



Service of Celebration and Gospel Renewal First Sunday of Advent—Hope

02 December 2018

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.

Choral Prelude—The Lord Shall Reign/Hallelujah, Amen!

The Lord Shall Reign from Israel in Egypt

The Lord shall reign for ever and ever!

Hallelujah, Amen from Judas Maccabaeus

Hallelujah, Amen, Amen, Hallelujah, Amen. O Judah, rejoice, rejoice,

Rejoice O Judah, in songs divine With cherubim and seraphim harmonious join.

Hallelujah, Amen, Amen, Hallelujah, Amen and in songs divine, harmonious join! Hallelujah, Amen, Amen, Hallelujah, Amen

Music: G.F. Handel

Announcements & Preparation

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



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.

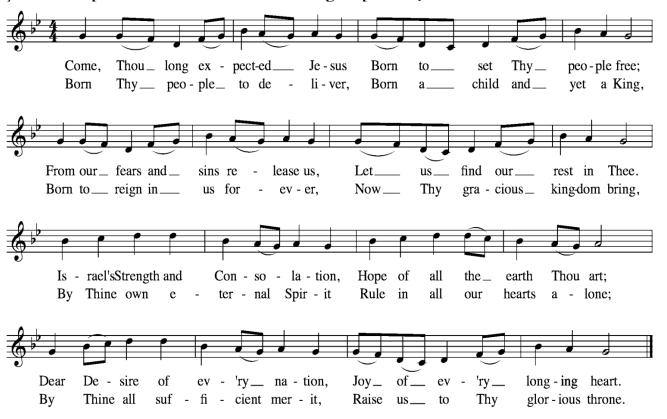
Pastor: For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name.

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

Hymn of Praise—O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



Hymn of Expectation—Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus



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."

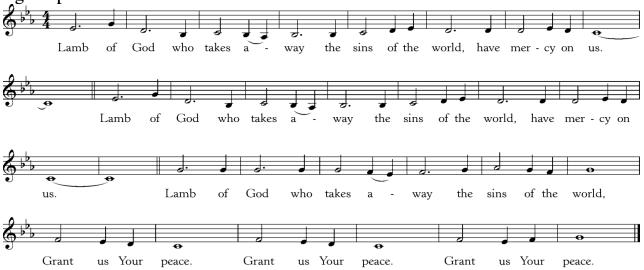
Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

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



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

Corporate Confession of Sin—based on Isaiah 59:I-2, 9-I3

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 I: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



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

The Reading of the Word—Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. ³ You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. ⁴For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end,

Leader: The grass withers, the flower fades;

on the throne of David and over his kingdom,

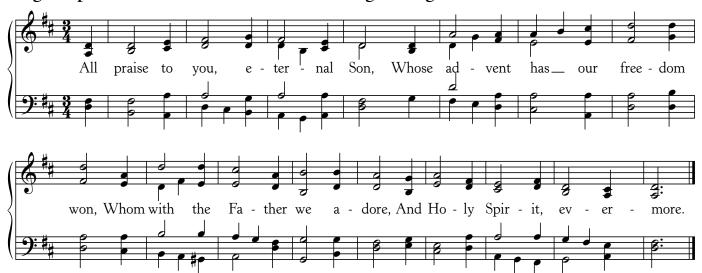
to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

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

Sermon—The Songs of Christmas, Part 1
Singing with the Prophets: Waiting for the Messiah

—Nate Shurden, 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-II

We confess, 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.

Sursum Corda

Pastor: The Lord be with you. People: And also with you. Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: 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



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

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— All Praise to Thee Eternal Lord

All praise to Thee, Eternal Lord, Clothed in a garb of flesh and blood Choosing a manger for Thy throne, While worlds on worlds are Thine alone Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Once did he skies before Thee bow; A virgins arms contain Thee now While angels, who in Thee rejoice, Now listen for Thine infant voice Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

A little child, Thou art our Guest, That weary ones in Thee may rest; Forlorn and lowly is Thy birth; That we may rise to Heav'n from earth. Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Thou comest in the darksome night to make us children of the light To make us, in the realms divine, like thine own angels round Thee shine Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

All this for us Thy love hath done; by this to Thee our love is won For this we tune our cheerful lays, and sing our thanks in ceaseless praise Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Text: Martin Luther; Music: Gregory D Wilbur, 2016.

