



CORNERSTONE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND GOSPEL RENEWAL

Third Sunday of Advent—Joy

16 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

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—Methinks I See

Methinks I see an heav'nly host Of angels on the wing;
Methinks I hear their cheerful notes So merrily, so merrily they sing.
Let all your fears be banish'd hence, Glad tidings I proclaim;
For there's a Savior born today, And Jesus is, and Jesus is his name.
Lay down your crooks, and quit your flocks, To Bethlehem repair;
And let your wand'ring steps be squar'd By yonder star, by yonder shining star
Seek not in courts or palaces, Nor royal curtains draw;
But search the stable, see your God Extended on, extended on the straw.
Then learn from hence, ye rural swains The meekness of your God
Who left the boundless realms of joy To ransom you, to ransom you with blood

Test: William Billings, 1786; Music: Matthew Bell, 2015.

Announcements & Preparation

Lighting of the Advent Wreath—Good Christian Men, Rejoice, Vs 2

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Good Christ-ian men, re - joice With heart and soul and voice! Now ye hear of end-less bliss: Joy! Joy! Je - sus Christ was born for this; He hath op-ened heav-en's door, And man is blessed for - ev - er-more. Christ was born for this. Christ was born for this." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

Text: Medieval Latin Carol, Tr by John Mason Neale, 1853; Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German Melody, 14th c.

Call to Worship—from Psalm 98:I-4

Pastor: Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things!
All: His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.
Reader 1: *The LORD has made known His salvation;
He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.*
Reader 2: *He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.*
Pastor: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
All: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
Pastor: Break forth into joyous song and sing praises! For He has done marvelous things!

Hymn of Praise—O Come, All Ye Faithful



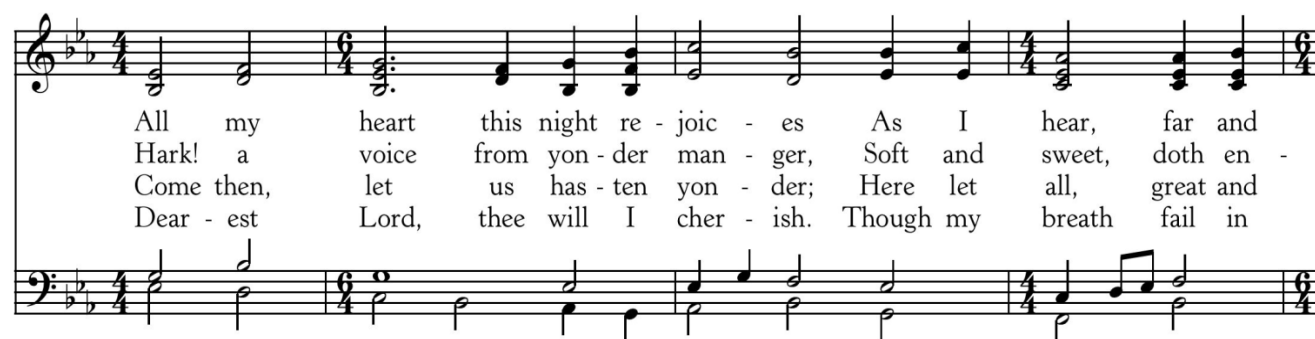
O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - u - phant, O come ye, O come ye to
 God of God, Light of Light; lo, he ab - hors not the
 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, sing, all ye cit - i - zens of
 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing: Je - sus, to thee be all

