



CORNERSTONE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND GOSPEL RENEWAL

First Sunday of Christmas

30 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

Introit—O Splendor of God's Glory Bright, Vs I

The musical score is written for piano in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble and bass staff. The treble staff contains a melody with lyrics: "O Splendor of God's glo - ry bright, O thou that bring - est light from light, O". The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The second system continues the melody and accompaniment with lyrics: "Light of light, light's liv - ing spring, O Day, all day's il - lum - in - ing." The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Text: St. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; Music: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR, Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621.

Call to Worship—from Psalm 90:I-4, I2,

Pastor: LORD, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.
Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world.

All: From everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Pastor: You return man to dust and say, "Return, O children of man!"

All: For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past,
or as a watch in the night.

Pastor: So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.

All: Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Pastor: Let the favor of the LORD our God be upon us,
and establish the work of our hands upon us;

All: Yes, establish the work of our hands!

Hymn of Praise—All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

The musical score is written for piano in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a treble and bass staff. The treble staff contains a melody with lyrics: "All hail the power of Je - sus' Name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall; Bring
Ye seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race, ye ran - somed of the fall, Hail
Let ev - ery kin - dred, ev - ery tribe, on this ter - res - trial ball, to
O that, with yon - der sa - cred throng, we at His feet may fall, We'll". The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

forth the ro - yal di - a - dem, and crown Him Lord of all. Bring
Him Who saves you by His grace, and crown Him Lord of all. Hail
Him all ma - jes - ty as - cribe and crown Him Lord of all. To
join the ev - er - last - ing song, and crown Him Lord of all. We'll

Text: Edward Perronet, 1779; alt. St. 4 John Rippon, 1787; Music: CORONATION, Oliver Holden, 1793.

Hymn of Praise—O God Our Help in Ages Past, Vs I-4, 7

O God, our help in a - ges past, our
Un - der the shad - ow of Thy throne Thy
Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or
A thou - sand a - ges in Thy sight are
O God, our help in a - ges past, our

hope for years to come, our shel - ter from the
saints have dwelt se - cure; suf - fi - cient is Thine
earth re - ceived her frame, from ev - er - last - ing
like an eve - ning gone, Short as the watch that
hope for years to come: Be Thou our guard while

storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home.
arm a - lone, and our de - fence is sure.
Thou art God, to end - less years the same.
ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.
trou - bles last, And our e - ter - nal home.

Text: Psalm 90, Isaac Watts, 1719; Music: ST. ANNE, William Croft, 1678-1727.

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

Old Testament Reading—Psalm I

- 1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
- 2 but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.
- 3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.
- 4 The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
- 5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;
- 6 for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

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 Romans 6:10-23 & 7:4-6

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. When we were slaves to sin,
we were free to ignore righteousness.

All: But the fruit we were producing at that time
was from things of which we now are ashamed.

Pastor: The end of those things is death. But now we have been set free from sin
and have become Your slaves.

All: And the fruit we produce leads to sanctification and eternal life.

Pastor: For the wages of sin is death, but You give us the free gift of eternal life
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All: We have died to the law through the body of Christ.

Pastor: We have died to the law and are free to belong to one another
and to Christ who has been raised from the dead—

All: In order that we may bear fruit for You.

Pastor: For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our bodies to bear fruit for death.

All: But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive so that we may serve in the new way of Your Spirit.

