

Dear Family & Friends,

Emma and I are both thrilled that our daughter, Kaiya Joscelyne, has finally joined our family! We are very grateful to the Lord for this precious gift.

There was a bit of surprise, though. Kaiya was born with Down syndrome and has big holes on her heart, which will require an open-heart surgery in 4-6 months. Many of you have already expressed your care and concerns for us and asked how you could pray for us. We cannot thank you enough for your kindness.

Though we are saddened by the reality that Kaiya will have to go through life experiencing the fallenness of this world more significantly than most people, we are reminded by God's Word that she is still "fearfully and wonderfully made" by God (Psalm 139:14). We look forward to seeing the Lord's sovereign plan for her life unfold and how He will use her for His purposes.

Kaiya has already brought much joy to our home, and we are daily reminded of God's goodness in entrusting her to us. We are enjoying every moment we get to spend with her. Her big brother J adores her and gives her many hugs and kisses every day.

We know that we will have some challenges ahead, but we trust that God's grace will be there, as it already has been. 1 Peter 1:6-7 has been our soul's anchor through all of this: "In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith - more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire - may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ." God is shaping us to be more like His Son, and for that, we are grateful.

We have been well cared for by our family and church through their prayers, hospital and home visits, cards, meals, etc. We cannot imagine going through something like this apart from this amazing community the Lord has graciously placed us in. What a blessing! Our pastor Mark Mullery preached a sermon on God's sovereignty and suffering this past Sunday (available at www.sovgracefairfax.org/home/audio), which has also been a means of grace in remembering God's sovereignty in trials.

Please rejoice with us in God's goodness in giving us Kaiya. Also, as you remember us, please pray that the Lord will continue to sustain us in His grace so that we may glorify Him in our response to every challenge that we may face.

Grateful for your friendship and support,

Seita & Emma