Beth - le - hem; come and be - hold him born the King of an - gels;
 Vir - gin's womb: ver - y God, be - got - ten, not cre - a - ted; O come, let us a -
 heav'n a - bove; glo - ry to God in the high - est;
 glo - ry giv'n; Word of the Fa - ther, late in flesh ap - pear - ing;

dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

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

Hymn of Praise—All My Heart This Night Rejoices



All my heart this night re - joic - es As I hear, far and
 Hark! a voice from yon - der man - ger, Soft and sweet, doth en -
 Come then, let us has - ten yon - der; Here let all, great and
 Dear - est Lord, thee will I cher - ish. Though my breath fail in

near, Sweet - est an - gel voic - es; "Christ is born," their choirs are
 treat, "Flee from woe and dan - ger; Breth - ren, come; from all that
 small, Kneel in awe and won - der, Love him who with love is
 death, yet I shall not per - ish, but with thee a - bide for -

sing - ing, Till the air ev - ery - where Now with joy is ring - ing.
 grieves you You are freed; all you need I will sure - ly give you."
 yearn - ing; Hail the star that from far Bright with hope is burn - ing.
 ev - er there on high, in that joy which can van - ish ne - ver.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76, Tr by Catherine Winkworth, 1829+78; Music: BONN (FROLICH SOLI), Johann Georg Ebeling, 1637

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

Old Testament Reading—Jeremiah 31:7-14

7 For thus says the LORD:

"Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
 proclaim, give praise, and say, 'O LORD, save your people, the remnant of Israel.'

8 Behold, I will bring them from the north country

and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
 among them the blind and the lame, the pregnant woman and she who is in labor, together;
 a great company, they shall return here.

9 With weeping they shall come, and with pleas for mercy I will lead them back,

I will make them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble,
 for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

10 "Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away;

say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him,
 and will keep him as a shepherd keeps his flock.'

11 For the LORD has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

12 They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,

and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord,
 over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd;
 their life shall be like a watered garden, and they shall languish no more.

13 Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,

and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

14 I will feast the soul of the priests with abundance,

and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness, declares 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.

Corporate Confession of Sin—based on Psalm 51:I-4, 6-10, 11-12

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. Have mercy on us, O God,
according to Your steadfast love.

All: According to Your abundant mercy, blot out our transgressions.

Pastor: Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity and cleanse us of our sins,
for we know only too well our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us.

All: Against You, You only, have we sinned and done what is evil in Your sight,
so that you may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment.

Pastor: Behold, You delight in truth in the inward being,
and You teach wisdom in the secret of our hearts.

All: Purge us with hyssop, and we shall be clean;
wash us, and we shall be whiter than snow.
Let us hear joy and gladness; let the bones that You have broken rejoice.
Hide Your face from our sins, and blot out all our iniquities.

Pastor: Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.

All: Restore to us the joy of Your salvation, and uphold us with a willing spirit.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon—Colossians 1:11-14

11 May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. 13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

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

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 TEACHES US THROUGH HIS WORD

The Reading of the Word—Luke 1:57-79

⁵⁷ Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. ⁵⁸ And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. ⁵⁹ And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, ⁶⁰ but his mother answered, “No; he shall be called John.” ⁶¹ And they said to her, “None of your relatives is called by this name.” ⁶² And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. ⁶³ And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” And they all wondered. ⁶⁴ And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. ⁶⁵ And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, ⁶⁶ and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, “What then will this child be?” For the hand of the Lord was with him.

⁶⁷ And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,

⁶⁸ “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has visited and redeemed his people
⁶⁹ and has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David,
⁷⁰ as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
⁷¹ that we should be saved from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us;
⁷² to show the mercy promised to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant,
⁷³ the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us
⁷⁴ that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,
might serve him without fear,
⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.
⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
⁷⁷ to give knowledge of salvation to his people
in the forgiveness of their sins,
⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God,
whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high
⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

Leader: The grass withers, the flower fades;

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

Sermon—*The Songs of Christmas, Part 3*

Singing with Zechariah: The Benedictus

—Nate Shurden, Pastor

Sung Response—From Heaven Came the Angels Bright

The musical score is written for a piano accompaniment in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of two systems of music. The first system contains the first line of the text, and the second system contains the second line. Each system has a treble and bass staff joined by a brace. The melody is primarily in the treble staff, with chords and bass lines in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

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.

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

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.

