



CORNERSTONE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND GOSPEL RENEWAL

Fourth Sunday of Advent—Glory

23 December 2018

GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE AND REVEALS HIMSELF

God calls His people to worship and come before Him. The Creator of all things reveals Himself through His Word and calls us into His presence.

Prelude, Announcements & Preparation

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

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

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

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in the key of D major (two sharps) and 3/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first system covers the first line of the verse, and the second system covers the second line. The piece ends with a double bar line.

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

Call to Worship—from Psalm 96:1-9

Pastor: Oh sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth!

Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hymn of Praise—Angels We Have Heard on High

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

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The melody is a well-known hymn tune. The lyrics are written below the notes. The piece ends with a double bar line.

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

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

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

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

Hymn of Praise—Angels from the Realms of Glory

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

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

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Text: James Montgomery, 1816, 1825; Music REGENT SQUARE, Henry Smart, 1867.

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

Old Testament Reading—Isaiah 40:I-5 *The Glory of the Lord shall be revealed.*

1 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

Lamb of God who takes a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God who takes a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy on

us. Lamb of God who takes a - way the sins of the world,

Grant us Your peace. Grant us Your peace. Grant us Your peace.

Text: John 1:29; Music: FRANKLIN AGNUS DEI, Gregory D Wilbur, 2009. ©2009 Greyfriars Press.

Corporate Confession of Sin—John 1:I-5; 10-12, 14, 16

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. Knowing ourselves to be sinners,

we approach the glorious incarnation of Christ, his coming into the world, with awe.

In the beginning was the Word, And the Word was with God,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pastor: He came to His own,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Silent Prayers of Confession

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

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign.

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

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.

He was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his stripes we are healed.

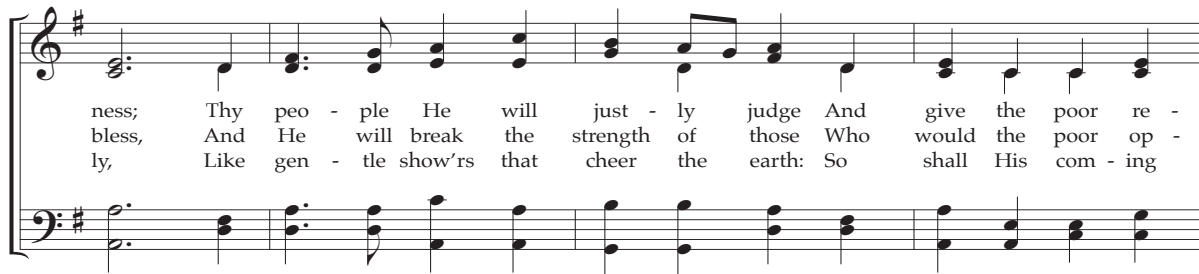
All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

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

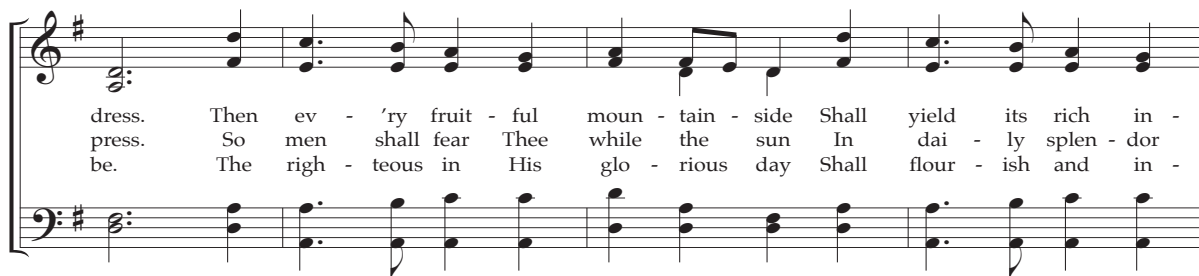
Psalm for Advent— Psalm 72: O God, to Thine Anointed King



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.

The Reading of the Word—Luke 2:1-14

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when^[a] Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

Leader: The grass withers, the flower fades;

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

Sermon—*The Songs of Christmas, Part 4*

Singing with the Angels: The Gloria

—Nate Shurden, *Pastor*

Sung Response—From Heaven Came the Angels Bright, Vs 7

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



MEN



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.

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.

Hymn of Communion—Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and trem - bling stand;
King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on earth He stood,
Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van - guard on the way,
At His feet the six - winged ser - aph; cher - u - bim, with sleep - less eye,

pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed, for with bless - ing in His hand,
Lord of lords, in hu - man ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,
as the Light of light de - scend - eth from the realms of end - less day,
veil their fac - es to the pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry,

Christ our Lord to earth de - scend - eth, our full hom - age to de - mand.
He will give to all the faith - ful His own self for heav'n - ly food.
that the pow'rs of hell may van - ish as the dark - ness clears a - way.
"Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Text: Liturgy of St. James, 5th c. Adapted by Gerard Moultrie, 1864, Music: PICARDY, 17th c. French Melody

Communion Hymn—Glory in the Darkest Place



Out of the depths of si-lent night
Out of the depths of si-lent night

Im-man - u - el, come hear our cry.
A Sav - ior born, a moth-er's sigh.



Our grief is strong, our bur-dens great.
The dark-ness trem - bled at this star.

The night is long and hope is faint.
A beam of hope for troub-led hearts.



You came to set the cap-tives free,
You came to make Your bless-ings known.

A Morn-ing Star of joy and peace.
And bear our curse of death a - lone.



Why does this dark-ness feel so deep?
You came to share our suf-fer - ing

Lord, help our wear - y spir - its see.
So in our sor - row we could sing:



Glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry in the dark - est place.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry, let Your mer - cy reign.

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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—Joy to the World

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her
Joy to the earth! The Sav - ior reigns: let men their songs em -
No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the
He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions

king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him room, and
play; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains re -
ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far
prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness and

heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture sing, and
peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far
won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his love, and

heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
as, far as the curse is found.
won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1719, from Psalm 98; Music: ANTIOCH, arr. by Lowell Mason, 1836

GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT TO BE LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

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

Benediction—from Luke I:76-79

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

Sung Response—The First Nowell, Vs 6

Then let us all in one accord Sing praises to our
heav'n - ly Lord; That hath made heav'n and earth of naught, And
with His blood man - kind hath bought. No - el, no - el, No -
el, no, el, Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Text and Music: Old English Carol



Christmas Eve
Service
December 24 4:00pm

Today's message, "Singing with the Angels: The Gloria" is taken from Luke 2:1-14. Please take time to discuss the questions below with your family, friends, or Home Fellowship Group (HFG).

- What does the angel's song say about what sort of Savior Jesus would be, and whom He came to save?
- How does the birth of Jesus foreshadow his future life and ministry?
- What does the birth of Jesus teach us about being a Christian?
- Throughout the narrative of Luke, individuals are "laying up in their hearts" or "pondering" or "treasuring up" all that is taking place (1:63, 65-66; 2:19). What do all of these phrases mean? Can it be said of you this Christmas that you've treasured Christ in your heart? If not, what can you do right now to change that?

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

