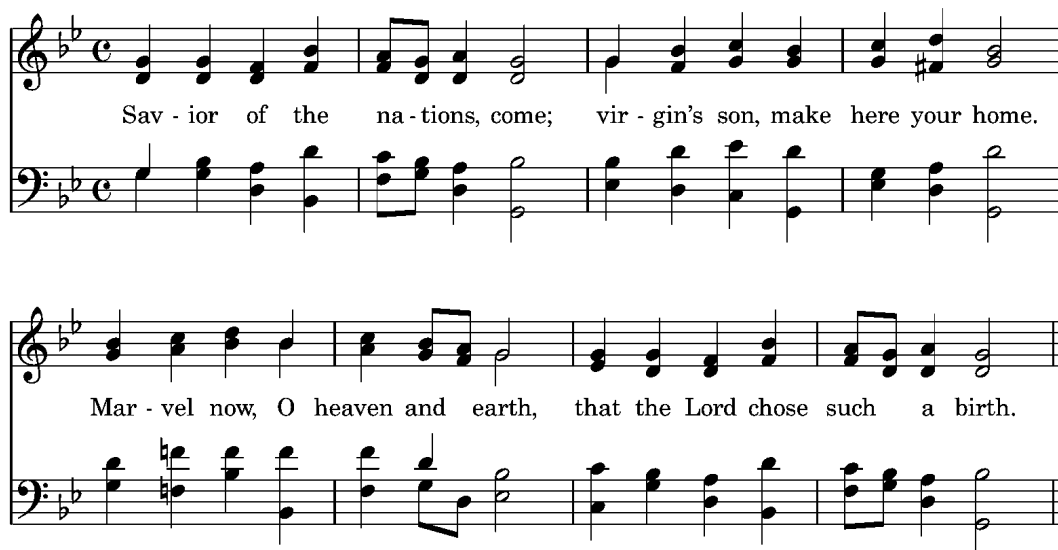
The leopard shall lie down with the kid,

The calf and the lion and the fatling will lie down together,

And a little child shall lead them.

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND



Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.

Mar - vel now, O heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

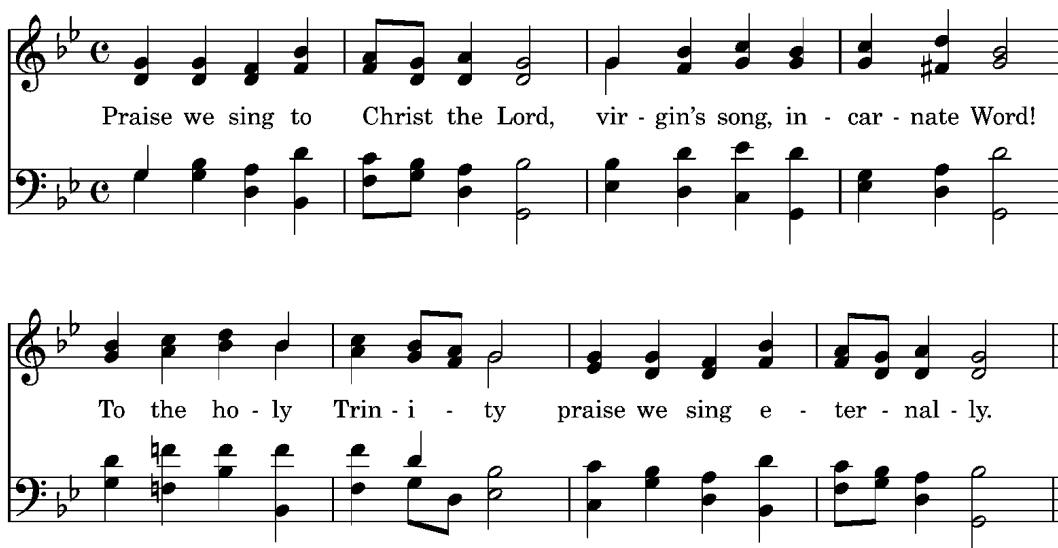
Rev. Jasmine Smart

Every valley is lifted up; every mountain, made low.
 Now the glory of the Lord is revealed,
 For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.
 Beloved, believe the Good News:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation!
Praise be to God!

* ACCLAMATION OF PRAISE

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND



Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, vir - gin's song, in - car - nate Word!

To the ho - ly Trin - i - ty praise we sing e - ter - nal - ly.

WORD

WORD WITH CHILDREN (9:00 a.m. only)

Sarah Ford

Following the Word with the Children, children and youth ages 4 through grade 8 will be dismissed for Sunday School.



