Sovereign God, we thank you for your faithfulness to us over the past year. We see our need for you, your presence, and your guidance as we look to a new year ahead. We ask that you align our hearts and will with yours. Open our eyes to see those hurting around us and help us to respond with your compassion.

NEW YEAR’S DAY

Registration for GCS’s spring semester starts Monday. There are now four programs offered, including a Master of Divinity. We give you thanks for the varied opportunities we have to learn and grow in faith. Please equip and prepare both students and faculty to grow in knowledge and truth, as well as in your grace.

Community Building - Thank you, God, for the body of believers you have drawn together. We pray for unity among us and for a corporate desire to proclaim the good news of Jesus. Help us to encourage and challenge one another as we grow in community together.

Matthew 2:1-2 - The good news of Jesus does not end with his birth in a manger. We move from Christmas into the season of Epiphany, which means “manifesting” or “revelation.” During Epiphany, we remember the journey of the Magi, who followed the light of a star. Their journey reminds us that what once was hidden to our sight has been brought to light. They knew that Jesus is a light worth following. These men were drawn to Jesus, and Jesus is still drawing humanity into relationship with Father, Son, and Spirit today. How is Jesus drawing you in and inviting you to participate in his kingdom?

We are full of joy from our Advent and Christmas celebrations. We hosted our first ever virtual live nativity. Join us in praying for connections beyond the event with seekers in our community.
Despite the challenges of last year, we were able to celebrate Christmas virtually and create the space for our youth to minister to us through a virtual Christmas pageant. We are grateful for the ways God has gifted our youth.

Matthew 2:9-10 - The Magi following the star was a response to an invitation to worship Jesus. This symbolic moment revealed Jesus as Messiah not just for the Jews, but a light for all nations and people. When they arrived in Bethlehem, the star they followed “stopped” and they “were overwhelmed with joy.” That understanding brings us to an epiphany from our story: God calls everyone to himself. In our search for Jesus, sooner or later the signs that point to him are replaced with the joy that he is near. Joy becomes our new guide, leading us to enter his home where we see Jesus. Take a moment to rest in Jesus’ presence. Ask him to have joy guide you forward in your relationship with him.

Although we are not able to gather for SEP camp as planned, our campers and staff will virtually gather today for camp-like activities, worship, and a devotional. Join us in praying for a time of connection and strengthening of faith.

Every Christmas season, we partner with the community of Surrey Hills to participate in a parade and bless members of our community. Surrey Hills community leaders and members “adopt” children of families who may be struggling to provide at Christmas. At the finish point, we are able to celebrate together with a fun Christmas party and also see the impact in children’s lives by seeing all the gifts provided for the children who are less fortunate. Join us in praying for continued opportunities to share the good news of Jesus in our neighborhood.

Please join us in praying for connections in our neighborhood. Last month we reached out to our local frontline workers, dropping off snacks for Fire Station 81 and the Derby Police Department, and giving donations to Derby Community Family Services.

Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd. We pray that you inspire our pastors and leaders with your vision for each flock. Give them eyes to see your provision and ears to hear where their communities are calling in need. Lead our congregations where you would have us go.

We celebrate the fifteen new members who will be baptized today! They stand free and whole, loved and forgiven within the kingdom of God. Father, cover and protect them now. Encircle them with your promises and fill their hearts with joy. May this day be one they cherish and remember forever.

Connect Groups Lord God Almighty, we praise you for who you are and what you have done. We pray for our Connect Groups. May your presence be palpable as we grow in understanding and relationship with you and one another. Call out of us what is not of you, and call us up into the good work you have for us to participate in ministry with you.

Gracious God, in perfect assurance of your presence among us, we pray your blessings upon Shirley McLean as we celebrate her ordination. May she honor you as she joyfully joins with you the ministry you prepared for her.

