

# CORNERSTONE

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND GOSPEL RENEWAL

*Christmas Eve*  
*24 December 2023*

# *Pastoral Notes*

Dear Cornerstone Family,

Last Sunday we were treated to a lovely Christmas performance from our covenant children. There really is nothing sweeter than hearing little ones open their lips to declare the praise of our glorious God and Savior Jesus Christ.

As you know, such performances do not just happen. I'd run out of space mentioning the many names of those who served to make last week's performance a reality. One name, however, simply must be named—Jessica Michaud. For years, Jessica has poured her heart into leading the children's choir. Her efforts have grown our covenant children in their knowledge of and love for singing. I am so thankful for Jessica and for the small army of volunteers who labor so faithfully to train our children musically.

In addition to choir, I would like to publicly thank our children's Sunday School teachers and assistants as well as all those who assisted in our children's ministry on Wednesday nights this fall. Under the leadership of our Children's Coordinator, Meredith Suits, it's been a deeply encouraging semester of exploring God's Word and putting the truth to work in fun crafts and activities. As we bring this semester to a close, please join me in giving praise to God for the gift of diligent teachers and assistants who weekly take the little children to Jesus (Matthew 19:14).

Now, like many of you, one of the things I look forward to during Advent and Christmas is seasonal reading. In fits and spurts over the last few weeks, I made my way through a number of volumes. To close out our Advent season, I've culled a few quotes from my seasonal reading. I hope these quotes serve to inform your mind and enflame your heart for the celebration of Christ's coming into the world.

"Incarnation prophesies salvation...When God stoops down to man, it must mean that man is to be lifted up to God."  
—C.H. Spurgeon

"Now have the homely things been made  
Sacred, and a glory on them laid,  
For He whose shelter was a stall,  
The King, was born among them all.  
He came to handle saw and plane,  
To use and follow the profane;  
Now is the holy not afar  
In temples lighted by a star,  
But where the loves and labors are,  
Now that the King has gone this way,  
Great are the things of every day!"—Edwin Markham

"What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;  
Yet what I can I give him: I give my heart."  
—Christina Rossetti

"Nothing makes a Christmas gathering so  
happy as to feel that we are traveling on  
towards an eternal gathering in heaven."  
—J.C. Ryle

"The incarnation means that for whatever reason God chose to let us fall...to suffer, to be subject to sorrows and death—he has nonetheless had the honesty and the courage to take his own medicine...He can exact nothing from man that he has not exacted from himself. He himself has gone through the whole of human experience—from the trivial irritations of family life and the cramping restrictions of hard work and lack of money to the horrors of pain and humiliation, defeat, despair, and death...He was born in poverty and suffered infinite pain—all for us—and thought it worth his while."—Dorothy Sayers

Your servant,



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.

## Prelude—All Praise to Thee, Eternal Lord

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Announcements, and Preparation

### 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.*

## Introit—Angels From the Realms of Glory, verse 5

The musical score is written for piano in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. 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 96:1-8

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.

All: For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the Lord made the heavens.  
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!

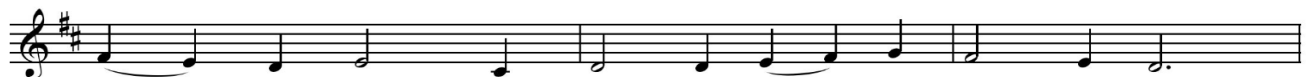
## Hymn of Praise—On Christmas Night



On Christ - mas night all Christ - ians sing, To  
Then why should men on earth be so sad, Since  
When sin de - parts be - fore his grace, Then  
All out of dark - ness we have light, Which



hear the news the an - gels bring, On Christ - mas night all  
our Re - deem - er made us glad, Then why should men on  
life and health come in its place, When sin de - parts be -  
made the an - gels sing this night, All out of dark - ness



Christ - ians sing, To hear the news the an - gels bring,  
earth be so sad, Since our Re - deem - er made us glad,  
fore his grace, Then life and health come in its place;  
we have light, Which made the an - gels sing this night:



News of great joy, news of great mirth,  
When from our sin he set us free,  
An - - - gels and men with joy may sing,  
"Glo - - - ry to God and peace to men,



News of our mer - ci - ful King's birth.  
All for to gain our li - ber - ty?  
All for to see the new - born King.  
Now and for ev - er - more. A - men."

Text: SUSSEX CAROL, Traditional English Carol

8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you? 10 And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." 11 He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" 12 The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." 13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

14 The Lord God said to the serpent,  
"Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock  
and above all beasts of the field;  
on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.