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—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

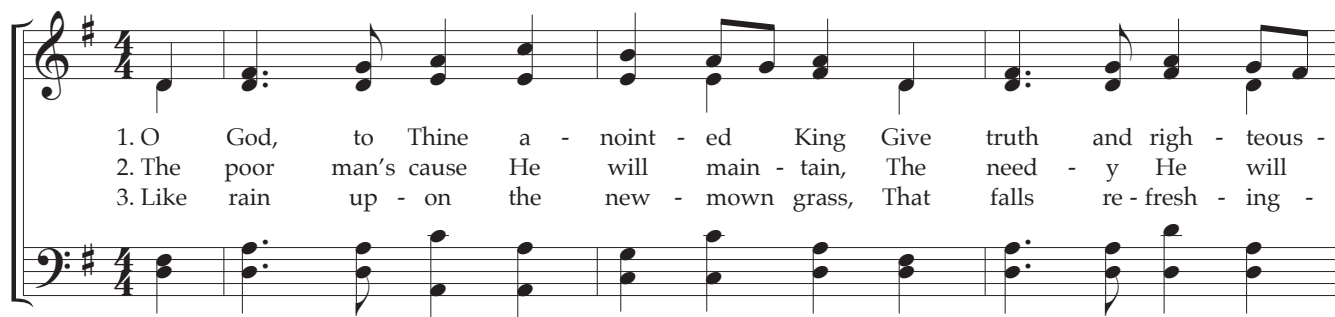
If you are not able to partake in the Lord's Supper today, please use this time to meditate on one of the following prayers.

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.

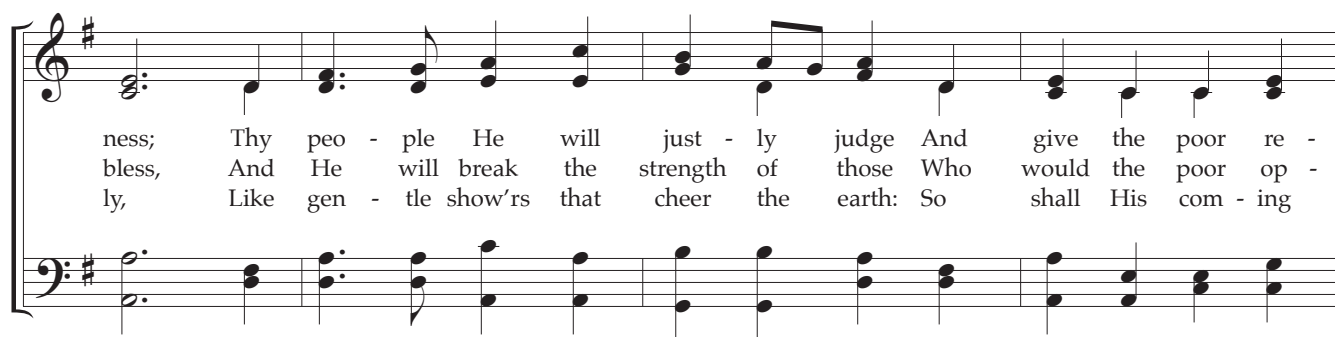
Prayer of Belief. Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have 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.

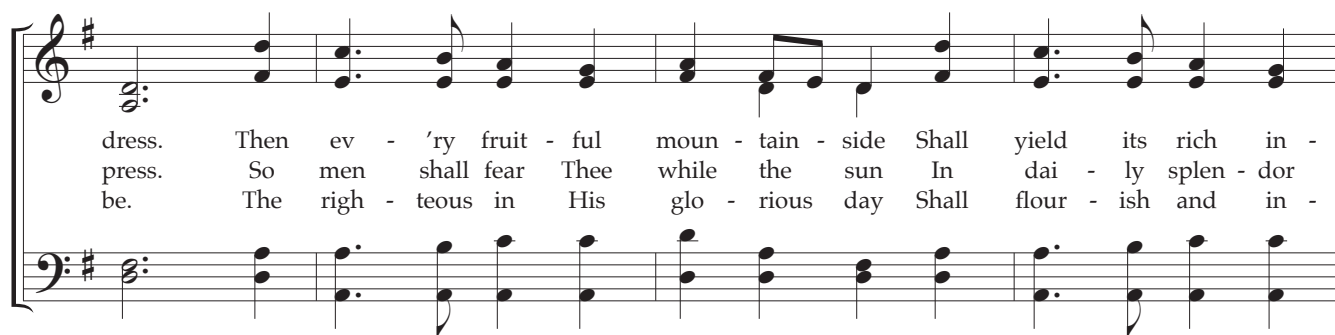
Psalm for Advent— Psalm 72: O God, to Thine Anointed King