Lord God Almighty, we praise you for who you are and what you have done. We pray for our Connect Groups. May your presence be palpable as we grow in understanding and relationship with you and one another. Call out of us what is not of you, and call us up into the good work you have for us to participate in ministry with you.
18 MEDITATION MONDAY

Matthew 2:11- When the Magi enter the house, they not only see Jesus, but see him “with Mary his mother.” This is another epiphany: God is a God of relationship. Jesus doesn’t drop out of the sky like Thor or an alien invader. He comes to us in relationship, where our identity is wrapped up in who we are with him. It is in this relational context that true worship takes place. The wise men don’t worship outside the house; worship takes place alongside brothers and sisters who come to “pay homage,” sharing all they have with Jesus. Who is Jesus calling you into community with? Is there a group of neighbors or friends you can intentionally worship with between Sundays? This could look like text messages about how God is working in your lives, gathering to read scripture together, or sharing a meal and testimonies with one another.

20 KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, USA

We were given an opportunity to provide the teachers and staff at Center Elementary in Kansas City with a surprise and a token of appreciation for what they do for our neighborhood children and families.

21 PIKEVILLE, TENNESSEE, USA

Our congregation is collecting items to prepare backpacks for the homeless, which will contain all the necessary items to sustain them for several days. Thank you for your support and prayers for our ministry and mission to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community and abroad.

22 GCI-SOUTH AFRICA

We are welcoming three newly appointed members to our South African Board (Pastor Thank Mahasha, Pastor Johannesburg Maree, Pastor Grant Millar). We thank God for how he has gifted each of them and pray for unity, discernment, and joy throughout their service.

23 GRACE COMMUNION INTERNATIONAL

Creator, we are grateful for all our Avenue Champions. Thank you for the gifts you have given them. Help them as they develop, equip, and lead the ministry workers on their team. May your love and grace overflow from them as they minister.

24 GRACE COMMUNION INTERNATIONAL

Your Spirit fills heaven and earth and your Word reaches the ends of the world. We celebrate that our denominational family extends to each corner of the globe. We lift up our members around the world today. Connect us to you and one another. Show us how we can contribute to sharing your good news with our diverse communities.

25 MEDITATION MONDAY

Matthew 2:12 - Matthew’s story ends with the Magi “warned in a dream” not return to Herod. Instead, they head directly to their home country. Up to this point, they have done everything Herod told them to do. But after meeting Jesus, they now follow a new king, who is ushering in a new kingdom. Matthew tells us that “they left for their own country by another road.” The question they haven’t asked has been answered: Who is this new king? He is King of kings and Lord of lords—the Lord God himself, who has humbled himself to exalt us in relationship with him. Like the wise men, this revelation brings forth repentance. We turn our ears from the rulers of this age and set our sights on following Jesus. Is there something in your life in the place of the King? Something that takes your attention, time, and resources first and foremost? Take a moment to reflect and remember that Jesus is the true king of our hearts, the one who will satisfy us.

26 GCI-MALAWI

Last month, our leaders from across our county gathered for training. Join us in praying for a spirit of encouragement for our pastors, that each of them would empower their teams, and for all leaders to hold fast to the Word.

27 GCI-AUSTRALASIA

Join us in thanking God for faithful servants like Ruth Matthews. We are celebrating her recent ordination, a reignition of her long tenure of service and ministry within GCI.

28 RICARDSON, TEXAS, USA

We are praising God for an enjoyable and safe Leadership Retreat of fellowship and prayers. It was time of bonding and planning for ministry ahead. Please pray that God will build upon the foundation of our time together and continue to guide us.

29 GCI-HONDURAS

We are grateful for our members in Honduras. Let us remember our co-laborers there who are still rebuilding from the recent hurricanes. God, fill them with hope, provide for them, and guide their ministry. “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.” Romans 15:13

30 GCI CONGREGATIONS

Pray that our church family will be united in our worship of God, fellowship with one another, and ministry to the community. Ask God to help believers confront and remove issues and problems that threaten this unity.

31 PRAYER FOR THE SUFFERING

As we continue to press ahead in unprecedented times, we have many members and leaders in our fellowship going through difficult times. Let us intentional lift another up today! Psalm 102 - “O Lord hear my prayer and let my cry for help come to you. Do not hide your face from me when I am in trouble. Turn your ear toward me. Answer me quickly when I call.”