



CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND GOSPEL RENEWAL

Fourth Sunday of Advent—Glory

24 December 2017

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.

Prelude, Announcements & Preparation

Lighting of the Advent Wreath—Angels From the Realms of Glory, verse 5

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son, Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing To th'e - ter - nal Three in One. 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.

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?

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—From Heaven Came the Angels Bright, Vs I-3, 7

From heav - en came the an - gels bright To shep - herds
 To Beth - le - hem, King Da - vid's town, As Mi - cah
 Re - joice there - fore that through his Son Your God with
 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, Whose ad - vent

watch - - - ing in the night. A new - born roy - al
 saw; comes great re - nown. Your Lord Christ is in -
 you is now at one. He took on hu - man
 has our free - dom won, Whom with the Fa - ther

child, they said, Lies yon - der in a man - ger bed.
 car - nate there To save you all from sin and care.
 flesh and bone, And you, his broth - ers, are God's own.
 we a - dore, And Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

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

(Please be seated)

Old Testament Reading—Isaiah 40:1-5

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."

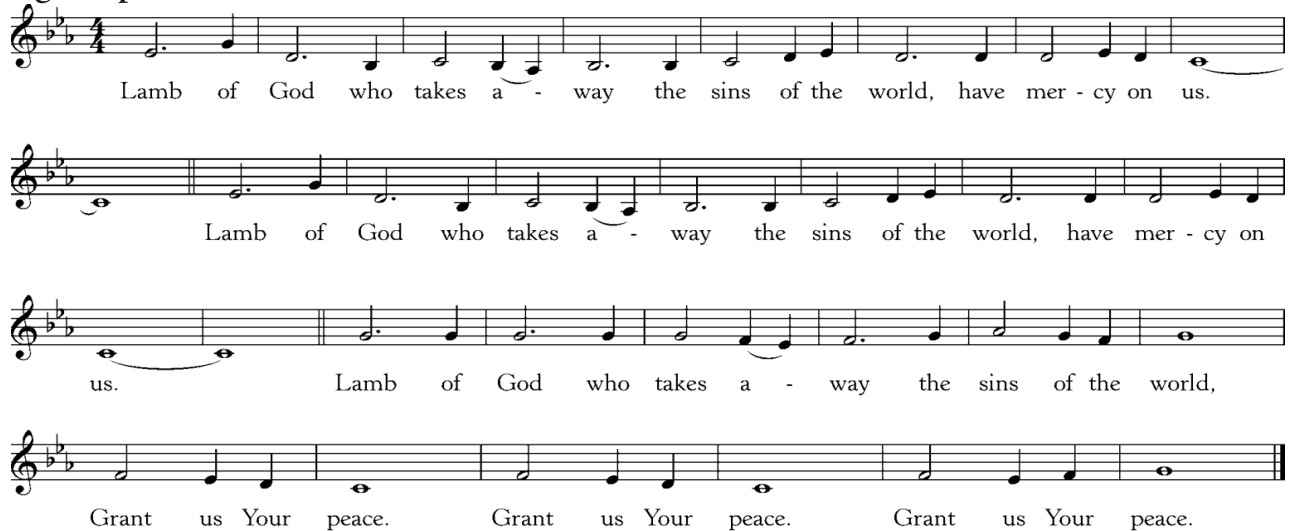
Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

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

Corporate Confession of Sin—John I:I-5; I0-I2, I4, I6

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.

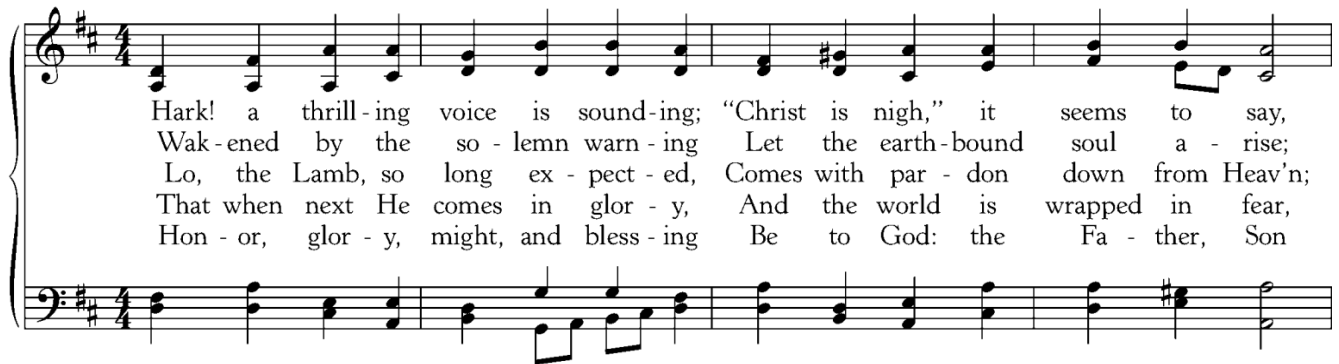
Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.

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.