1. O God, to Thine a - noint - ed King Give truth and righ - teous -
 2. The poor man's cause He will main - tain, The need - y He will
 3. Like rain up - on the new - mown grass, That falls re - fresh - ing -



ness; Thy peo - ple He will just - ly judge And give the poor re -
 bless, And He will break the strength of those Who would the poor op -
 ly, Like gen - tle show'rs that cheer the earth: So shall His com - ing



dress. Then ev - 'ry fruit - ful moun - tain - side Shall yield its rich in -
 press. So men shall fear Thee while the sun In dai - ly splen - dor
 be. The righ - teous in His glo - rious day Shall flour - ish and in -



crease, And righ - teous-ness in all the land Shall bear the fruit of peace.
 glows, And through all ag - es, while the moon On earth its light be - stows.
 crease, The earth, un - til the moon shall fade, Shall have a - bun - dant peace.

Text: *The Psalter*, 1912, based on Psalm 72:1-7; Music: Gregory D Wilbur, 2009.

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.

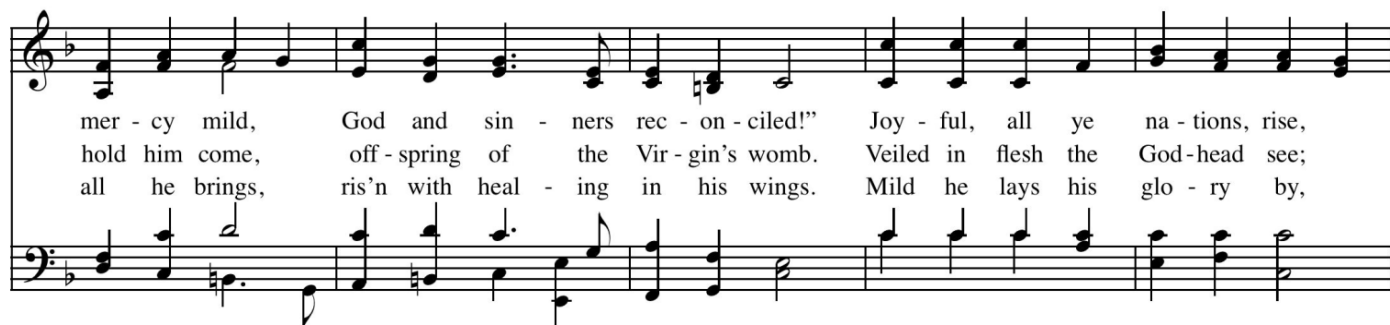
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. *Amen.*