15 I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and her offspring;  
he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

*Thanks be to God.*

### Hymn of Reflection—I Wonder as I Wander

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky, how Jesus the Savior did come for to die  
for poor or'ry people like you and like I; I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow's stall with wise men and farmers and shepherd and all.  
but high from God's heaven a star's light did fall, and the promise of ages it did then recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing, a star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,  
or all of God's angels in heaven for to sing, he surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.

CCLI #11121087 Text and Music: John Jacob Niles, 1933; adapted from an American Folk Carol; Arr GDW

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

**All: those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.**

Leader: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;

**All: and the government shall be upon his shoulder,**

Leader: and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

**All: Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Leader: Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,

**All: to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness**

Leader: from this time forth and forevermore.

**All: The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.**

## Hymn of God's Promise—O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, Vs I and 5

O come, O come, Em - man - - - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
 O come, O come, thou Day - - - spring bright! Pour on our souls thy  
 Is - - - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
 heal - - - ing light; Dis - pel the long night's ling - 'ring  
 here, un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re -  
 gloom, And pierce the sha - dows of the tomb.  
 joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

## Hymn of Expectation—Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Come, Thou long ex - pect - ed Je - sus Born to set Thy peo - ple free;  
 Born Thy peo - ple to de - li - ver, Born a child and yet a King,  
 From our fears and sins re - lease us, Let us find our rest in Thee.  
 Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring,  
 Is - rael's Strength and Con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art;  
 By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;  
 Dear De - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.  
 By Thine all suf - fi - cient mer - it, Raise us to Thy glor - ious throne.

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

Leader: Therefore the LORD himself will give you a sign.

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

Leader: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem;

All: 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.

Leader: A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

All: 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.

Leader: And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,

All: and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

### Hymn of Praise—Savior of the Nations, Come



Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; Vir - gin's Son, make here Your home.  
Not of flesh and blood the Son, Off-spring of the Ho - ly One;  
Won-drous birth! O won - drous Child of the vir - gin un - de - filed,



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.  
Born of Mar - y ev - er blest, God in flesh is man - i - fest.  
though by all the world dis-owned, still to be in heav'n en-throned.



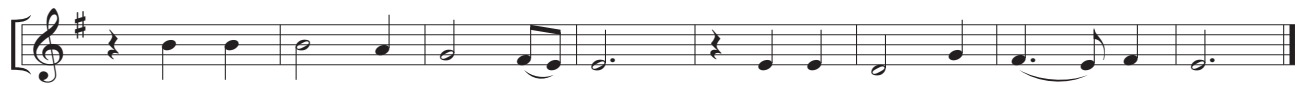
From the God - head forth You came, and re - turn un - to the same,  
Bright-ly does Your man - ger shine, Glo - rious is its light di - vine.  
You, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son, Have o'er sin the vic - t'ry won.



Cap - tive lead - ing death and hell. High the song of tri - umph swell!  
Let not sin o'er-cloud this light; Ev - er be our faith so bright.  
Bound-less shall Your king - dom be. When shall we its glo - ries see?



Praise to God the Fa - ther sing, Praise to God the Son, our King,



Praise to God the Spir - it be Ev - er and e - ter - nal - ly.



26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said,

“Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!”

29 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.

30 And the angel said to her,

“Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

34 And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

35 And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. 36 And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God.”

38 And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her. *Thanks be to God.*

### Hymn of Praise—Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming

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

of Jes - se's lin - age com - ing, as men of old have sung.  
 With Mar - y we be - hold it, The Vir - gin Mo - ther kind:  
 dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the dark-ness ev - r' - where,

It came, a flow'r-et bright, a - mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.  
 To show God's love a - right She bore to us a Sav - iour When half - spent was the night.  
 True man, yet ver - y God; from sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - r'y load.

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



In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup> 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, <sup>5</sup> to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup> And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup> 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. *Thanks be to God.*

Hymn of Praise—God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may, re -  
 From God our heav' n - ly Fa - ther, a bless - ed an - gel came; and  
 "Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "let noth - ing you af - fright; this  
 The shep - herds at those tid - ings re - joic - éd much in mind, and

mem - ber Christ our Sav - ior was born on Christ - mas day, to  
 un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same; how  
 day is born a Sav - ior of a pure vir - gin bright, to  
 left their flocks a - feed - ing, in tem - pest, storm, and wind: and

save us all from Sa - tan's pow'r when we were gone a - stray; O tid - ings of  
 that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name,  
 free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's pow'r and might."  
 went to Beth - le - hem straight - way, the Son of God to find,

com - fort and joy, com - fort and joy, O tid - ings of com - fort and joy.

