

CORNERSTONE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND GOSPEL RENEWAL

Epiphany Sunday
07 January 2024

Pastoral Notes

Dear Cornerstone Family,

Every year I publish a list of *some* of my favorite reads. This year I'm limiting myself to five favorite reads in five different categories: history, culture, literature, theology, and miscellaneous.

Now, when I say, "favorite read," I don't mean I agree with everything in the book, nor do I mean you should necessarily read the book. Qoheleth is right, "...of making many books there is no end" (Ecclesiastes 12:12). Therefore, we all have to make hard decisions every day about what to read, listen to, and watch in the limited time God gives us.

With that in place, if a book below interests you, I'd be happy to talk about it and even help you assess whether it's worth your time. With no further ado, here are my twenty-five favorite reads of 2023.

History

- *The Reformation as Renewal: Retrieving the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church* by Matthew Barrett
- *Presbyterians and American Culture: A History* by Bradley Longfield
- *The Fall of Constantinople 1453* by Steven Runciman
- *Dreams of El Dorado: History of the American West* by H.W. Brands
- *The Rest is History: From Ancient Rome to Ronald Reagan* by Tom Holland and Dominic Sandbrook

Culture

- *Remaking the World: How 1776 Created the Post Christian West* by Andrew Wilson
- *Generations: The Real Difference Gen Z, Millennials, Gen X, Boomers, and Silents—and What That Means for The Future of America* by Jean Twenge
- *Them: Why We Hate Each Other and How to Heal* by Ben Sasse
- *Nostalgia: Home in a Homeless World* by Anthony Esolen
- *The Courage to be Protestant* by David Wells

Literature

- *The River Why* by James David Duncan
- *A Place in Time: Twenty Stories of the Port William Membership* by Wendell Berry
- *Many Dimensions* by Charles Williams
- *Old Mortality* by Sir Walter Scott
- *Watership Down* by Richard Adams

Bible/Theology

- *In the Fullness of Time: An Introduction to the Biblical Theology of Acts and Paul* by Richard Gaffin
- *Theology for Ministry: How Doctrine Affects Pastoral Life and Practice* ed. by Chad Van Dixhoorn
- *Prophets and Hermeneutics: Toward a New Introduction of the Prophets* by Christopher R. Seitz
- *Biblical Critical Theory: How the Bible's Unfolding Story Makes Sense of Modern Life and Culture* by Christopher Watkin
- *The Lord of Psalm 23: Jesus our Shepherd, Companion, and Host* by David Gibson

Miscellaneous

- *Timothy Keller: His Spiritual and Intellectual Formation* by Colin Hansen
- *Devotions: Selected Poems of Mary Oliver* by Mary Oliver
- *Drive: The Surprising Truth about What Motivates Us* by Daniel Pink
- *How to Stay Married: The Most Insane Love Story Ever Told* by Harrison Scott Key
- *Will the Circle Be Unbroken* by Sean Dietrich

What was your favorite read this year?

Your servant,



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.

Prelude, Announcements, and Preparation

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.

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

The musical score is written for a piano accompaniment in G major and 3/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "O Splendor of God's glo - ry bright, O thou that bring - est light from light, O". The second system also has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Light of light, light's liv - ing spring, O Day, all day's il - lum - in - ing." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line with chords and moving lines in the right hand.

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

Call to Worship—Psalm 67

Pastor: May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us,

All: That your way may be known on earth,
your saving power among all nations.

Pastor: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!

