



CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND GOSPEL RENEWAL

First Sunday of Advent—Hope

01 December 2019

Welcome to Worship

If you are reading this in worship, I want you to know something—you *are an answer to prayer*. Each Sunday before worship, I ask God to bring into our midst exactly who He desires would be there. Since you are with us today, I believe God has a blessing in store for you. I am prayerful as we worship together today, that blessing will be received and enjoyed.

To that end, this service of worship has been designed that we might know God and the glory of the gospel of Jesus Christ. From the summons to worship at the beginning to the sending out into the world at the benediction, that you might know God, the truth and joy of salvation, and be equipped to answer the call to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Following the service, feel free to approach one of our elders (the men who help serve the Lord's Supper) with any prayer needs or questions you may have. I believe you will find them to be warm, inviting, and eager to serve. Please know I would personally enjoy getting to meet you this morning following the service, so please stop by and see me at the front door of the chapel.

It is my sincere prayer that your experience today at Cornerstone Presbyterian Church is one that blesses you spiritually and strengthens your faith in the Lord.

Grace & Peace,
Rev. Nate Shurden

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

God built within His people an innate desire to celebrate, to mark seasons and events, to set up “stones of remembrance” so that we do not forget His goodness and promises. One method that the Church has used over time is dividing each year according to the events in the life of Christ—a reminder of redemptive history. Although the Church Calendar is not prescribed by Scripture, it can be a useful framework or tool to help walk our hearts through the Gospel every year.

The major divisions of the liturgical year are:

- **Advent**—The four Sundays leading to Christmas; preparation for the coming of Christ and the need for a Savior
- **Christmas & Twelve Days**—Celebration of the Incarnation & the Gift of Christ, our Redeemer
- **Epiphany**—January 6; Coming of the Magi for Christ is the Light of the World; Hope for the Gentiles; Kingship of Christ
- **Lent**—from Ash Wednesday to Easter; repentance and reflection; recognition that our sinfulness leads to the cross; intentional time to exercise the disciplines of grace
- **Holy Week**—Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday; Jesus as King, Priest, Prophet; The remembrance that the shedding of blood was necessary for the forgiveness of sins
- **Easter**—Resurrection of the Living Lord; the conquering of death and sin
- **Ascension**—Christ in Power at the right hand of the Father; Christ interceding as the Mediator
- **Pentecost**—Coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church; God sends out His people as the Church
- **Ordinary Time**—The weeks between Pentecost and Advent; Living in light of the Gospel as the Church

Worship is a response to the love of God that brings us out of darkness into his light. The rhythm and flow of the service reflects this present reality as God calls his people and reveals himself, forgives their sins, teaches them from his Word, the Bible, feeds them, and then sends them out to live what they have learned.

This is the pattern of his love in redeeming and saving his people.

GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE AND REVEALS HIMSELF

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.

Preludes, Announcements & Preparation

Lighting of the Advent Wreath—Angels from the Realms of Glory, Vs 4

The musical score is written for piano in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are: "Saints, be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in hope and fear; Sud - den - ly the Lord, descend - ing, In His tem - ple shall ap - pear. Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King."

Text: James Montgomery, 1816, 1825; Music REGENT SQUARE, Henry Smart, 1867.

Call to Worship—Psalm 33:I, 18-22

Pastor: Shout for joy in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright.

All: Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him,
on those who hope in his steadfast love,

Reader 1: He will deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine.

Reader 2: Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.

Pastor: For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name.

All: Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

Hymn of Praise—O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Em - man - - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
O come, thou Branch of Jes - - - se! Draw the quar - ry from the
O come, thou Key of Da - - - vid come, And o - pen wide our
O come, O come, thou Day - spring bright! Pour on our souls thy

Is - - - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - - - ile
li - - - on's claw; From the dread cav - erns of the
heav'n - - - ly home; Safe - guard for us the heav'n - ward
heal - - - ing light; Dis - pel the long night's ling - 'ring

here, un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
grave, From neth - er hell, thy peo - - - ple save. Re -
road, And bar the way to death's a - bode.
gloom, And pierce the sha - dows of the tomb.

joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Text: Latin Antiphons, 12th century, Tr. John Mason Neale, 1851
Music: VENI EMMANUEL, Plainsong, 13th century, Arr. Thomas Helmore, 1856

Hymn of Expectation—Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus



Come, Thou long ex - pect-ed Je - sus Born to set Thy peo - ple free;
Born Thy peo - ple to de - li - ver, Born a child and yet a King,



From our fears and sins re - lease us, Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring,



Is - rael's Strength and Con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art;
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear De - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
By Thine all suf - fi - cient mer - it, Raise us to Thy glor - ious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1745; Music: American Melody.