Text and Music: 18<sup>th</sup> century Traditional Carol

## New Testament Scripture Reading—Luke 2:8-20

<sup>8</sup> And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

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

<sup>15</sup> When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup> And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup> And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup> And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

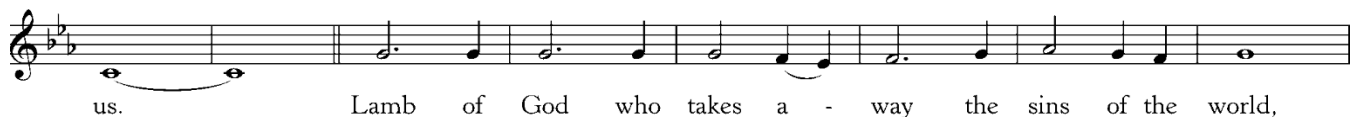
Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

## GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO CONFESSION, REPENTANCE & RECONCILIATION

*The People of God respond to His Word by confessing their sins, repenting of their sinful ways, and seeking God's favor through the reconciling work of Jesus, the Son of God.*

### Sung Response—Lamb of God



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

## Congregational Confession of Sin—John 1:1-5; 10-12, 14, 16

Leader: 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.**

Leader: 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.**

Leader: 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.**

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

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

Leader: He came to His own,

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

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

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

Leader: 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.**

Leader: 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—I Thessalonians 5:23-24

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may our whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

# Hymn of Praise—Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

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.

**The Reading of the Word—Matthew 1:18-25**

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Immanuel”(which means, God with us).

<sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup>but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Leader: The grass withers, the flower fades;

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

**Sermon—The Name Above All Names Part 4**

*God With Us*

—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 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.

## THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

*God offers to His people the gift of communion with Him through the grace of the sacrament and we respond in thanksgiving.*

### 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. Proceed to the first table to partake of the bread, and then to the second tables to drink the cup of wine/juice.*

### Psalm of Communion— Psalm 72: O God, To Thine Anointed King



O God, to Thine a - noint - ed King Give truth and right - eous - ness; Thy  
The poor man's cause He will main - tain, The need - y He will bless, And  
Like rain up - on the new - born grass, That falls re - fresh - ing - ly, Like



peo - ple He will just - ly judge And give the poor re - dress. Then  
He will break the strength of those Who would the poor op - press. So  
gen - tle showers that cheer the earth, So shall His com - ing be. The



ev - ery fruit - ful moun - tain - side Shall yield its rich in - crease, And  
men shall fear Thee while the sun In dai - ly splen - dor glows, And  
right - eous in His glor - ious day Shall flour - ish and in - crease, The



right - eous - ness in all the land Shall bear the fruit of peace.  
through all a - ges, while the moon On earth its light be - stows.  
earth, un - til the moon shall fade, Shall have a - bun - dant peace.

Text: Psalm 72, *The Psalter*, 1912; Music: Gregory Wilbur, 2009. Used by Permission



## 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*

## 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.

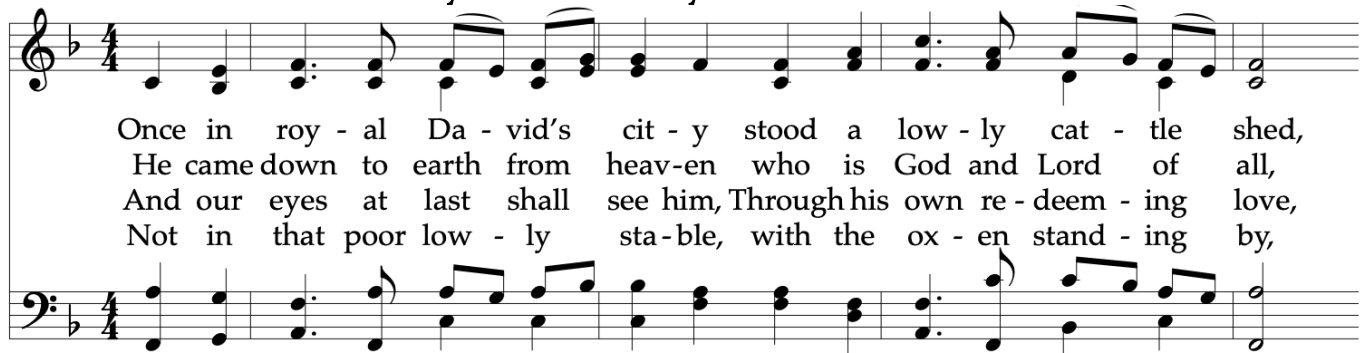
# GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND IN GRATEFUL PRAISE

