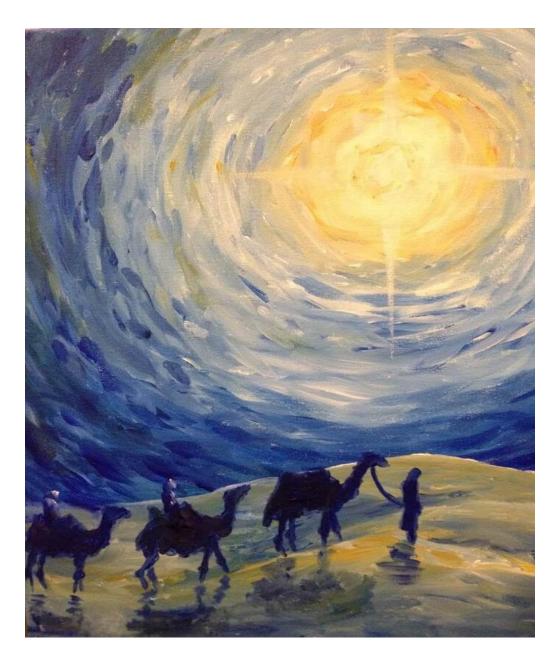


# CORNERSTONE

# PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Service of Celebration and Gospel Renewal Epiphany Sunday 05 January 2020

God calls His people to worship and come before Him. The Creator of all things reveals Himself through His Word and calls us into His presence.

# Prelude, Announcements & Preparation

Introit—O Splendor of God's Glory Bright, Vs I



Text: St. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; Music: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR, Michael Praetorious, 1571-1621.

#### Call to Worship—from Psalm 27:1, 4, 8, 11, 14

Pastor: The LORD is our light and our salvation; whom shall we fear?

All: The LORD is the stronghold of our lives; of whom shall we be afraid?

Pastor: One thing we ask of the LORD and that we will seek after:

that we may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of our lives,

All: That we may gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in His temple.

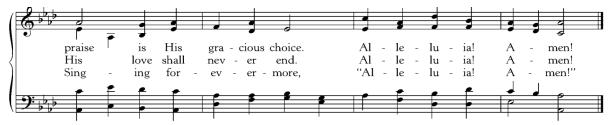
Pastor: You have said, "Seek my face."

All: Our hearts say to you, "Your face, LORD, do we seek."
Pastor: Teach us Your way, O LORD, and lead us on a level path.

All: Wait for the LORD, be strong and let your hearts take courage; wait for the LORD!

# Hymn of Praise—Come, Christians, Join to Sing





Text: Christian H. Bateman, 1843; Music: MADRID, Traditional Spanish Melody, Arr David Evans, 1927.

#### Hymn of Praise—Crown Him With Many Crowns



Text: Matthew Bridges, 1852; Music: DIADEMATA, George J. Elvey, 1868.

#### Old Testament Reading—Psalm 102:12-22

- <sup>12</sup>But you, O LORD, are enthroned forever; you are remembered throughout all generations.
- <sup>13</sup> You will arise and have pity on Zion; it is the time to favor her; the appointed time has come.
- <sup>14</sup> For your servants hold her stones dear and have pity on her dust.
- 15 Nations will fear the name of the LORD, and all the kings of the earth will fear your glory.
- <sup>16</sup> For the LORD builds up Zion; he appears in his glory;
- <sup>17</sup>he regards the prayer of the destitute and does not despise their prayer.
- <sup>18</sup> Let this be recorded for a generation to come,
  - so that a people yet to be created may praise the LORD:
- <sup>19</sup> that he looked down from his holy height; from heaven the LORD looked at the earth,
- <sup>20</sup> to hear the groans of the prisoners, to set free those who were doomed to die,
- <sup>21</sup> that they may declare in Zion the name of the LORD, and in Jerusalem his praise,
- <sup>22</sup> when peoples gather together, and kingdoms, to worship the LORD.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.

#### GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO CONFESSION, REPENTANCE & RECONCILIATION

The People of God respond to His Word by confessing their sins, repenting of their sinful ways, and seeking God's favor through the reconciling work of Jesus, the Son of God.

# Sung Response—Search Me, O God



Text: J. Edwin Orr, 1936; Music: Gregory Wilbur, 2018. © 2018 Greyfriars Press, Used by Permission.

# Corporate Prayer of Confession—based on Romans 6:I-2, II-I4, 23

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?

By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?

All: We must consider ourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Pastor: Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions.

All: We will not present our members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness,

but we will present ourselves to God

as those who have been brought from death to life.

Pastor: For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

All: For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

# Silent Prayers of Confession

# Assurance of Pardon—based on Colossians 1:19-22

For in Christ all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him.



Text: Charles Wesley, 1738; Music: SAGINA, Thomas Campbell, 1825.

# The Reading of the Word—John 8:31-36

<sup>31</sup> So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, <sup>32</sup> and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." <sup>33</sup> They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?"

<sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup> The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. <sup>36</sup> So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Leader: The grass withers, the flower fades;

All: But the Word of our God will stand forever.

#### Sermon—For Freedom Set Free, Part I

My Chains Fell Off: When the Truth Sets You Free

—Nate Shurden, Pastor

# Sung Response—O Praise the Father



Text: John Mason, 1683; Music: Gregory Wilbur, 2011.

# Profession of Faith—The Apostles' Creed

We believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into Heaven

and now sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty,

from whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic\* church,

The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

The resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

\* "Catholic" refers to the universal church of God's people throughout all time and from all places

# Sung Response—Gloria



CCLI #11121087 Text: Luke 2:14; Music: Franklin Gloria, Gregory D Wilbur, 2012 ©2012 Greyfriars Press.

God offers to His people the gift of communion with Him through the grace of the sacrament and we respond in thanksgiving.

#### Words of Institution and the Lord's Table

# Guidelines for the Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is the family meal for Christians. We invite all baptized Christians who are members of a congregation that proclaims the gospel, and who are at peace with God and with their neighbor, and who seek strength to live more faithfully for Christ to join us.

If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer. You can find some sample prayers on the next page. We hope that this time is helpful to you as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ and with His people, the church.

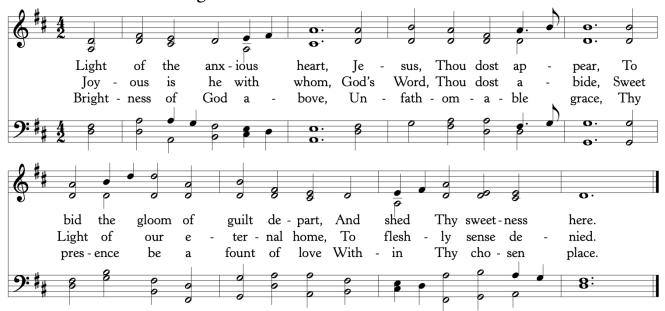
At Cornerstone, we come forward to receive communion. You may take the bread at the first table and then proceed to either side for the wine/grape juice.

# Hymn of Communion—The King Shall Come, Vs I-3, 6-7



Text: Greek Hymn, Tr John Brownlie, 1859-1925; Music: MORNING SONG, Kentucky Harmony, 1816.

# Hymn of Communion—Light of The Anxious Heart



Text: St. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091-1153, Tr. by John Henry Newman, 1801-80; Music: Selma, Robert Archibald Smith, 1780-1829

#### Prayers for Those Not Taking the Lord's Supper

If you are not able to partake in the Lord's Supper today, please use this time to meditate on one of the following prayers.

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth. Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief. Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

*Prayer of Commitment.* Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship through membership in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.

# Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

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.

# Hymn of Praise—As With Gladness Men of Old, Vs I-4



Text: William Chatterton Dix, 1860; Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1838

# GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT TO BE LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

After calling His people into His presence, forgiving their sins, instructing them in His Word, and providing a foretaste of the marriage supper of the Lamb, God sends His people into the world to show His light in the darkness.

#### Benediction—from Galatians 6:14, 18

May we boast only in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to us, and we to the world. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

# Sung Response—What Child is This, Vs 3



Text: William Chatterton Dix, 1865; Music: GREENSLEEVES, 16th Century English

Prayer Focus—Timothy Tan is a pastor of the Nashville Presbytery church plant, Crossroads of the Nations (COTN) in Cool Springs. COTN is a church made up of diverse ethnic heritages including Anglo, African American, Chinese, Japanese, Taiwanese, Singaporean, Hong Kong, Vietnamese, Filipino, Korean and Peruvian and has two weekly worship services

- Pray for seasoned Christians to lead and walk with a young flock.
- Pray for volunteers from outside COTN to co-labor our daily ministries.
- Thankful for God steadfast hands in guiding us as we do our best to be the church that love each other so that the world may know we belong to Christ.
- Pray for the leadership and congregants as we are going through a season of reorganization.

Today's message, "My Chains Fell Off: When the Truth Sets You Free" is taken from John 8:31-36. Please take time to discuss the questions below with your family, friends, or Home Fellowship Group (HFG)

- For Jesus, ultimate bondage is enslavement to sin. Do you agree? Why?
- What is the truth that frees us? How does this truth free us?
- What does it mean to "abide" in the truth? Why is abiding in the truth the proof of true discipleship?
- The Jews thought themselves to be free when they were enslaved. What false ideas about freedom did
  they believe? How are you prone to believing those same false ideas?
- Where do you see confusion in the culture today around the idea of freedom? How does the Christian message offer a way forward?
- Based on today's message, what would it mean for you to live with greater freedom in the gospel this year? Be as specific and practical in your answer as possible.

# CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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\*On Sabbatical

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All Scripture quotations from the English Standard Version



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