



CORNERSTONE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND GOSPEL RENEWAL

Fourth Sunday of Advent—Glory

22 December 2019

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 Choral Hymn—Child of the Stable’s Secret Birth

Child of the stable’s secret birth,
the Lord by right of the lords of earth,
let angels sing of a King new-born,
the world is weaving a crown of thorn:
a crown of thorn for that infant head
cradled soft in the manger bed.

Eyes that shine in the lantern’s ray;
a face so small in its nest of hay—
face of a child who is born to scan
the world he made through the eyes of man:
and from that face in the final day
earth and heaven shall flee away.

Voice that rang through the courts on high,
contracted now to a wordless cry,
a voice to master the wind and wave,
the human heart and the hungry grave:
the voice of God through the cedar trees
rolling forth as the sound of seas.

Child of the stable’s secret birth,
the Father’s gift to a wayward earth,
to drain the cup in a few short years
of all our sorrows, our sins, and tears—
ours the prize for the road he trod:
risen with Christ; at peace with God.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926; Music: Thomas Hewitt Jones, b. 1984.

Announcements & Preparation

Lighting of the Advent Wreath—From Heaven Came the Angels Bright, Vs I

From Heav-en came the an-gels bright to shep-herds watch-ing in the night.

A new-born roy-al child, they said, lies yon-der in a man-ger bed.

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

Call to Worship—from Psalm 96:1-9

Pastor: Oh sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth!
Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.

All: Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!

Pastor: For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods.

Reader 1: For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the Lord made the heavens.

Reader 2: Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

Pastor: Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength!

All: Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts!

Pastor: Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!

Hymn of Praise—Angels We Have Heard on High

An - gels, we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.
Say what may the tid - ings be, which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?

Glo - - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o,

glo - - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: Traditional French Carol. Music: Traditional French Melody.

Hymn of Praise—Angels from the Realms of Glory

An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 Shep - herds, in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
 Saints, be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in hope and fear;

Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.
 God with us is now re - sid - ing; Yon - der shines the in - fant light:
 Seek the great De - sire of na - tions; Ye have seen His na - tal star.
 Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - 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.

Old Testament Reading—Isaiah II:I-10

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
 and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

² And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
 the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³ And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
 and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
 and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
 and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

⁶ The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
 and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them.

⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together;
 and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,
 and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

⁹ They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain;
 for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations
 inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

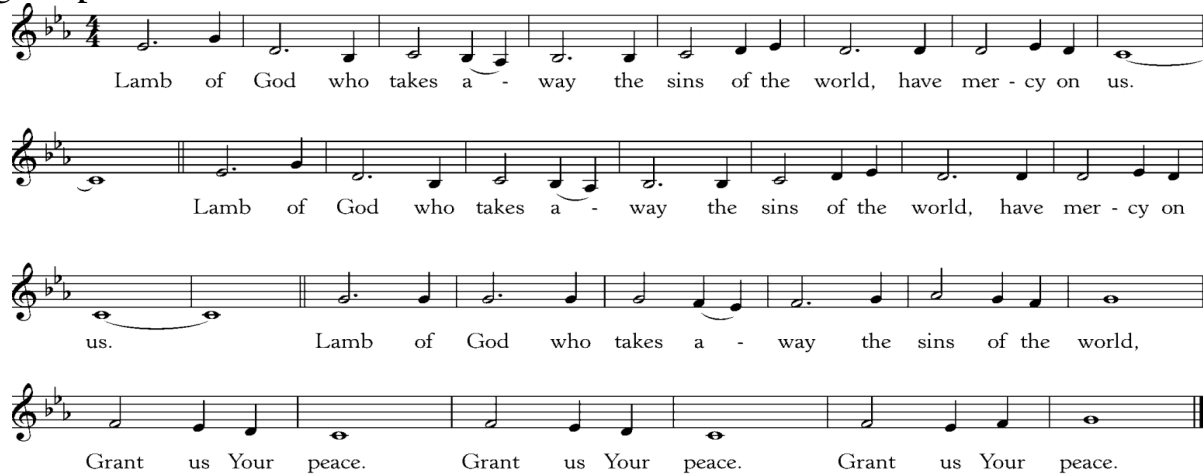
Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

