

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND GOSPEL RENEWAL

Second Sunday of Advent—Love

06 December 2015

This Sunday begins the season of Advent which is the start of the liturgical year. Advent (which means “coming”) is the season of the church year comprised of the four Sunday’s before Christmas. The color associated with this period is purple because it is both reflective of kingship and mourning. Advent is set aside for reflection and repentance as an opportunity to prepare one’s heart for the coming of Christ—both His first and second coming. We recall the effect of sin in our hearts and in the world and our great need for a Savior. As we read and sing Scripture and hymns of expectation, longing, and prophecy, we have the assurance that all of these hopes were fulfilled in the incarnation of Christ even as we anticipate the second coming of the Savior.

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

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—Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts

Praise ye the Lord of Hosts, Sing His salvation,
 Bless His Name, Show forth His praise on His holy house!
 Rejoice ye heavens and be joyful on earth.
 Rejoice in the face of the Lord, for He cometh, Alleluia!
 Rejoice, ye angels, rejoice all ye nations, now in the face of the Lord, for He cometh, Alleluia.

Text and Music: Camille Saint-Saëns, 1835-1921 from *L'Oratorio de Noël*.

Announcements & Preparation

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



Born Thy peo-ple to de - li - ver, Born a child and yet a King,
 Born to reign in us for - ev - er, _Now Thy gra-cious king-dom bring,
 By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;
 By Thine all suf - fi - cient mer - it, Raise us to Thy glor - ious throne.

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

Call to Worship—from Isaiah 12

Pastor: We will give thanks to You, O LORD,
for though You were angry with Your people,
Your anger turned away, that You might comfort us.

All: Behold, God is our salvation, we will trust and will not be afraid;

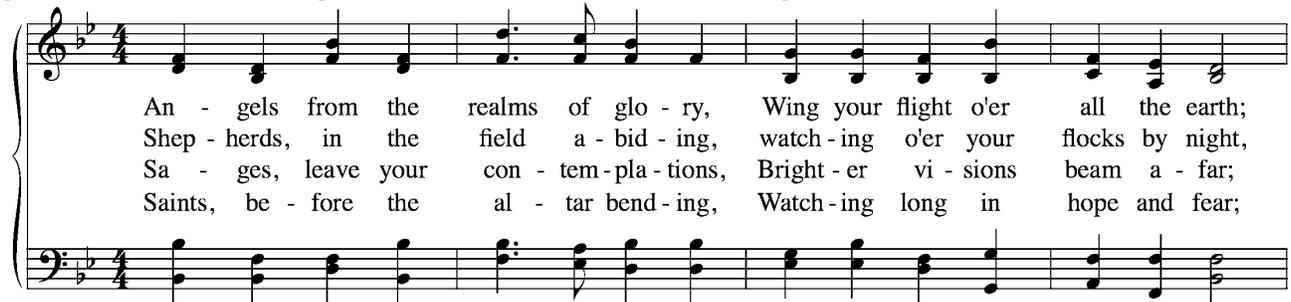
Reader 1: *For the LORD God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.
With joy, we will draw water from the wells of salvation.*

Reader 2: *Give thanks to the LORD, call upon His name.
Make known His deeds among the people, proclaim that His name is exalted.*

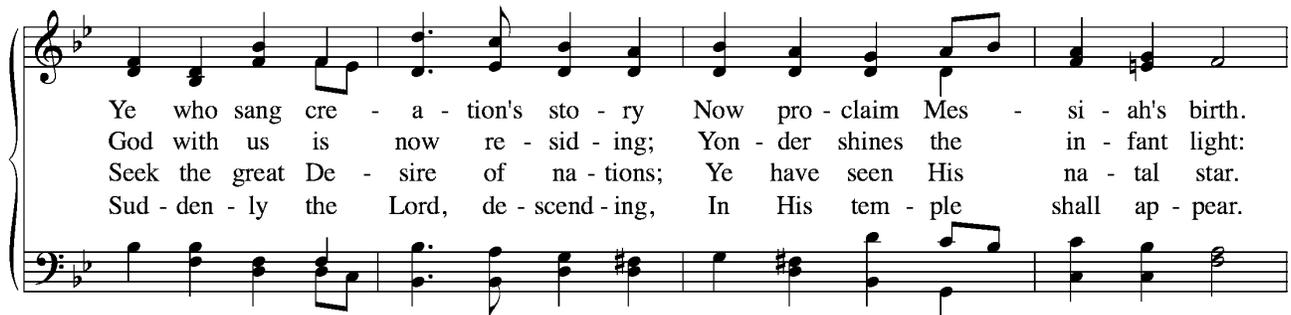
Pastor: Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;
let this be made known in all the earth.

