

## **Last Worship**

The service begins with a group prayer at the base of the steps leading up to the stage that serves as an altar. Only a dozen worshippers pray, as most of the three hundred or so Sunday attendees are still arriving, or else mingle in the lobby of the church.

Gordon Kendall is among the dozen participating in the pre-service prayer. He takes the hands of Cynthia Miller on his left, and Jacob Henreid on his right, and the group breaks into spontaneous moans and exclamations that sound like gibberish to anyone listening.

Gordon has been attending the Harmony Hill Assembly of God church for twelve years now, and is one of its original members. He subscribes fully to the Neo-Pentacostal denomination (no snakes), and has felt the "Spirit" move in the sanctuary on numerous Sunday celebrations. Gordon's mother was taken home to be with the Lord three years ago, and so the little man in mismatched corduroy pants and plaid shirt sits alone in the third row of chairs, and feels at home. He has not missed a service in six years.

Now the seats are filling up fast. A few stragglers are still arriving as the band begins to play, and it's one of Gordon's favorites--God of Wonders. All at once, the congregation is on its feet, praising the Lord. Tears flow and hands rise in worship and supplication.

David Smith, the lead guitarist, follows the inspirational opener with an instrumental solo--a beautiful rendition of Jesus Loves Me. Gordon resumes his seat and undertakes his usual perusal of the room: over there's Cynthia with her too short skirt swaying her fat butt back and forth to the slow ballad; Melissa Mueller is taking off for the lobby with her yelping brat dribbling snot down his lip; Stephen DeWeese is already on his knees in front of the steps, no doubt begging for forgiveness for cheating on his wife again.