+++Latecomers Please Wait to be Seated+++

Old Testament Reading—Isaiah 40:I-5

Prepare the Way of the Lord.

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her that her warfare is ended,
that her iniquity is pardoned,
that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

3 A voice cries:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

4 Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

5 And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

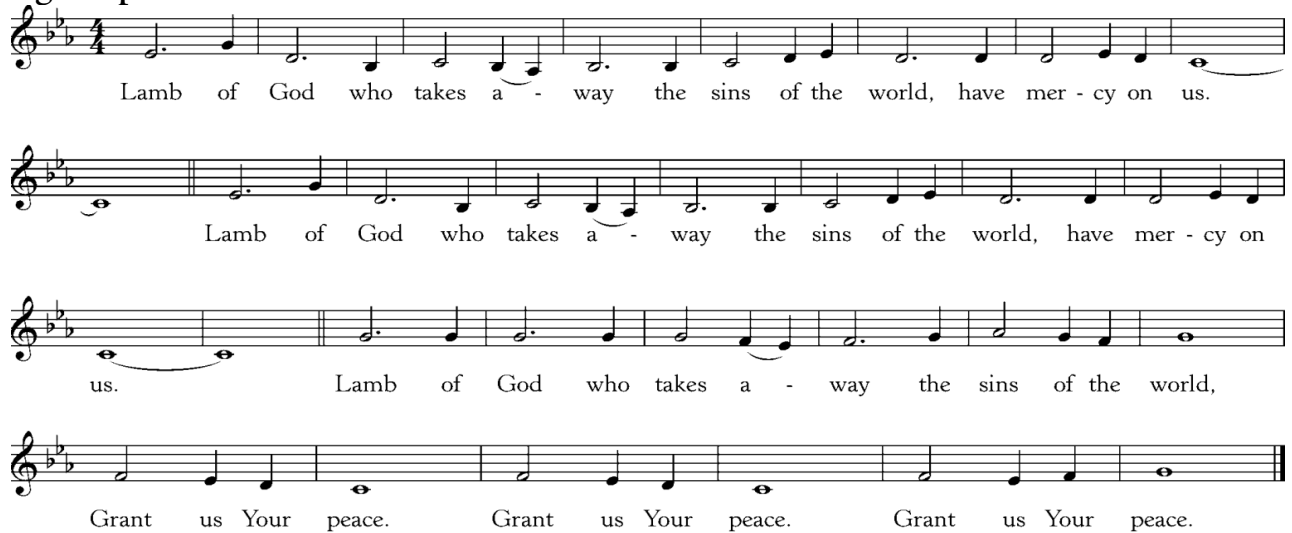
Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

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—Lamb of God



Lamb of God who takes a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God who takes a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy on

us. Lamb of God who takes a - way the sins of the world,

Grant us Your peace. Grant us Your peace. Grant us Your peace.

Text: John 1:29; Music: FRANKLIN AGNUS DEI, Gregory D Wilbur, 2009. ©2009 Greyfriars Press.

Corporate Confession of Sin—based on Isaiah 59:1-2, 9-13

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. Behold, Your hand is not shortened, that it cannot save,
or Your ear dull, that it cannot hear;

**All: But our iniquities have made a separation between us and our God,
and our sins have hidden His face from us.**

Pastor: Therefore justice is far from us, and righteousness does not overtake us;

**All: We hope for light, and behold, we get darkness.
We hope for brightness, but we walk in gloom.**

Pastor: We grope for the wall like the blind; we grope like those who have no eyes;
we stumble at noon as in the twilight,
among those in full vigor we are like dead men.

All: We hope for justice, but there is none; for salvation, but it is far from us.