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—John 1:1-5; 10-12, 14, 16

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. Knowing ourselves to be sinners,
we approach the glorious incarnation of Christ, his coming into the world, with awe.
In the beginning was the Word, And the Word was with God,

All: **And the Word was God.**

Pastor: He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him,

All: **and without him was not any thing made that was made.**

Pastor: In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

All: **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Pastor: He was in the world, and the world was made through Him,

All: **Yet we did not know Him.**

Pastor: He came to His own,

All: **And we did not receive Him.**

Pastor: But to all who did receive him, he gave the right to become children of God,

All: **To those who believed in His name.**

Pastor: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,

All: **And we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father,
full of grace and truth.**

Pastor: And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

All: **For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.**

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon—based on Isaiah 7:14, 53:4-6

Therefore the LORD himself will give you a sign.

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.

He was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities;

upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Psalm 72: O God, To Thine Anointed King



O God, to Thine a - noint - ed King Give truth and right - eous - ness; Thy
The poor man's cause He will main - tain, The need - y He will bless, And
Like rain up - on the new - born grass, That falls re - fresh - ing - ly, Like



peo - ple He will just - ly judge And give the poor re - dress. Then
He will break the strength of those Who would the poor op - press. So
gen - tle showers that cheer the earth, So shall His com - ing be. The



ev - ery fruit - ful moun - tain - side Shall yield its rich in - crease, And
men shall fear Thee while the sun In dai - ly splen - dor glows, And
right - eous in His glor - ious day Shall flour - ish and in - crease, The



right - eous - ness in all the land Shall bear the fruit of peace.
through all a - ges, while the moon On earth its light be - stows.
earth, un - til the moon shall fade, Shall have a - bun - dant peace.

Text: Psalm 72, *The Psalter*, 1912; Music: Gregory Wilbur, 2009. Used by Permission

Sacrament of Baptism

—Eleanor Rose Payne, *Daughter of Mike & Mel Payne*

“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:

1. 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 her, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus—and only to the Lord Jesus—for 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 her a godly example—praying with and for her, teaching her the good hope of the Gospel, opening to her the truth of the Scriptures, and striving by every means of grace God provides, to bring 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 1:14-18

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) ¹⁶ For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

Leader: The grass withers, the flower fades;

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

Sermon—The One True Light, Part 4

Full of Grace and Truth

—Ben Griffith, *Pastor*

Sung Response—From Heaven Came the Angels Bright

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.

Choral Hymn—Behold, A Virgin Shall Conceive

Antiphon:



Be - hold, a Vir - gin shall con - ceive and bear a son; and His name will be called Em-man - u - el.

Choir:

I love you, LORD, my strength, LORD, my rock, my fortress, my deliverer,
My God, my rock of refuge, My shield, my saving horn, my stronghold!

Praised be the LORD, I exclaim! I have been delivered from my enemies.
The cords of death encompassed me; The torrents of destruction terrified me.

The cords of Sheol encircled me; The snares of death lay in wait for me.

In my distress I called out: LORD! I cried out to my God.
From his temple he heard my voice; My cry to him reached his ears.

Text: Isaiah 7:14, Psalm 18:1-6; Music: Russell Weismann

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.

Communion Hymn—I Wonder as I Wander

I won-der as I wan-der, out un-der the sky, How Je-sus the
 When Ma-ry birthed Je-sus, 'twas in a cow's stall, With wise men and
 If Je-sus had want-ed for a-ny wee thing, A star in the

Sa-viour did come for to die For poor on-'ry peo-ple like you and like
 farm-ers and shep-herds and all; But high from the hea-vens a star's light did
 sky or a bird on the wing, Or all of God's an-gels in heav'n for to

I; I won-der as I wan-der out un-der the sky.
 fall, And the pro-mise of the a-ges it then did re-call.
 sing He sure-ly could have it 'cause he was the King.

