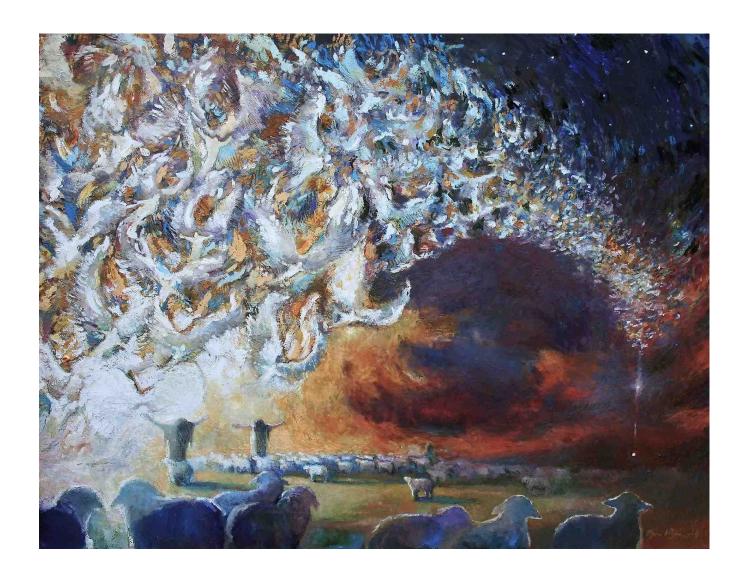


## CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Service of Celebration and Gospel Renewal Second Sunday of Advent—Peace

08 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.

#### Prelude—Creator of the Stars of Night

Creator of the stars of night Your people's everlasting light, O Christ, Redeemer of us all, We pray you hear us when we call.

At your great name of Jesus now All knees must bend, All hearts must bow. All things on earth with one accord Like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord

When this old world drew on toward night, You cane, but not in splendor bright, Not as a monarch, but the child Of Mary, virgin mother mild. Come in your holy might, we pray, Redeem us for eternal day. Defend us while we dwell below From all assaults of our dread foe.

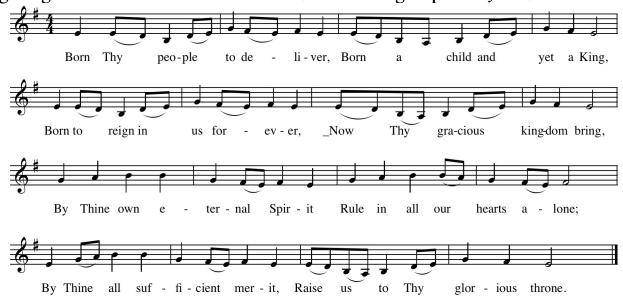
In sorrow that thee ancient curse Should doom to death a universe, You came, O Savior to set free Your own in glorious liberty.

To God the Father, God the Son, And God the Spirit, Three in One, Praise, honor, might and glory be From age to age eternally.

Text: Latin, 9th cent.; CONDITUR ALME SIDERUM, Setting by Joe Cox.

#### Announcements & Preparation

#### Lighting of the Advent Wreath—Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus, Vs 2



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

#### Call to Worship—from Psalm 29:I-4, I0-II

Pastor: Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;

All: Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.

Reader 1: The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders,

the LORD, over many waters.

Reader 2 The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

Pastor: The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.

All: May the LORD give strength to his people!

May the LORD bless his people with peace!

#### Hymn of Praise—O Come, All Ye Faithful



Text: Latin Hymn, Tr. By Frederick Oakeley, 1841; Music: Cantus Diversi, 1751.



Text: SUSSEX CAROL, Traditional English Carol

#### Old Testament Reading—Isaiah 52:7-10

- 7 How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,
  - who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."
- 8 The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy;

for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion.

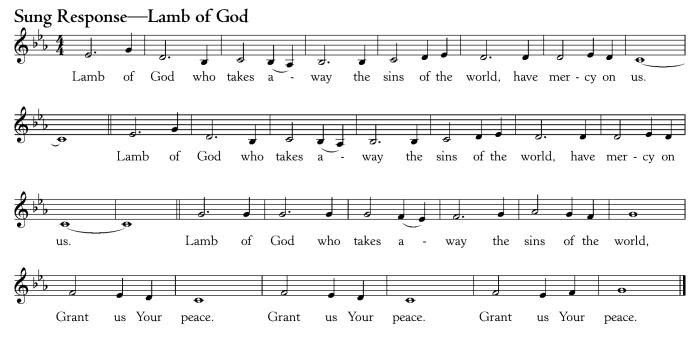
- 9 Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem.
- 10 The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

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.