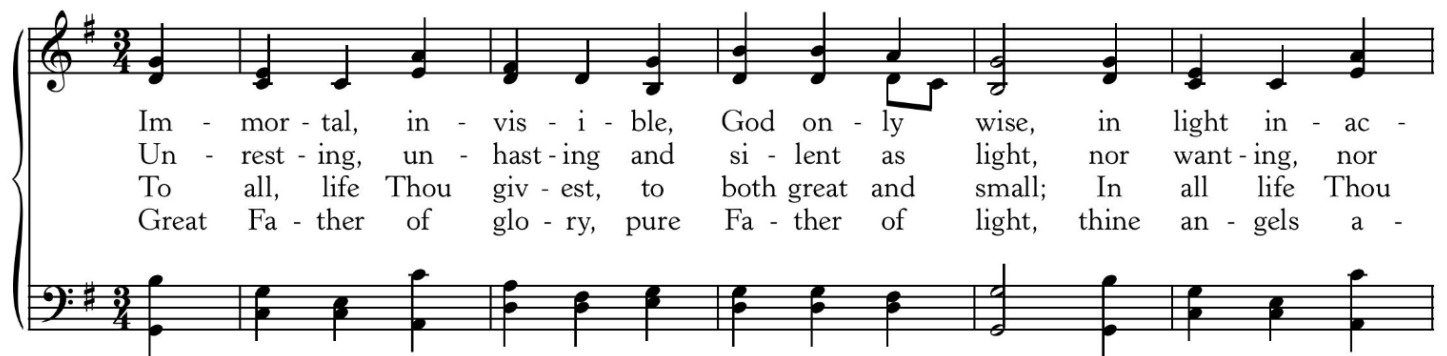
All: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth.

Pastor: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!

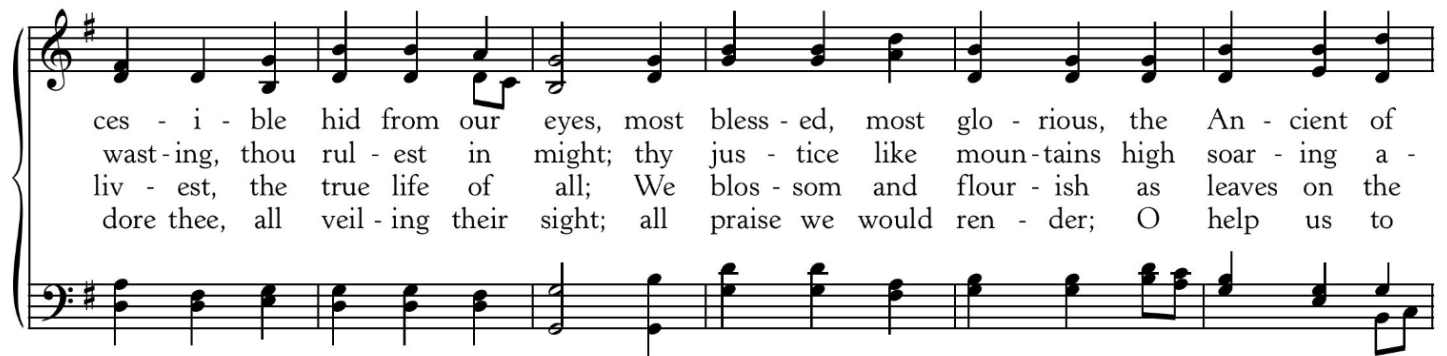
All: The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, shall bless us.

Pastor: God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear him!

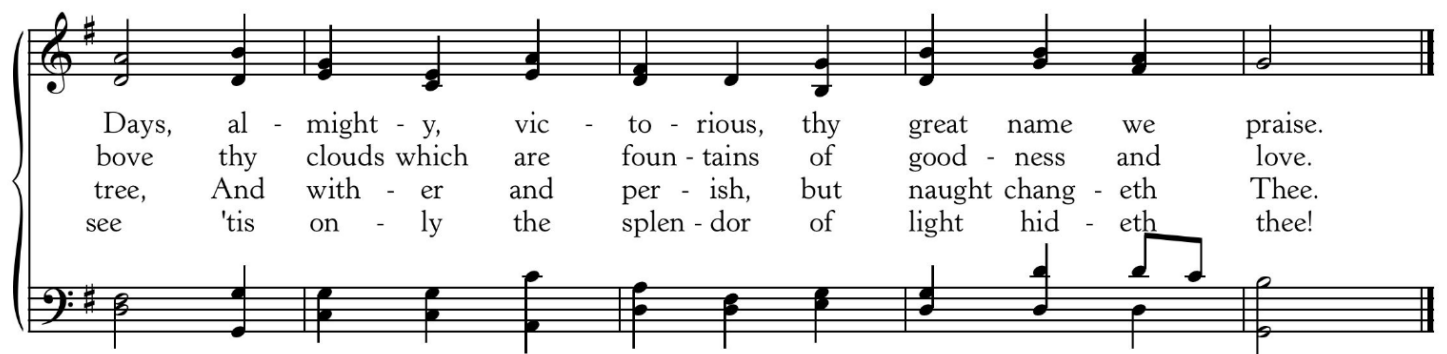
Hymn of Praise—Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise



Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise, in light in - ac -
Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing and si - lent as light, nor want - ing, nor
To all, life Thou giv - est, to both great and small; In all life Thou
Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light, thine an - gels a -



ces - i - ble hid from our eyes, most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of
wast - ing, thou rul - est in might; thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a -
liv - est, the true life of all; We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the
dore thee, all veil - ing their sight; all praise we would ren - der; O help us to



Days, al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
bove thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
tree, And with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth Thee.
see 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867; Music: ST. DENIO, Traditional Welsh Melody.

New Testament Reading—I Corinthians 1:18-31

¹⁸For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom,²³ but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles,²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

²⁶For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in 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—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.

Congregational Prayer of Confession—based on Romans 1:18-23, 25

Pastor: Lord, we come in prayer and confession.

Your wrath is revealed from heaven

against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of man,

who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

What can be known about You is plain because You have shown it to us.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Your invisible attributes—Your eternal power and divine nature—

have been clearly perceived ever since the creation of the world

in the things that have been made.

We are without excuse, for although we knew You,

we did not honor You or give thanks to You.

We became futile in our thinking and our foolish hearts were darkened.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Pastor: Claiming to be wise, we became fools

and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for earthly things.

We have exchanged the truth about You, O God, for a lie

and worshipped the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever!

All: Lord, forgive our sins.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon—Titus 3:4-7

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Psalm of Praise—Psalm 27: O Lord, You are My Light

Unison

1. O Lord, You are my light and my sal - va - tion
 2. My one re - quest has been and still this prayer I
 3. When trou - bles 'round me swell, when fears and dan - gers
 4. Up - lift - ed on a rock a - bove my foes a -

near: then who will cause me fright or
 raise: that I may live with - in God's
 throug, se - cure - ly I will dwell in
 -round, a - mid the bat - tle shock my

fill my heart with fear? While God my strength, my life sus -
 house for all my days, God's glo - rious beau - ty to ad -
 His pa - vil - ion strong. With - in the shel - ter of God's
 song shall still re - sound. Then joy - ful of - f'ings I will

-tains, se - cure from fear my soul re - mains.
 -mire, and in His tem - ple to in - quire.
 tent, He hides me till the storm is spent.
 bring; the Lord God's praise my heart shall sing.

Text: St 1 *The Psalter*, 1887; st 2-4 *The Psalter*, 1912; Music: Greyfriars Press, 2020.

The Reading of the Word—Matthew 2:1-18

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem,² saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him;⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶“And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.”

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.”⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

¹³Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.”¹⁴ And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

¹⁶Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men.¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸“A voice was heard in Ramah,
weeping and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”

Leader: The grass withers, the flower fades;

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

Sermon—The Name Above All Names Part 6

Jesus Christ, A Savior for Wise Men —Drew Abercrombie, *Director of Youth & Family*

Sung Response—The First Noel, Vs 6

Then let— us all in one ac - cord Sing prai - ses to our heav'n - ly Lord;

The first system of musical notation for the first system of the song. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in the key of D major (two sharps) and 3/4 time. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

That hath made heav'n and earth of naught, And with His blood man - kind hath bought.

The second system of musical notation, continuing the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

No - el, — no - el, No - el, no, el, Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

The third and final system of musical notation for this section. It concludes with a double bar line. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Text and Music: Old English Carol

Sursum Corda

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Leader: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to You,
Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

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.

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

Profession of Faith—from Philippians 2:5-II

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.