O come, lit - tle chil - dren, O come, one and all. O
come to the cra - dle in Beth - le - hem's stall. O
sing, lit - tle chil - dren, to him you a - dore. Sing
joy to the world, love and peace ev - er - more.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Emmanuel, God Among Us*Mode I Chant**Emmanuel, God among us, open our hearts to hear your Word.**Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**Emmanuel, God among us, open our hearts to hear your Word.*

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:8-14 (NT, page 58)

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

The Gifts We Seek: Peace

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

* HYMN 87

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

GENEVAN 42

(Please be seated after the hymn.)

THANKSGIVING

CALL TO OFFERING

Rev. Dr. Philip J. Reed

Our giving is an offering to God. All offerings are part of our worship of God and are used to support the Kirk's ministry. Text "KITH" to 73256 to give using your mobile device.

OFFERTORY

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Gustav Holst

*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.*

*King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
in the body and the blood.
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heav'nly food.*

*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.*

*At his feet the six-winged seraph,
cherubim with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the Presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry,
"Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, Lord Most High!"*

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez & Rev. Dr. Philip J. Reed

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
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 our thanks and praise.

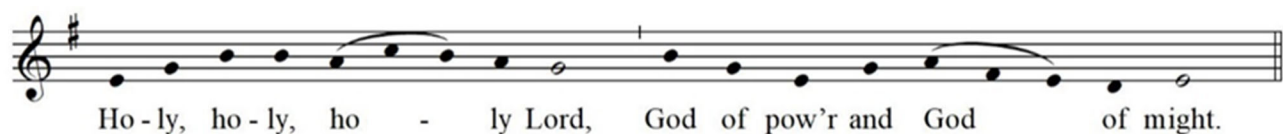
GREAT THANKSGIVING AND SANCTUS

The Santus (from "Missa Emmanuel")

Richard Proulx

Choir: *Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and God of might.*

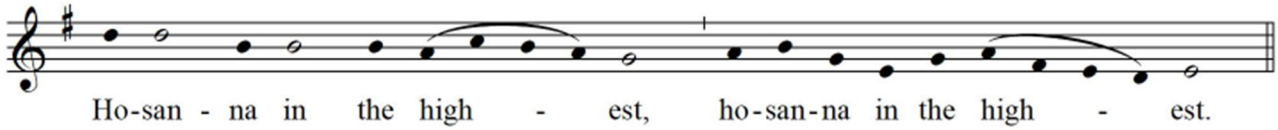
All:



Choir: *Heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

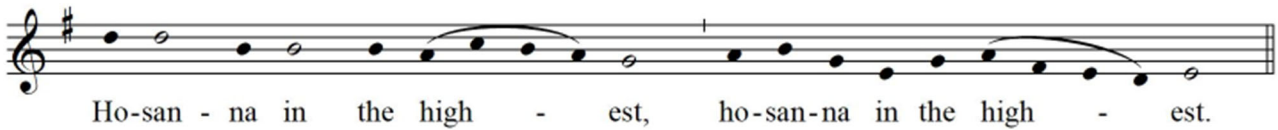
All:



Choir: *Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*

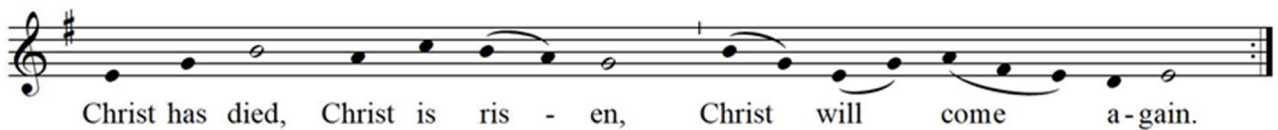
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

All:



MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION Christ Has Died, Christ Is Risen

Richard Proulx



THE LORD'S PRAYER

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. Amen.

AMEN

Richard Proulx



THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING IN THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

This morning the congregation is served in procession. Please remain seated until you are prompted by an usher to be served. For those unable to process forward, stay seated and a server will bring the sacrament to you.

Gluten-free bread is available in the center of the bread trays. Empty glasses are placed in the baskets provided near the communion servers.

We receive the bread with "Amen" after the server says, "This is the body of Christ."

We receive the cup with "Thanks be to God" after the server says, "This is the cup of the new covenant"

COMMUNION MUSIC

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

Suo Gân

The text can be found in your hymnal, #94.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened our weary hearts with peace. Teach us to proclaim the birth of your Son Jesus Christ in all that we do. Empower us by your Spirit to be Christ's presence in the world even as Jesus was God-with-us. Give us courage to speak his truth, to seek his justice, and to love with his love. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

SENDING

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION (*seated*)

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE



* RECESSIONAL HYMN 104

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

POSTLUDE

Freu dich sehr, O meine Seele

Georg Böhm

INFORMATION ON TODAY'S SERVICES

Musicians: Marily Biery, James Biery, organists and directors.