Text: John I:29; Music: Franklin Agnus Dei, Gregory D Wilbur, 2009. ©2009 Greyfriars Press.

#### Corporate Confession of Sin-based on Ephesians 4:I-4, I4-I6

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing that you have made us to be one body, in one Spirit, called to one hope.

But our pride and impatience have spawned only dissension and division.

All: We have not been strong in the strength of your might and have not readied ourselves for the daily work of reconciliation.

Pastor: We have neglected the grace given to us by Christ's gift and have failed to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

All: Forgive us for being tossed to and fro by selfish whims, for building our own kingdoms rather than living in submission to Christ's Kingdom.

Pastor: Help us to speak the truth in love, and walk in it.

Rescue us and fill us with the Spirit, that Christ may be formed in us.

#### Silent Prayers of Confession

#### Assurance of Pardon—Micah 7:18-20

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. You will show faithfulness to Jacob and steadfast love to Abraham, as you have sworn to our fathers from the days of old.

#### Hymn of Praise—What Child is This



#### Sacrament of Baptism

—Malcom Raymond Smith, Son of Eric & Lauren Smith —Marlowe Zadey Thompson, Daughter of Taylor & Jenna Thompson

"For to you is the promise, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call unto him. 'And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your seed after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto you and to your seed after you.' Therefore, believe on the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved, you and your house." (Acts 2:39; Gen. 17:7; Acts 16:31)

#### Parental Vows:

- I. Do you acknowledge your own, as well as your child's, need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?
- 2. Do you claim God's covenant promises for him/her, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus—and only to the Lord Jesus—for his/her salvation, just as you do for your own?
- 3. Do you now consecrate your child to God; will you in humble reliance upon His sovereign grace set before him/her a godly example—praying with and for him/her, teaching him/her the good hope of the Gospel, opening to him/her the truth of the Scriptures, and striving by every means of grace God provides, to bring him/her up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

#### Congregational Vow:

Will you as a covenant community joyously commit to assisting these parents in the Christian nurture of this child?

#### GOD TEACHES US THROUGH HIS WORD

#### The Reading of the Word—John 1:1-13

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

<sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

<sup>9</sup> The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Leader: The grass withers, the flower fades;

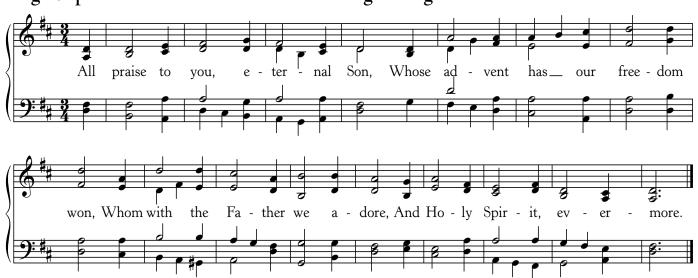
All: But the Word of our God will stand forever.

#### Sermon—The One True Light, Part 2

Let There Be Light

—Ben Griffith, Pastor

#### Sung Response—From Heaven Came the Angels Bright



Text: Martin Luther; Music: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR, Michael Praetorious, 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



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.

#### Choral Hymn of Communion—Of the Father's Love Begotten

Of the Father's love begotten Ere the worlds began to be, He is Alpha and Omega, He the Source, the Ending He,

Of the things that are, that have been, And that future years shall see Evermore and evermore.

Oh, that birth forever blessed When the Virgin, full of grace, By the Holy Ghost conceiving, Bare the Savior of our race, And the Babe, the world's Redeemer, First revealed His sacred face Evermore and evermore.

O ye heights of heaven, adore Him; Angel hosts, His praises sing; Powers, dominions, bow before Him And extol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be silent, Every voice in concert ring Evermore and evermore.