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



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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name.

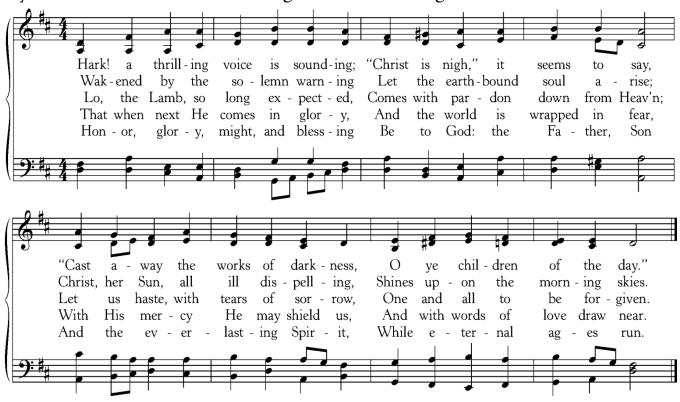
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

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



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



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

Prayer Focus—Dan and Julie Meyers, after three years of ministry to members of the U.S. Armed Forces stationed at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, FL, will be relocating to Clarksville, TN in December to begin a similar ministry at Ft. Campbell. Dan will be assisting the military chaplains by leading a discipleship forum, playing music for prayer breakfasts and lunches, with the ultimate goal of discipling young men. Julie's main focus will be training and discipling their own little troopers (Hope-6, Corbin-3, Silas-1) at home and assisting in hosting a weekly fellowship in their home for both neighbors and military personnel.

- Praise for the purchase of a new home in Clarksville, TN
- Prayer for a successful move of their personal items.
- Pray that Dan and Julie will be used by our Lord to spread His gospel of redemption to the soldiers at Ft. Campbell.

CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONALS

Today is the first day of readings in the Christmas Devotional that has Scripture for each day as well as other readings, songs, discussion questions, and prayer. The Read Through the Bible schedule is also included.

These booklets are available at each entrance. Consider taking enough copies for your household to follow along responsively.



Service of Lessons er Carols

December 9 at 6:00pm

Today's message, "Singing with the Prophets: Waiting for the Messiah" is taken from Isaiah 9:2-7. Please take time to discuss the questions below with your family, friends, or Home Fellowship Group (HFG).

- Contextually, how does the dark-light motif apply historically to the people of Israel in Isaiah 9? What was their darkness? What was their light?
- How does the same dark-light motif apply to the birth of Jesus Christ in Luke 2? How is the dark-light theme a fitting descriptor for the unfolding of our lives?
- Take the four descriptive names/titles given in Isaiah 9:6 and explore with those around you how they teach us about our deepest needs
- Taking those same four descriptive names/titles, consider how they teach us that Jesus Christ fulfills our deepest needs.
- As you enter Advent, what particular darkness are you experiencing, and how is Jesus Christ the light you need? Share honestly with those around you. Turn these answers and your sharing into a prayer for the Advent season.

CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Presbyterian Church in America

Pastor: Nate Shurden (618-4707 Office) or nate@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: Marijean Green and Mary Lynn Giles at women@cstonepres.org
Men's Ministry: Steve Green (504-8733) or men@cstonepres.org
Acting Youth Director: Taylor Thompson (717-371-0848) or youth@cstonepres.org
Children's Director: Martha Brooks (591-1683) or elementary@cstonepres.org
Nursery Coordinator: Christy Shurden or nursery@cstonepres.org
Prayer Requests: prayer@cstonepres.org

Ruling Elders

Randy Allen (260-1884) Steve Green (504-8733) Jim Payne (497-0613)
Terry Cheney (579-7089) Joe Haworth (289-7543) Jim Smith (347-4188)
Chuck Emerson: *Emeritus* (943-8443)

Deacons

Gene King (806-3726)* Todd Russell (319-4803) Larry Thompson (901-734-1520)

Kevin McClung (243-9228) Marty Smith (767-2240)° Bob Vermilye (599-9577)

Jim Robinson (587-0442) David Steffens (557-5316)

*On Sabbatical

°Leave of Absence

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All Scripture quotations from the English Standard Version