Come sing in one of our children and youth choirs: We would welcome new members! For information on the St. Cecilia and Cantamus choirs, contact Bobby DeLisle at bdelisle@kirkinthehills.org. If you have a younger chorister, contact Carol Beth Litkouhi for the Joyful Noise Choir at cblitkouhi@kirkinthehills.org. Registration for these choirs is available on the website, as is information on all three groups.

About the music: The prelude is based on the German hymn tune: "Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme" (traditionally translated as: "Wake, Wake, for Night Is Flying," or "Sleeper's Wake! A Voice Astounds Us," found at #349 in the hymnal). The hymn is based on the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids (Matthew 25: 1-13). This is one of the most well-known of Bach's organ works and is a transcription of a movement from Bach's cantata, BWV 140, of the same name.

Gustav Theodore Holst (Gustavus Theodore von Holst 1874 – 1934) was an English composer, arranger and teacher. Best known for his orchestral suite The Planets, he composed many other works across a range of genres, including music for the church. His distinctive compositional style was the product of many influences, Richard Wagner and Richard Strauss being most crucial early in his development. The subsequent inspiration of the English folksong revival of the early 20th century, and the example of such rising modern composers as Maurice Ravel, led Holst to develop and refine his style. The anthem sung today is one of his most well-known pieces of church music.

Richard Proulx (1937, St. Paul, Minnesota - 2010, Chicago, Illinois) was an American composer and editor of church music, including anthems, service music, hymn concertatos, organ music and music for handbell choir. The pronunciation of his name is suggested by the section of his catalog entitled "Noulx [new] from Proulx."

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Stephen Ministers are available for personal, confidential prayer in Melrose Chapel immediately following each service Sunday. If you or someone you know is in need of prayer please contact Nancy Lau at 248-835-6691. If you are interested in being connected with a Stephen Minister, please call Robin Brinks at 248-310-2034.



Are you feeling called to be part of the Kirk Church Family or into servant leadership with our neighbors, community and global partners? Mercy Adams, our Kirk Member, Usher and Staff support, is here to help you take the next step. Meet Mercy in the Narthex after Sunday Worship or during Coffee Hour to be connected to Small Groups, Women of the Kirk, a Ministry leader or to learn more about Membership or Outreach & Mission. Registration is open for the 2025 Advent season's Kirk Life & Membership Brunch & Learn Sunday December 7. Scan the QR code to reserve your seat.

Deacon Flower Ministry: If you or someone you know needs a little cheering up, our Deacon flower ministry has bud vases each Sunday in the narthex. Please take a flower to remind someone of God's love or to remind yourself of the same.

Tour Kirk in the Hills each Sunday! Those interested in a brief tour are asked to meet in the Baptistry, to the right of the Chancel, after the 11:00 a.m. service. See an usher for direction or further details.

Camera and Phone Usage Guidelines: Out of respect for your fellow worshipers and those leading worship, we kindly ask you to silence cellphones and other communication devices and to refrain from taking photos or video during worship. Recordings of past worship services and other sanctuary events are available at kirkinthehills.org/worship/past-messages.

The wreaths, garlands, and poinsettias decorating the sanctuary and transepts are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of Edgar and Mary Annette Flint, Howard Flint II and Marilyn Flint, *by Martha and David Kistler, Heather and Mike Putz, David Fischer Jr., and Mary and Chris Pardi.*

The wreaths by the Sanctuary doors are presented to the glory of God *by Mr. and Mrs. David B. Littleton in joyful gratitude for God's gift to all people of his Son, Jesus Christ.*

The wreaths by the Kirk House door are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of Ann S. Bryant *by The Bryant Family.*

The wreaths on the Heritage Hall doors are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of Dick and Judy Ward *by Chris, Jennifer, Collin and Henry Graff.*

The poinsettias throughout the church are presented to the glory of God in loving memory or in honor of . . .

In honor of the Kirk's Pastors, with the appreciation and love of the Kirk family.

In honor of the Kirk staff to acknowledge their faithful support of ministry at the Kirk.

In honor of those they have lost and remember *by The Norman Hofley Family.*

In honor of Chloe David *by Molly and Donald David.*

In honor of Joline Markovich and Jean Libcke, their loving Mothers and Grandmothers *by Bob, Julia, Will and Thomas Libcke.*

In honor of the Kirk Trinity Stitchers *by Marcia Miller.*

In honor of his wonderful wife who he misses so much. Love you! *By Ronald Kuhn.*

In honor of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Manza and Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Bilyeu *by Harry and Bonnie Manza.*

In honor of the Bill Robinson Bible study teacher, Dr. Ed Yousif *by Marcia and John Miller.*

Christmas Blessings to all our family and friends near and far *by Terri, Bradley and Carl Hanpeter.*

All of our Loved ones who have gone before us and whom we will hold deeply in our hearts forever *by The Parks Family.*