Text: Aurelius C, Prudentius, 4<sup>th</sup> century, Translated by H.W> Baker & J.M. Neale; Music: DOMHNACH TRIONOIDE, Arr. John Cornish

#### 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.

#### Hymn—Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming



Text: 15th century German Carol, Trans. Theodore Baker, 1894; Music: ES IST EIN ROS, harm. Michael Praetorius, 1609.

#### 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.



Text: Charles Wesley, 1739, 1753; Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1840, Arr. William H. Cummings, 1856.

#### 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—2 John I:3

Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father's Son, in truth and love. *Amen.* 

#### Sung Response—To Us a Child of Hope is Born, Vs 2



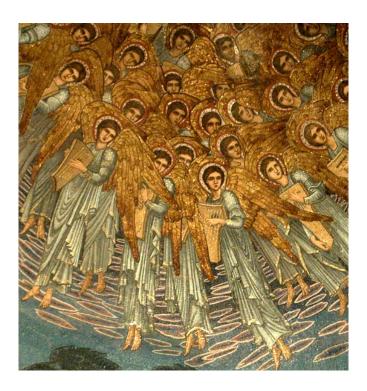
Text: John Morrison, 1781; Music: KINGSFOLD, English Folk Tune.

Prayer Focus—Gavin Breeden (Shalaine) is the Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) campus minister at Tennessee Tech University (TTU) in Cookeville, Tennessee. RUF is the campus ministry organization of the Presbyterian Church in America. RUF has experienced rapid growth the past few years, and currently has I40 chapters at different college campuses spread over 37 states, Mexico, Columbia and the Czech Republic. More than just a ministry on the university, RUF seeks to be a ministry for the university. It strives to serve in this unique stage of a student's life in the world they live in, exploring together how the Lordship of Christ informs every area of life.

Gavin sent Cornerstone the following update requesting prayer in several areas.

We just finished our fourth year at TTU and watched with joy (and a little sadness) as our first group of freshmen graduated and moved on to the next chapter of life. Our intern Will completed his two-year internship and is heading to seminary in the fall. Our current intern Anna is heading into her second year and my wife is beginning her second year as part-time staff. We just bid farewell to a lot of our student leaders but we have a new group of rising student leaders who are eager to reach our campus with the good news of Jesus Christ. In many ways, it feels like this is a new chapter for our ministry to TTU and we're very excited to see God working in and through us this year. Please pray for us in the following ways:

- Our biggest prayer request this summer is fundraising. We have a big need, please pray for the Lord to continue to provide for us in this area.
- Pray for our Large Group and small group Bible studies in the fall that God would use them to save students and grow them in grace.
- Pray for our staff: Anna (intern), Shalaine (part-time staff), and Gavin (campus minister).
- Pray for the I3 student leaders on the Servant Team that they would grow closer to Jesus and learn to minister to other students this year.
- Pray for the our family (Gavin, Shalaine, Addie Pearl, Miles, and Stella) that there will be a healthy balance between ministry and home life and that we would model for students what a loving gospel-centered home looks like.



# Service of Lessons & Carols

December 15 at 5:00pm

- I. Think about our world, the news this week, the difficult areas of your life, and even your own heart. How is verse five particularly encouraging, that the darkness cannot overcome the light?
- 2. How is the light of Christ threatening to those who live in the darkness?
- 3. It's easier to hide in the darkness. What does this look like in your life? What are some typical strategies we use to hide from God, others, and even ourselves? And what would it look like to come out of hiding in these areas?
- 4. What does it mean that you, as a believer in Christ, have been given the "right" to be a child of God? Flesh out what this radically new status means, and what difference this makes in your day in, day out life.

#### CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

#### Presbyterian Church in America

### Prayer Requests: prayer@cstonepres.org Ruling Elders

Randy Allen (260-1884)	Chuck Emerson: Emeritus (943-8443)	Jim Payne (497-0613)
Terry Cheney (579-7089)	Joe Haworth (289-7543)	Jim Smith (347-4188)
Deacons		
Mark Elliott (477-I04I)	Kevin McClung (243-9228)	Larry Thompson (901-734-1520)
Gene King (806-3726)	Jim Robinson (587-0442)	Bob Vermilye (599-9577)
Mike Payne (579-6453)	Todd Russell (319-4803)	David Steffens (557-5316)

\*On Sabbatical

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All Scripture quotations from the English Standard Version