All: Shout and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

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.

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

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

Old Testament Reading—Psalm 24

- 1 The earth is the LORD'S and the fullness thereof,
 the world and those who dwell therein,
- 2 for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.
- 3 Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place?
- 4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
 who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.
- 5 He will receive blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation.
- 6 Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.
- 7 Lift up your heads, O gates!
 And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.
- 8 Who is this King of glory?
 The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!
- 9 Lift up your heads, O gates!
 And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.
- 10 Who is this King of glory?
 The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory!

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—Lord, Have Mercy

Lord, have mer-cy. Lord, have mer-cy. Lord, have mer-cy, have mer-cy, Lord.

Christ, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy, have mer-cy, Lord.

WOMEN
Lord, have mer-cy. Lord, have mer-cy. Lord, have mer-cy, have mer-cy, Lord.

MEN
Lord, have mer-cy. Lord, have mer-cy. Lord, have mer-cy, have mer-cy, Lord.

Text: Luke 18:13; Music: FRANKLIN KYRIE, Gregory D Wilbur, 2009. ©2009 Greyfriars Press.

Corporate Confession of Sin—based on I John 2:8-11, 15-17

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. The darkness is passing away
and the true light is already shining.
You call us to love one another even as you have loved us.
We say that we are in the light, but if we hate our brother we are still in darkness.
If we truly understood how you loved us,
how could we not show compassion and love for those around us?

All: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Whoever loves his brother abides in the light,
and in him there is no cause for stumbling.
When we hate our brother, we are in the darkness and we walk in the darkness,
and we do not know where we are going, because the darkness has blinded our eyes.
May the light of the knowledge of Christ flood our hearts and compel us towards love.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Pastor: Too often we allow fleshly desires to reign in our hearts
for we love the world or the things in the world.
If we love the world, the love of the Father is not in us.
For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and
pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.
And the world is passing away along with its desires,
but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

All: Lord, forgive our sins.

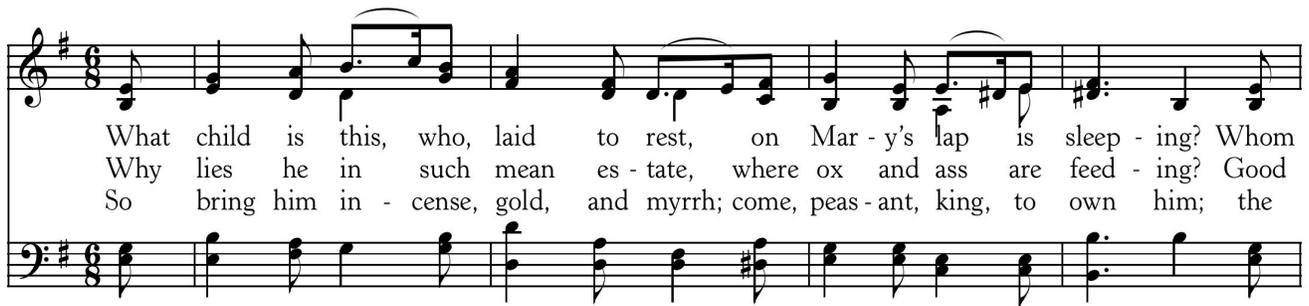
Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon—I John 2:23-25

No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life.