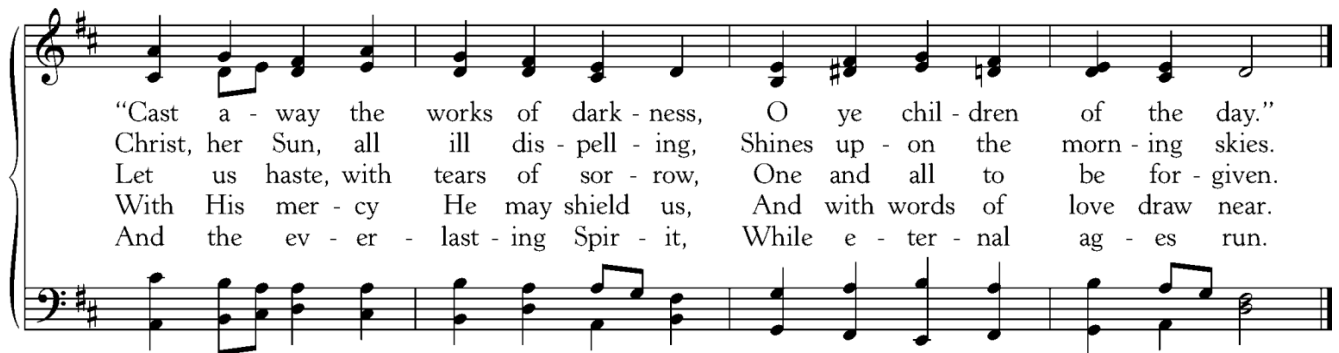
All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

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

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 - spect - 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

GOD TEACHES US THROUGH HIS WORD

The Reading of the Word—Isaiah 9:2-7

- ² The 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.
- ⁴ For 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.
- ⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.
- ⁶ For 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.
- ⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
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.

Leader: The grass withers, the flower fades;

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

Sermon—The Lord is in Your Midst, Pt 4

We Have Seen a Great Light

—Nate Shurden, *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.

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 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.

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.

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.

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

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 1:76-79

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

The musical score is written for a piano accompaniment and a vocal line. It consists of four systems of music. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are: "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." The piano part provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines in both hands.

Text and Music: Old English Carol

Prayer Focus—Christ Community Church (CCC) is a Presbyterian Church in America church plant in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Hunter and Abbie Bailey, with their three kids, moved to Fayetteville in the summer of 2013. These first four years have been amazing! It's been incredible to see the Lord grow His church, both in membership and in depth of relationships.

- Pray for our officer candidates. We have three elder candidates and two deacons. They have been praying through and learning about biblical leadership over the past year, and we plan to particularize the church on March 4, 2018.
- Pray for our long-term worship space. Our desire is to be located in downtown Fayetteville. Our city has a distinctive cultural center, and CCC wants to be a part of this influential space.
- Pray that we would be a church that models kingdom diversity. We want to be a church that experiences greater minority involvement and a community that encourages minority leadership. We ask you to pray that the “every tribe, tongue, and nation” of new heavens and the new earth is reflected in the CCC family.
- Prayer that the members of CCC would have zeal for the unchurched, the unbeliever, the burnt out, and the disconnected.

Available Starting Sunday, December 31

EPIPHANY DEVOTIONALS: Scripture Reading Guide for the New Year



“All Scripture is breathed out by God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work”

—2 Timothy 3:16-17

The Word of God is the foundation and lifeblood for every Christian disciple. That is why Cornerstone is committed to reading, preaching, praying, and singing the Bible each week in worship and laboring to instill through all our discipleship initiatives a love for and commitment to the Bible’s teaching. Very simply, we believe that the more we’re exposed to the means of grace of God’s Word, the more opportunity we have for our lives to be transformed by it.

As we look to 2018, we’re trying something new. Instead of just reading straight through the Bible, we’re going to read smaller selections that are scattered through the Scripture, so that you’re getting a steady diet of Old and New Testament throughout the year. Further, the chosen Scriptures will center on themes from our sermon series, which means the main themes of our worship services will inform our Bible reading selections throughout the week.

We see benefits in approaching it this way. First, the smaller sections of Scripture give you time to reflect on the Word more deeply. Second, if you miss a day or two, you don’t have to sweat it or feel like you’re behind. You can just pick up wherever you are. Third, the repetitive emphasis of Scriptural themes from Sunday through your weekly Bible reading helps set a context for your Bible reading and will likely make a deeper spiritual impact on our heart.

We are also adding in a weekly memorization verse, or we might say, “meditation verse.” It’s important to be reading the Bible daily, but it’s equally important to chew on particular texts in a meditative way, learning to hide words and phrases into your heart (Psalm 119:11).

We’re hopeful that by approaching our Bible reading more intentionally, letting the Lord’s Day worship service set our direction, we might experience in even greater measure of the living and active power of God’s Word in our life together (Hebrews 4:12)

Today's message, "We Have Seen a Great Light" is taken from Isaiah 9:2-7. Please take time to discuss the questions below with your family, friends, or Home Fellowship Group.

- Speaking of the incarnation, Oswald Chambers wrote, "Jesus Christ founded his kingdom on the weakest link of all—a baby." What does this divine strategy teach us about the power of God and the nature of His kingdom?
- Contextually, how does the dark-light motif apply specifically 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 does the dark-light motif apply to the unfolding of our lives?
- What darkness are you presently experiencing? Can a Christian walk by the light of eternity when experiencing the reality of present darkness? If so, how?
- Review the titles of v. 6—Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. Trace each title to its fulfillment in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Of the four descriptions, which one(s) minister to you a light that you presently need?

CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Presbyterian Church in America

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Jim Smith (347-4188)

Chuck Emerson: *Emeritus* (643-8443)

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All Scripture quotations from the English Standard Version