James and Mary Baker *by Bill, John and Tom Baker and their families.*

Delores Belt *by The Belt Family.*

George and Pat Black *by Steve Black.*

John and Hette Block and Marie and Donald Krenke *by Jon and Donna Block.*

Donald T. Breen *by Camille Breen.*

Nellie Brown, Mother of Audley, Grandmother of Chloe, *by The Brown Family.*

Andy Busch *by The Belt Family.*

Heather Christy *by Irene and Brad Christy.*

Lorelei Christy *by Irene and Brad Christy.*

Sharon Craig *by The Schneider Family.*

Reagan David *by Molly and Donald David.*

Carolyn Davis, Mother of Danielle, Grandmother of Chloe *by The Brown Family.*

Dr Jerald Felder *by Mary Felder.*

Gary L. Field *by The Riendl Family.*

Bob Fredericks *by Terry Fredericks.*

Bob Fuller *by Jeremy Wolfe and Mia Woodward.*

Jeff Gray *by The Belt Family.*

Richard T. Hartzell *by The Hartzell Family.*

Donna Mae Heliste *by Diane and Sandy McLeod.*

Robert E. Hoisington *by his family.*

Rex and Carol Holton, grandson, Kyle Holton and son-in-law, Wm Little *by The Holton and Little Families.*
 Mike Hurd *by The. Leemhuis Family.*
 Dale Johnson *by his family.*
 Ann and Henry Kezlarian *by Jeffrey Kezlarian.*
 John King *by Larry Neal.*
 Allison Kilpatrick *by Irene and Brad Christy.*
 David Lau *by his family.*
 Dr. John H. Libcke *by his wife, Jean and children, Bob, Martha and Jane and their families.*
 Albert and Jeanne Maas *by Marge and Allan Whitemore.*
 Robert E. McGee *by The Riendl Family.*
 Alexander and Evelyn McKeen *by The McKeen Family.*
 George Meschke *by his wife, Diane Meschke.*
 Susan Trowl Milliken *by her loving family.*
 Mittelstaedt, Morris, Smith and Rueber Christmases past! *by Linda and Dick Morris.*
 Joel Pott *by his family.*
 C. A. and Laura Rice *by their children.*
 Margaret and Charles Sarlund *by Curtis, Wendy, Will and Molly Myers.*
 M. Lynne Scheiber *by Dennis E. Scheiber, Jacquelyn, Logan, Kaitlynn, and family.*
 Audrey Schmatz *by Craig and Norma Schmatz*
 Virginia and Edward Shelton and Margaret Rende *by Samantha Shelton.*
 Patricia Shoemaker *by Matt and Charlene.*
 Polly and Shepherd Sikes *by Leslie Sikes.*
 Maynard Timm *by Noreen Markley and Emily Timm.*
 Amelia Lauren Tomlinson *by her parents, Daniel and Lucinda Tomlinson and her brother and family, David, Pamela, Sutton
 Jaye and Harper Belle Tomlinson.*
 Robert A. Tremain and Robert (Bobby)Tremain *by Karen Miller.*
 Charles E. Trowl, Jr. *by his loving family.*
 Sharon Van Tiem *love The Kuhn Family.*
 Richard Warner *by Matt and Charlene Warner.*
 Gloria Watt *by Susan Jones.*
 Warren Wolfe *by Jeremy Wolfe and Mia Woodward.*
 Craig Woodward *by Jeremy Wolfe and Mia Woodward.*
 Shirley Konkel Zeldan *by Craig and Mona Schmatz*
 All those whom they love and remember *by Bruce, Terri, and Alexis Miller.*
 Merry Christmas Nana! *Love The Kuhns and Jakubiak families.*
 Her brother, Tony Kovach *by Barb Penna.*
 Her darling precious little one, Lilly *by Barb Penna.*
 Her husband, Joseph, parents and grandparents *by Carol Horonzy.*
 Her friend, Ann C. Shely *by Dr. Joan Cheng.*
 Her mother, Jean A. Cheng *by Dr. Joan Cheng.*
 The loved ones we have lost *by Claire and Adam Devlin.*
 Their Dads and Grandpas: Jon Strong and Edward Hanpeter *by Terri, Bradley and Carl Hanpeter.*
 Their parents, with gratitude and in honor of those serving in our military services *by Don and Grace Guthrie.*
 Their parents, Harold and Irene Keller *by Barbara and Bill Keller.*
 Their parents, Linda Kughn and Jim Stebbins *by Kim McGlynn and Cindy Monroe.*
 Their parents, Marjorie and Donald Rader and Lucia and Earl Harris *by Judy and Waller Harris.*
 Their parents, Ralph and Thelma Stone *by Barbara and Bill Keller.*
 Their parents, Mae and Henry Wolfe and Esther and Emil Pyorala *by Jim and Py Wolfe.*



Art: by Bryce Coburn, 16 years old, 11th grade#



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