## 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*

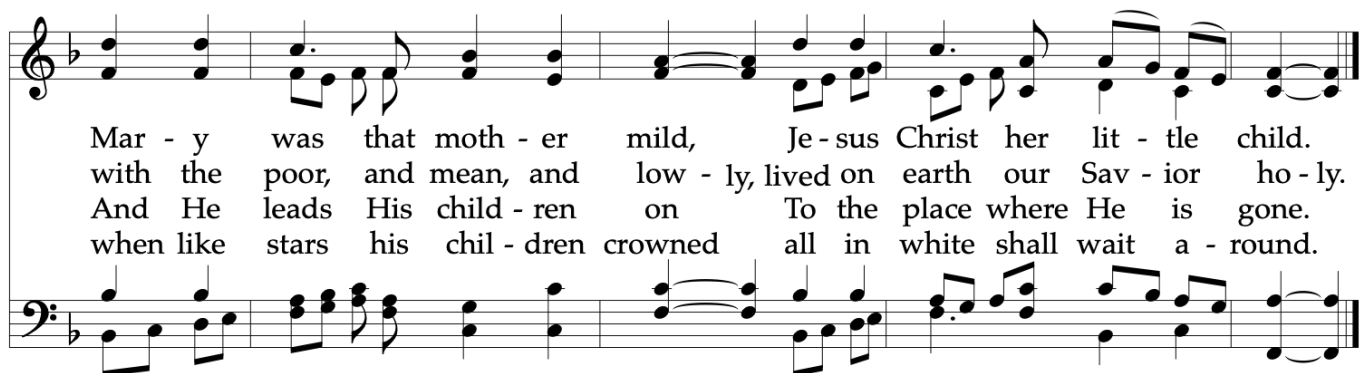
## Hymn of Praise—Once in Royal David's City



Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,  
He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,  
And our eyes at last shall see him, Through his own re - deem - ing love,  
Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,



where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:  
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall:  
For that Child so dear and gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;  
we shall see him, but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.  
with the poor, and mean, and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
And He leads His chil - dren on To the place where He is gone.  
when like stars his chil - dren crowned all in white shall wait a - round.

Text: C.F. Alexander, 1848; Music: IRBY, H.J. Gauntlett, 1849.

# 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

May the Lord go before you to prepare His ways. May He 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—Silent Night

Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright  
Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight!  
Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light;  
round you vir - gin mo - ther and child, Ho - ly infant, so ten - der and mild,  
Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav'n - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia;  
with the an - gels let us sing al - le - lu - ia to our King;  
sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior is born!

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1818; Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1818.

*Welcome to Cornerstone! If you are visiting with us today, we are glad you're here!  
We invite you to fill out a visitor form by scanning this QR code so that we may welcome you personally.  
Alternatively, visitor cards are available at either entrance to the chapel  
and can be placed in one of the offering boxes as you leave.*



## *Focus on Church Ministry*

### **Elder Election on December 31**

Preston Brooks and Terry Cheney have been examined, sustained, and unanimously recommended to you, the congregation, for election as elders next Sunday, December 31. All communing members are eligible and encouraged to participate in this election. Please be in prayer for Mr. Brooks and Mr. Cheney and prepare to vote your conscience next week.

### **Year-End Giving**

Gifts for tax credit for 2023 should be postmarked by December 31. Questions? Contact Robin in the church office at 615.618.4707 or [office@cstonepres.org](mailto:office@cstonepres.org). Please note that the office will be open by appointment only from December 26-29.

### **Cornerstone Youth**

Regular youth Sunday School and midweek activities will return on January 3. On Wednesday nights, we will begin a series on work and calling, seeking to understand God's purpose and design for our daily labors. On Sunday mornings, we will continue our series studying the Gospel of John.

### **Men's Ministry New Year Kickoff**

Calling all Cornerstone men! At 6:00 p.m. on January 18, make plans to join your Cornerstone brothers for an evening of warm food and fellowship as together we explore opportunities to grow this year in the Lord. Register online or the Cornerstone app.

### **Exploring Cornerstone—Save the Date!**

Want to learn about the history, beliefs, vision, and ministries of Cornerstone, as well as meet key ministry leaders? The Exploring Cornerstone class is coming up in the new year. We will meet on Friday evening, February 2, and Saturday morning, February 3. Registration opens the first week of January.

### **Upcoming Sunday School Offerings**

#### *Christ, Culture, and the Kingdom of God*

What does faithfulness look like in a world where Christianity has fallen out of favor? Leaning on the books of Esther and Daniel, this six-week class led by Mr. Nathan Johnson will explore Christian faithfulness in a strange world. Class begins Sunday, January 7 and will meet in the Chapel.