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. Proceed to the first table to partake of the bread, and then to the second tables to drink the cup of wine/juice.

Psalm of the Month—Psalm 92: It is Good to Sing Your Praises



It is good to sing Your prais-es And to thank You, O Most High,
You have filled my heart with glad-ness Through the works Your hands have wrought;
But the good shall live be - fore You, Plant - ed in Your dwell-ing - place,



Show - ing forth Your lov - ing-kind-ness When the morn - ing lights the sky. It is
You have made my life vic - to - rious, Great Your works and deep Your thought. You, O
Fruit - ful trees and ev - er ver - dant, Nour-ished by Your bound-less grace. In His



good whennight is fall - ing Of Your faith - ful - ness to tell, While with
Lord, on high ex - alt - ed, Reign - est ev - er - more in might; All Your
good - ness to the right - eous God His right - eous-ness dis - plays; God my



sweet, me - lo - dious prais-es Songs of ad - o - ra - tion swell.
en - e - mies shall per - ish, Sin be ban - ished from Your sight.
rock, my strength and ref - uge, Just and true are all His ways.

Last Time



It is good to sing Your prais-es And to thank You, O Most High,



Show-ing forth Your lov - ing-kind-ness When the morn-ing lights the sky.

Text: Psalm 92, *The Psalter*, 1912; Music: Greyfriars Press, 2023

Hymn of Communion—Light of The Anxious Heart

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/2. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines.

Light of the anx - ious heart, Je - sus, Thou dost ap - pear, To
Joy - ous is he with whom, God's Word, Thou dost a - bide, Sweet
Bright - ness of God a - bove, Un - fath - om - a - ble grace, Thy

bid the gloom of guilt de - part, And shed Thy sweet - ness here.
Light of our e - ter - nal home, To flesh - ly sense de - nied.
pres - ence be a fount of love With - in Thy cho - sen place.

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*

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—As With Gladness Men of Old, Vs I-4

As with glad - ness, men of old Did the guid - ing star be - hold
As with joy - ful steps they sped To that low - ly cra - dle bed
As they off - ered gifts most rare At that cra - dle rude and bare;
Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - ery day Keep us in the nar - row way;

As with joy they hailed its light Lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright
There to bend the knee be - fore Him Whom Heaven and earth a - dore;
So may we with hol - y joy, Pure and free from sin's al - loy,
And, when earth - ly things are past, Bring our ran - somed souls at last

So, most gra - cious Lord, may we Ev - er - more be led to Thee.
So may we with will - ing feet Ev - er seek Thy mer - cy seat.
All our cost - liest treas - ures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'n - ly King.
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glo - ry hide.

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 Jude 1:24-25

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

Sung Response—What Child is This, Vs 3

The musical score is written in G major and 6/8 time. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own Him; the King of kings sal - va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by: joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mar - y."

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

Missions Prayer—Lee Leadbetter is the Campus Minister for RUF International at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. Lee leads his staff and ministry team in welcoming the nations to UT, exploring Christ’s life-changing Truth with them, and—in partnership with churches and local believers—equipping international Christian students to be servant-ambassadors for Christ’s kingdom.

- Praise for a fruitful Dinner & Discovery series on Thursday nights with students
- Praise for a fellowship dinner RUF-I hosted for our African Christian students
- Pray for wisdom as we plan for spring ministry
- Praise for a Chinese PhD student who was baptized on Christmas Eve
- Pray for \$20,500 in year-end giving to meet 2023 budget needs
- Pray for Jen & I as we attend RUF-I staff training Jan. 9-12 in Denver.
- Pray for our oldest (Daniel) as he and his fiancée (Allie) tie the knot on 12/30!