Pastor: For our transgressions are multiplied before You, and our sins testify against us;

All: For our transgressions are with us, and we know our iniquities:

Pastor: We have sinned, and denied the Lord, and turned back from following our God.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon—I Timothy 1:15-17

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

+++Latecomers are Welcome to be Seated+++

Hymn of Promise—Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each dark mis - deed;
 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert far and near,
 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, Make the rough - er plac - es plain:

Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing 'neath their sor - row's load;
 All that well de - served His an - ger He will no more see nor heed.
 Bid - ding all men to re - pen - tance, Since the king - dom now is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be - fits His ho - ly reign,

Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem Of the peace that waits for them;
 She has suf - fered many a day, Now her griefs have passed a - way,
 O that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way!
 For the glo - ry of the Lord Now o'er earth is shed a - broad,

Tell her that her sins I cov - er, And her war - fare now is o - ver.
 God will change her pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er spring - ing glad - ness.
 Let the val - leys rise to meet Him, And the hills bow down to greet Him.
 And all flesh shall see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johannes G. Olearius, 1671, Trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1863; Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Genevan Psalter*, 1551.

GOD TEACHES US THROUGH HIS WORD

The Reading of the Word—John 1:1-4

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

Leader: The grass withers, the flower fades;

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

Sermon—The One True Light, Part I

In the Beginning. . . Christmas

—Nate Shurden, *Pastor*

Sung Response—From Heaven Came the Angels Bright

The image shows a musical score for a sung response. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are: "All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, Whose ad - vent has_ our free - dom won, Whom with the Fa - ther we a - dore, And Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, Whose ad - vent has_ our free - dom
won, Whom with the Fa - ther we a - dore, And Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Martin Luther; Music: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR, Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621.

Profession of Faith—from Philippians 2:5-11

We believe, that though Christ Jesus was in the form of God,
 He did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,
 but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant,
 being born in the likeness of men.
 And being found in human form,
 He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death,
 even death on a cross.
 Therefore God has highly exalted Him
 and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name,
 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
 in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
 to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Sung Response—Gloria

WOMEN



Glo-ry to God in the high - est! Peace to His peo-ple on earth.

MEN



Glo-ry to God in the high - est! Peace to His peo-ple on earth.



We praise earth. Glo-ry to God in the high - est! Peace on earth. We praise You! We bless You! We a - dore You! We glo - ri - fy!



We give You thanks for Your glo - ry. We give You thanks for Your glo - ry.

We give You thanks for Your glo - ry. We give You thanks.

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

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

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—Glory in the Darkest Place



Out of the depths of si-lent night Im-man - u - el, come hear our cry.
Out of the depths of si-lent night A Sav - ior born, a moth - er's sigh.



Our grief is strong, our bur-dens great. The night is long and hope is faint.
The dark-ness trem - bled at this star. A beam of hope for troub-led hearts.



You came to set the cap-tives free, A Morn-ing Star of joy and peace.
You came to make Your bless-ings known. And bear our curse of death a - lone.



Why does this dark-ness feel so deep? Lord, help our wear - y spir - its see.
You came to share our suf-fer - ing So in our sor - row we could sing:



Glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry in the dark - est place.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry, let Your mer - cy reign.

Hymn of Communion—Of the Father’s Love Begotten, Vs I-5



Of the Fath - er's love be - got - ten. Ere the worlds be - gan to be,
 O that birth for - ev - er bless - ed! When the Vir - gin full of grace,
 He as - sumed this mor - tal bo - dy, Frail and fee - ble, doomed to die,
 This is He whom once the si - byls With u - ni - ted voice fore - told,
 Christ, to Thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly Ghost, to Thee,



He is Al - pha and O - me - ga, He the Source, the End - ing He.
 By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, Bore the Sav - ior of our race,
 That the race from dust cre - a - ted Might not per - ish ut - ter - ly,
 Whom the Scrip - tures of the pro - phets Pro - mised in their faith - ful word.
 Hymn and chant with high thanks - giv - ing, and un - wear - ied prais - es be:



Of the things that are, that have been, And that fu - ture years shall see,
 And the babe, the world's Re - deem - er, First re - vealed His sac - red face,
 Which the dread - ful Law had sen - tenced In the depths of Hell to lie,
 Let the world u - nite to praise Him, Long de - sired, fore - seen of old,
 Hon - or, glor - y, and do - min - ion, And e - ter - nal vic - to - ry,



Ev - er more and ev - er - more.

Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413; Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, 12th century Plainsong

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.

GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND IN GRATEFUL PRAISE

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—Hark! a Thrilling Voice is Sounding

Hark! a thrill - ing voice is sound - ing; "Christ is nigh," it seems to say,
Wak - ened by the so - lemn warn - ing Let the earth - bound soul a - rise;
Lo, the Lamb, so long ex - spect - ed, Comes with par - don down from Heav'n;
That when next He comes in glor - y, And the world is wrapped in fear,
Hon - or, glor - y, might, and bless - ing Be to God: the Fa - ther, Son

"Cast a - way the works of dark - ness, O ye chil - dren of the day."
Christ, her Sun, all ill dis - pell - ing, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
Let us haste, with tears of sor - row, One and all to be for - given.
With His mer - cy He may shield us, And with words of love draw near.
And the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it, While e - ter - nal ag - es run.

The musical score consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

Text: 5th century, trans. Edward Caswall, 1849; Music: MERTON (MONK), William H. Merton, 1850

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—I Thessalonians 5:16-18

The root of Jesse will come, even He who arises to rule the Gentiles;
in Him will the Gentiles hope.
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. *Amen.*

Sung Response—To Us a Child of Hope is Born, Vs I

The musical score is written in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "To us a Child of hope is born, To us a Son is giv'n, Him shall the tribes of earth o - bey, Him all the hosts of Heav'n. His Name shall be the Prince of Peace, For - ev - er - more a - dored, The Won - der - ful, the Coun - se - lor, The great and might - y Lord." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

Text: John Morrison, 1781; Music: KINGSFOLD, English Folk Tune.

Prayer Focus—Lee Leadbetter (Jen) is the Reformed University Fellowship International (RUF-I) campus minister at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, TN. ministering to 1,700 foreign students and scholars from 100 nations. RUF-I is the campus ministry of the Presbyterian Church in America that focuses on international students. God is at work and has brought more foreign students to college campuses in the United States than to any other nation. RUF-I responds to God's work and obeys God's Word by welcoming students from all nations and equipping kingdom ambassadors for Christ's worldwide church. RUF-I seeks to reflect God's grace to an international audience by sharing hospitable deeds and gospel words in His Name with them. Lee has requested that Cornerstone pray and praise God in the following areas:

- Praise for several new American RUF students at UT joining our Ministry Team
- Praise for 5-6 Christian internationals now involved with RUF-I and pray we'll know how to best disciple them
- Pray for eternal fruit to have come from our fall series on "Life and Death and What Matters in Between"
- Pray for D & S from India, A & M from the Middle East, and J & M from South America to embrace the uniqueness and sufficiency of Jesus
- Praise for 115 internationals we were able to welcome to our Thanksgiving Celebration last Sunday, 11/17 and for the 50 volunteers that served
- Pray for the RUF-I Christmas Party on 12/8 that the warmth of Christ's love, and especially the good news of Christ Savior would draw internationals to faith
- Praise for a recent renewal and deepening of our relationship with UT's International House
- Pray for strong year-end giving to our campus account to help us finish 2019 well
- Pray for wisdom for our family as we now consider housing options again, after 5 months in a hotel due to a house fire in June
- Pray for the grace of Jesus to be the glue and joy for our marriage and family



Service of Lessons & Carols

December 15
at 5:00pm

Today's message, "In the Beginning, Christmas" is taken from John I:1-4. Please take time to discuss the questions below with your family, friends, or Home Fellowship Group (HFG)

- What makes the gospel of John unique among all the other gospels?
- Why does John start his gospel at creation?
- What is the significance of John referring to Jesus as the *Logos* or Word?
- Arius was a third century theologian who argued that Jesus was the highest created being but not God. His teaching was judged a heresy by the Council of Nicaea in AD 325. Why is it important that Jesus is God and not a created being? How would you defend the deity of Jesus Christ?
- How will you prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ this advent?

CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Presbyterian Church in America

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Terry Cheney (579-7089)

Chuck Emerson: *Emeritus* (943-8443)

Joe Haworth (289-7543)

Jim Payne (497-0613)

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All Scripture quotations from the English Standard Version