#### *Reset and Refresh: Living a Grace-Paced Life in the Year Ahead*

You probably recognize overwhelmed, exhausted, stressed, anxious, and joyless. Whatever happened to peaceful, joyful, content, rested, and refreshed? Based on the books *Reset* by David Murray and *Refresh* by Shona & David Murray, this six-week class led by Tony Giles will help you chart a grace-paced course for the year ahead. Class begins Sunday, January 7 and will meet on the Third Floor.

### **Let's Study Acts!**

Brothers, starting on January 23 (Tuesday) or January 25 (Thursday) at 6:45 a.m. at the Corner House, the Cornerstone men will study *Acts: On Mission with Jesus Christ in the World*. You can register for either Tuesday or Thursday morning's study by going to the Cornerstone website or app.

### **Sew for Hope**

Cornerstone Women have been invited to go to Servant Group International to help the Sew for Hope ministry prepare sewing kits for their spring classes. We are scheduled to go on Wednesday morning, January 17, from 9:30-12:00. SGI will provide a Kurdish breakfast for us, and then we will spend the remainder of our time cutting fabric and fellowshiping. Please register on the website.

### **Candy Canes**

Kids, please look for the candy canes as you exit the service today. Merry Christmas!

*Children: Please take a candy cane as you leave the service*

The candy canes were graciously donated by Kilwins of Franklin and its owners, Ashley and Landon Clark. Since 1947, Kilwins has been a celebrated part of Americana having earned a reputation for providing high-quality Chocolates, Ice Cream, and Confections combined with excellent service. Their heritage was built on the simple premise of creating products from the finest ingredients and providing customers with great service. In the summer of 2021, the Clarks purchased the existing Kilwins in downtown Franklin, TN.

## CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### Presbyterian Church in America

**Pastor:** Nate Shurden (615-618-4707 Office) or [nate@cstonepres.org](mailto:nate@cstonepres.org)

**Assistant Pastor:** Tony Giles (615-430-8801) or [tony@cstonepres.org](mailto:tony@cstonepres.org)

**Worship and Chief Musician:** Greg Wilbur (615-512-4156) or [greg@cstonepres.org](mailto:greg@cstonepres.org)

**Office Administrator:** Robin Spychalski (615-618-4707) or [office@cstonepres.org](mailto:office@cstonepres.org)

**Church Life Coordinator:** Dan Fiedler (615-812-4032) or [dan@cstonepres.org](mailto:dan@cstonepres.org)

**Women's Ministry Director:** Martha Brooks (615-591-1683) or [women@cstonepres.org](mailto:women@cstonepres.org)

**Men's Ministry:** [men@cstonepres.org](mailto:men@cstonepres.org)

**Young Adult Ministry:** Taylor Thompson (717-371-0848) or [youngadults@cstonepres.org](mailto:youngadults@cstonepres.org)

**Director of Youth and Families:** Drew Abercrombie (407-489-1724) or [drew@cstonepres.org](mailto:drew@cstonepres.org)

**Children's Director:** Meredith Suits (865-250-3579) or [elementary@cstonepres.org](mailto:elementary@cstonepres.org)

**Nursery Coordinator:** Christy Shurden or [nursery@cstonepres.org](mailto:nursery@cstonepres.org)

**Administrative Assistant for Discipleship:** Kelley Shell (662-231-9814) or [kelley@cstonepres.org](mailto:kelley@cstonepres.org)

**Home Fellowship Information:** [HFG@cstonepres.org](mailto:HFG@cstonepres.org)

**Prayer Requests:** [prayer@cstonepres.org](mailto:prayer@cstonepres.org)

#### Ruling Elders

Randy Allen (615-260-1884)

Chuck Emerson: *Emeritus* (615-943-8443)

Joe Haworth (615-289-7543)

Will Kesler (423-313-7493)

John Millard (423-443-8852)

Ron Moffat (629-215-5135)

Jim Payne (615-497-0613)

Jim Smith (615-347-4188)

#### Deacons

Mark Elliott (615-477-1041)

Matt Faulk (714-801-7596)

Dan Fiedler (615-812-4032)

Mark Mitchell (630-835-7754)

Mike Payne (615-579-6453)

Wes Pittman (615-406-6209)

Brent Roberts (615-394-0662)

Jim Robinson (615-587-0442)

\*Todd Russell (615-319-4803)

Matt Suits (706-218-2823)

Casey Taggart (662-813-3563)

Larry Thompson (901-734-1520)

Bob Vermilye (615-943-8139)

\*On Sabbatical

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*All Scripture quotations from the English Standard Version*