*Welcome to Cornerstone! If you are visiting with us today, we are glad you're here!
We invite you to fill out a visitor form by scanning this QR code so that we may welcome you personally.
Alternatively, visitor cards are available at either entrance to the chapel
and can be placed in one of the offering boxes as you leave.*



Focus on Church Ministry

Loving Franklin's Elderly

On the first Sunday of each month, a group from Cornerstone leads a brief worship service at Morning Pointe of Franklin. We'd love to have you offer friendship to the residents and lend your voice to the singing of hymns. Please join us after the service **today** from 1:30-2:15 p.m. Contact: ethan@cstonepres.org

Exploring Cornerstone

Want to learn about the history, beliefs, vision, and ministries of Cornerstone, as well as meet key ministry leaders? Exploring Cornerstone is the class for you. We will meet on Friday, February 2, from 6:00-8:30 p.m. and Saturday, February 3, from 8:00 a.m.-noon. Childcare will be provided. Please visit the website to register.

Men's Ministry New Year Kickoff

Calling all Cornerstone men! At 6:00 p.m. on January 18, make plans to join your brothers for an evening of warm food and fellowship at Cornerstone. We will explore opportunities together to grow this year in the Lord. Register online or in the Cornerstone app.

Childcare for SGI in Nashville

Colleen McGarry is in need of additional help for the childcare program that runs during SGI's Women's English program. Most of these women would have no place to learn English without their program because they are the only ones that offer childcare. Helping with childcare usually looks like playing hide and seek, doing puzzles, and lots of coloring and blocks! The commitment is two hours once a week on either Monday or Wednesday morning from 10:15-12:15. Contact Colleen at colleen@servantgroup.org to learn more.

Giving

There are boxes for tithes and alms at both entrances to the chapel, or you can give safely and securely online through the website and app.

Sew for Hope

Cornerstone Women have been invited to go to Servant Group International to help the Sew for Hope ministry prepare sewing kits for their spring classes. We are scheduled to go on Wednesday morning, January 17, from 9:30-12:00. SGI will provide a Kurdish breakfast for us, and then we will spend the remainder of our time cutting fabric and fellowshipping. Please register on the website.

Let's Study Acts!

Brothers, starting on January 23 (Tuesday) or January 25 (Thursday) at 6:45 a.m. at the Corner House, the Cornerstone men will study *Acts: On Mission with Jesus Christ in the World*. You can register for either Tuesday or Thursday morning's study by going to the Cornerstone website or app.

Listen More in 2024

Did you catch Pastor Nate's *Life at the Corner* podcast episode this week on Hope for the New Year? If not, go check it out. You can find *Life at the Corner* on Apple, Spotify, or anywhere you listen to podcasts. Don't forget to leave a review! Contact lifeatthecorner@cstonepres.org with questions or feedback.

Epiphany Devotional

Pick up the new devotional at either entrance to the chapel and read along with your Cornerstone family during this season.

Cornerstone Youth

All 6th-12th graders are welcome to join us on Wednesday nights from 6:00-8:00 p.m. as we eat, play, fellowship, and study the topic of Work & Calling following Tim Keller's book, *Every Good Endeavor*.

You are also invited to join us for Sunday School every week at Merridee's Breadbasket on Fourth Ave. We enjoy a donut breakfast together as we walk through the Gospel of John. Jump into John 8 with us this week as we encounter Jesus as the great "I AM."

Taking the Message Home

Today's message, "Jesus Christ, A Savior for Wise Men," is taken from Matthew 2:1-18. Please take time to discuss the questions below with your family, friends, or Home Fellowship Group (HFG).

- Who are the magi? What, on the surface, seems foolish in the magi's search for and worship of Christ?
- What is so surprising, and disappointing, about the reactions to the news of Christ's birth in Jerusalem?
- The priests and scribes knew much of Scripture, and did nothing. The magi knew little of Scripture, but followed it resolutely. Whether much or little, do you act upon what God has revealed to you? How are you acting upon or not acting upon the truth that you know?
- Why is it so important, for us and for the magi, that Jesus is a Savior, rather than just another king, or even another wise counselor?
- Matthew says the magi 'rejoiced exceedingly with great joy' when they saw the star had brought them to Jesus (Matt. 2:10). Reflect on the many reasons you have to rejoice exceedingly in Jesus.

CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Presbyterian Church in America

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All Scripture quotations from the English Standard Version