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

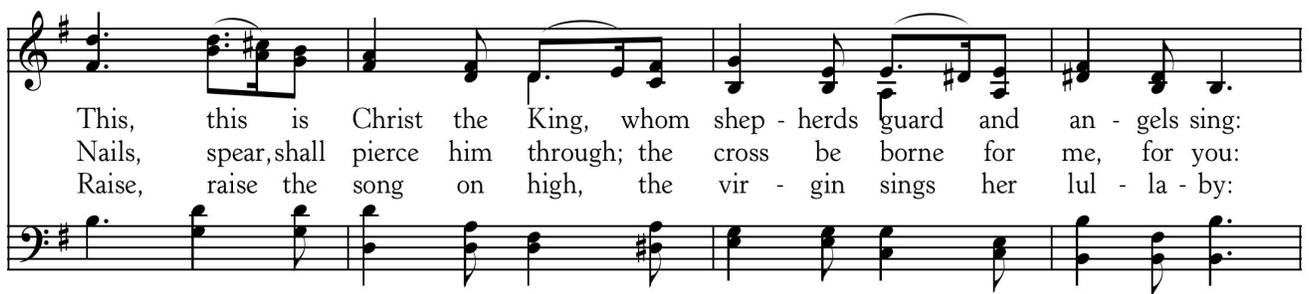
Hymn of Praise—What Child is This



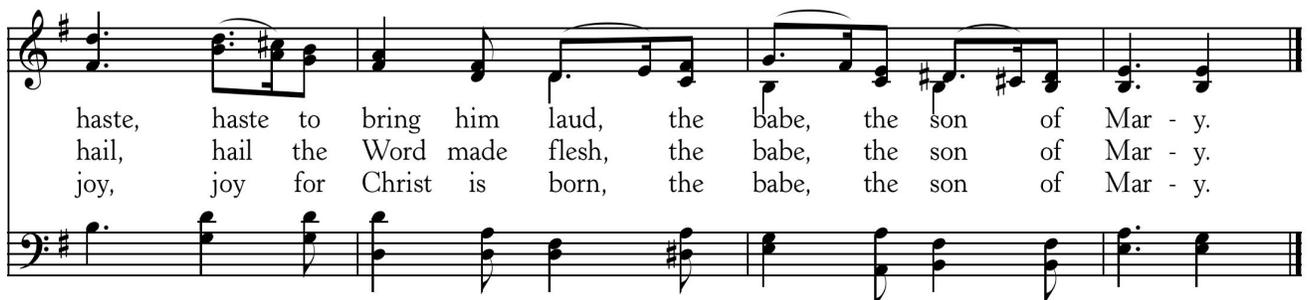
What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing? Whom
Why lies he in such mean es - tate, where ox and ass are feed - ing? Good
So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him; the



an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
King of kings sal - va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing:
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you:
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by:



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y.
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y.
joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y.

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

GOD TEACHES US THROUGH HIS WORD

The Reading of the Word—Isaiah 43:15-21; Luke 2:25-32

—Nathaniel Vroom, *Pastoral Intern*, First Service Reader

—Christian Brewer, *Pastoral Intern*, Second Service Reader

15 I am the Lord, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King.”

16 Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters,

17 who brings forth chariot and horse, army and warrior;

they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:

18 “Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old.

19 Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

20 The wild beasts will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches,

for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people,

21 the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise.

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. 27 And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, 28 he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

29 “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word;

30 for my eyes have seen your salvation

31 that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.”

Leader: The grass withers, the flower fades;

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

Sermon—Watch for the Light, Part 2

God is Doing a New Thing

—Tony Giles, *Assistant Pastor*

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.

The musical score is written in 3/4 time. The women's part is on a treble clef staff, and the men's part is on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The lyrics are: 'Glo-ry to God in the high - est! Peace to His peo-ple on earth.' for the women, and '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.' for the men.

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

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.

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—Wonderful Peace

Peace, peace wonderful peace, Peace to the world is given.

Hushed are the angels, so still is the night; Then in the East shone a heavenly light.

Join in the chorus his praises sing! Glory to God to the newly born King.

Peace, peace wonderful peace, Peace to the world is given.

Peace, peace, bearer of peace, Men of good will receive Him.

Holiest of night, O most wondrous of days; Shepherds and kings lift their voices in praise.

Join in the chorus, His praises sing! Glory to God, to the newly born King.

Peace, peace wonderful peace, Peace to the world is given.

Text and Music: Gustav Nordqvist (1886-1946)

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—Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming

Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath
 I - sai - ah 'twas fore - told it, The Rose I have in
 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the

sprung, of Jes - se's lin - age com - ing, as
 mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The
 air, dis - - - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the

men of old have sung. It came, a flow'r - et bright, a -
 Vir - gin Mo - ther kind: To show God's love a - right She
 dark-ness ev - r' - where, True man, yet ver - y God; from

mid the cold of win - ter, when half-spent was the night.
 bore to us a Sav - iour When half-spent was the night.
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - r'y load.