CCLI #11121087 Text and Music: John Jacob Niles, 1933; adapted from and American Folk Carol

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-pect-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.

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—from Luke I:76-79

Go before the Lord to prepare His ways. Give knowledge of salvation to His people in the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high—to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. *Amen.*

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



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.

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

Prayer Focus—Scott Ewing is the Cornerstone Coordinator for Raise the Roof Academy (RTRA), an educational ministry in rural Uganda that seeks to establish a system of educational centers that cultivate a culture of learning and Christ's love through empowerment opportunities. RTRA accomplishes this by partnering with local communities and churches throughout rural Uganda and its vision is to become the premier educational system for the children of rural Uganda. Please pray for RTRA in the following ways:

- For the RTRA staff in the U.S. and Uganda that they would fix their eyes on Jesus and why He has called them to this work.
- For wisdom on how to take care of the students and their families.
- For the groundbreaking and building of our 3 Forever Family Homes
- For the completion of our kitchen and pavilion this next year
- For continued wisdom and support for Nurse Rachel and the medical team in Uganda.
- For continued growth in the community learning centers that education will open doors out of poverty and that every child would not have to wait another day to get the opportunity to go to school.
- For all of the students that will be starting a new school year on Feb. 4th and for the P7 students that just graduated and are moving onto secondary school this year.

- What is grace? How are grace and mercy similar and yet different?
- We may be used to thinking about God's law and God's grace as antithetical to each other; as opposite sides of a spectrum. Yet John corrects this view. How is the law of God an expression of his grace towards us?
- How is it comforting to be reminded that God didn't begin to relate to us by grace, but has always related to us by grace?
- One commentator writes that when God made himself known by sending Jesus, it's "as if God has reached into his very being and plucked out his own heart in sending Christ to us." Knowing the Son means knowing the Father. How can this beautiful truth encourage you in new ways to pursue God and live faithfully?

CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Presbyterian Church in America

Pastor: Nate Shurden (618-4707 Office) or nate@cstonepres.org

Assistant Pastor: Ben Griffith at ben@cstonepres.org

Assistant Pastor: Tony Giles (430-8801) or tony@cstonepres.org

Worship and Chief Musician: Greg Wilbur (512-4156) or greg@cstonepres.org

Office Administrator: Susan Bumpus (618-4707) or office@cstonepres.org

Home Fellowship Coordinator: Bob Wolk or HFG@cstonepres.org

Women's Ministry: Martha Brooks and Julie Kesler at women@cstonepres.org

Men's Ministry: Ron Moffat or men@cstonepres.org

Acting Youth Director: Taylor Thompson (717-371-0848) or youth@cstonepres.org

Children's Director: Meredith Suits (865-250-3579) or elementary@cstonepres.org

Nursery Coordinator: Christy Shurden or nursery@cstonepres.org

Prayer Requests: prayer@cstonepres.org

Ruling Elders

Randy Allen (260-1884)
Terry Cheney (579-7089)

Chuck Emerson: *Emeritus* (943-8443)
Joe Haworth (289-7543)

Jim Payne (497-0613)
Jim Smith (347-4188)

Deacons

Mark Elliott (477-1041)
Gene King (806-3726)
Mike Payne (579-6453)

Kevin McClung (243-9228)
Jim Robinson (587-0442)
Todd Russell (319-4803)

Larry Thompson (901-734-1520)
Bob Vermilye (599-9577)
David Steffens (557-5316)

*On Sabbatical

Post Office Box 407 Franklin, Tennessee 37065
www.cornerstonepresfranklin.org (615) 618-4707

All Scripture quotations from the English Standard Version