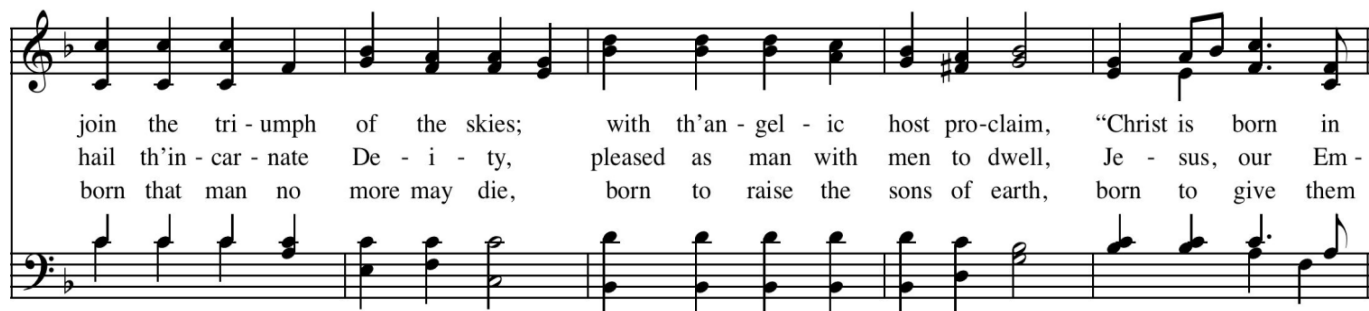
Hymn of Praise—Hark the Herald



Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King; peace on earth, and
Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ the ev - er - last - ing Lord! Late in time be -
Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right-teous-ness! Light and life to



mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!" Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise,
hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the God-head see;
all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings. Mild he lays his glo - ry by,



join the tri - umph of the skies; with th'an - gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in
hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty, pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em -
born that man no more may die, born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them



Beth - le - hem!"
man - u - el. Hark! the he - rald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King."
sec - ond birth.

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

GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT TO BE LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

After calling His people into His presence, forgiving their sins, instructing them in His Word, and providing a foretaste of the marriage supper of the Lamb, God sends His people into the world to show His light in the darkness.

Benediction—from Jude I:24-25

24 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, 25 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—From Heaven Came the Angels Bright, Vs 3

The musical score is written for a piano accompaniment in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of two systems of staves. The first system has a treble and bass staff joined by a brace. The melody is primarily in the treble staff, with lyrics underneath. The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Re - joice there - fore that through his Son Your God with you is now at one. He took on hu - man flesh and bone, And you, his broth - ers, are God's own."

Text: Martin Luther; Music: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR, Arr Michael Praetorius, 1609.

Prayer Focus—David Carrera is a church planter and senior pastor of Beth Sar Shalom Reformed Church (BSSRC) in Shelbyville, TN that serves the hispanic community in the area. BSSRC recently moved into a new location which is allowing additional ministries to be added to its ministry to include the production of a local Spanish radio program using the teaching material of Dr. R. C. Sproul. David has requested that Cornerstone pray in the following areas:

- Pray for wisdom and understanding to better guide God's people in the Shelbyville area.
- Pray for more physical strength for David to do the things that the ministry demands.
- Pray for David's wife, Graciela, and her work with the Sunday School ministry. .
- Pray for daughter, Melissa, and her work in Southwest, son, David Jr, and his work at BSSRC and son, Jonathan, in his last year at the University of Memphis.

CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONALS

It is not too late to start the readings in the Christmas Devotional that has Scripture for each day as well as other readings, songs, discussion questions, and prayer.

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



Christmas Eve Service

December 24
4:00pm

Today's message, "Singing with Zechariah: The Benedictus" is taken from Luke I:57-79. Please take time to discuss the questions below with your family, friends, or Home Fellowship Group (HFG).

- It was the custom among first century Jews to name their child (especially their firstborn son) after a relative—oftentimes the father or grandfather. In John the Baptist's case, his name was giving to him by God. What does God's naming of John indicate about John? (Multiple right answers could be given!)
- How does the loosening of Zechariah's tongue at the speaking of John's name become a sign of prophetic fulfillment on multiple levels? In what way is God calling you out of silence into song today?
- Zechariah's hymn of praise is traditionally called the *Benedictus*, taken from the first word of the hymn in the Latin Vulgate—"benediction" or "blessing." Read back through Zechariah's prophecy and consider the ways "blessing" is a fitting name for this hymn.
- Of all that was said in today's message, in what way did God speak to your heart?

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: <i>Emeritus</i> (943-8443)		

Deacons

Gene King (806-3726)*	Todd Russell (319-4803)	Larry Thompson (901-734-1520)
Kevin McClung (243-9228)	Marty Smith (767-2240) ^o	Bob Vermilye (599-9577)
Jim Robinson (587-0442)	David Steffens (557-5316)	

*On Sabbatical

^oLeave of Absence

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

All Scripture quotations from the English Standard Version