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

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—Thou Who Wast Rich

Thou who wast rich be--yond all splen--dor, all for love's sake be--cam--est poor;
Thou who art God be--yond all prais--ing, all for love's sake be--cam--est man;
Thou who art love be--yond all tell---ing, Sav--ior and King, we wor-ship thee.

thrones for a man---ger didst sur-----ren----der, sap---phire-paved courts for sta----ble
stoop----ing so low, but sin----ners rais---ing, heav'n-ward by thine e-----ter-----nal
Em-----man--u-----el, with--in us dwell--ing, make us what thou wouldst have us

floor. Thou who wast rich be--yond all splen--dor, all for love's sake be--cam--est poor.
plan. Thou who art God be--yond all prais--ing, all for love's sake be--cam--est man.
be. Thou who art love be--yond all tell---ing, Sav--ior and King, we wor-ship thee.

CCLI #11121087 Text: Frank Houghton, 1894-1972;
Music: QUELLE EST CETTE ODEUR AGREABLE, French Carol Melody, Arr. Charles Kitson, 1930.

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—II John 1:3

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 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.

HOME FELLOWSHIP GROUPS—STARTING AUGUST 23

Bob and Cindi Wolk 686-3349 or cindi_wolk@yahoo.com

Every other Sunday after church at Cornerstone, *Sermon Discussion*

Greg Wilbur 512-4156 or greg@cstonepres.org

2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays at 5:00 p.m., Wilbur's house, *Sermon Discussion*

Jim Smith, 347-4188 or jims@svmic.com

2nd and 4th Sundays at 6:00 p.m., Smith's house

Randy Allen, 260-1884 or randmanrx@gmail.com

Sundays at 5:30 p.m., Allen's house, *I Samuel*

Andy Patton, 500-1492 or parachuteadamsI@gmail.com

1st and 3rd Sundays, 5:00 p.m. Patton's house

Matt Michaud, 803-319-2693 or michaudba@gmail.com

Sundays at 4-6 p.m., Michaud's house

Mike and Mel Payne, 615-618-3299 or meljpayne@gmail.com

Sundays at 5:00 p.m., Payne's house

Todd Russell, 319-4803 or toddrussell@firstprotective.com

Sundays, 5:00 p.m., Russell's house

Mark Elliott, 615-477-1041 or markrelliott@yahoo.com

Every Sundays (except the last Sunday of the month) after the 2nd Service., Elliott's house

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** and the Twelve Days—Celebration of the Incarnation and 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

1. Read Rev 21:5. How is Jesus the fulfillment of Isaiah 43 and the consolation of Israel Simeon anticipated in Luke 2:25? Be as specific as you can.
2. What is significant about the last phrase of Luke 2:25 "... and the Holy Spirit was upon him"? What does that add to our understanding of the passage? How might that relate to Simeon's "waiting"? How might that relate to our own waiting?
3. Ray Ortland writes, "God never acts out of character, but a part of his character is that he never runs out of new ideas." What do you think about that statement? How does that square with the notion that God is immutable (never changes)?
4. What new thing might the Lord be doing in your life this Advent season? What new thing would you want him to do? Take some time now to ask Him to do that new thing for His glory and your good.

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: Matt Michaud (803-319-2693) or michaudba@gmail.com

Women's Ministry: Mel Payne and Marijean Green women@cstonepres.org

Nursery Coordinator: Linda VanGorden (406-4431) or vangordenlinda@yahoo.com

Elementary Sunday School Questions: Laura Coughlin (390-4201) or walkinglalo@mac.com

Ruling Elders

Randy Allen (260-1884)

Cy Fenton (500-5304)*

Jim Smith (347-4188)

Terry Cheney (579-7089)

Jim Payne (497-0613)

Greg Wilbur (512-4156)

Chuck Emerson: *Emeritus* (661-9273)

Deacons

Clint Branch (516-9855)

Kevin McClung (243-9228)

Larry Thompson (901-734-1520)

Joe Haworth (289-7543)

Jim Robinson (587-0442)

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All Scripture quotations from the English Standard Version