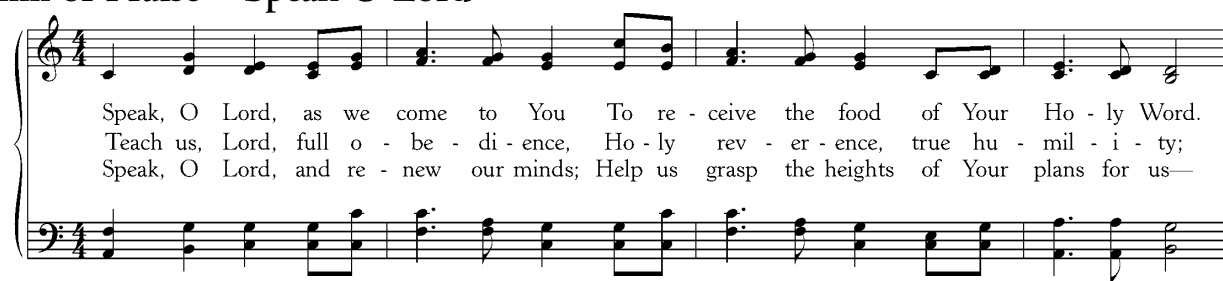
Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon—based on 2 Corinthians 4:6 & 15

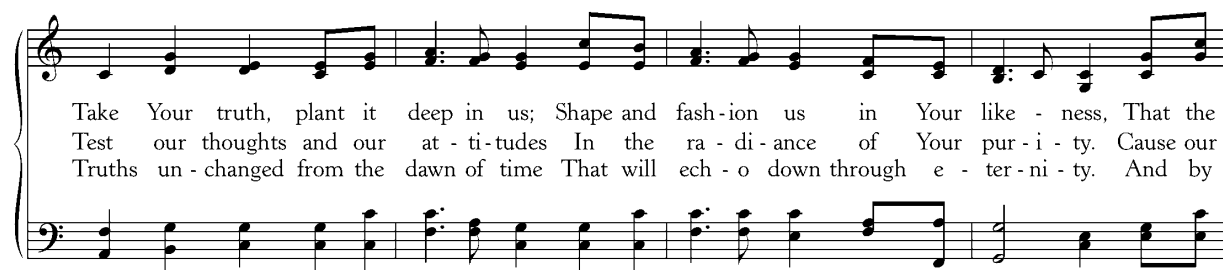
For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

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

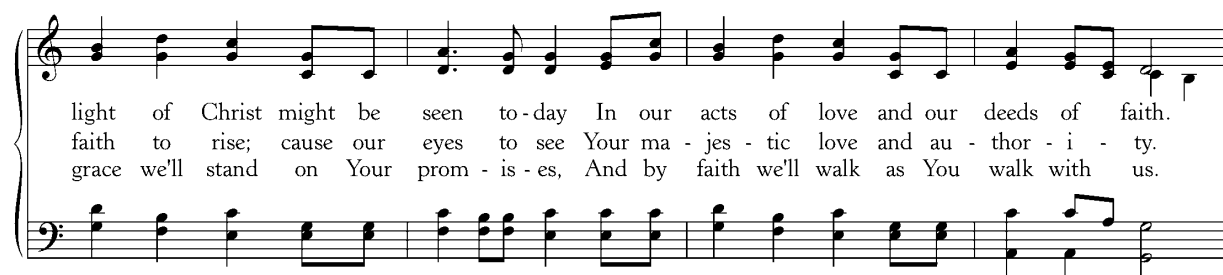
Hymn of Praise—Speak O Lord



Speak, O Lord, as we come to You To re - ceive the food of Your Ho - ly Word.
Teach us, Lord, full o - be - di - ence, Ho - ly rev - er - ence, true hu - mil - i - ty;
Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds; Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us—



Take Your truth, plant it deep in us; Shape and fash - ion us in Your like - ness, That the
Test our thoughts and our at - ti - tudes In the ra - di - ance of Your pur - i - ty. Cause our
Truths un - changed from the dawn of time That will ech - o down through e - ter - ni - ty. And by



light of Christ might be seen to - day In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
faith to rise; cause our eyes to see Your ma - jes - tic love and au - thor - i - ty.
grace we'll stand on Your prom - is - es, And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.



Speak, O Lord, and ful - fill in us All Your pur - pos - es for Your glo - ry.
Words of pow'r that can nev - er fail— Let their truth pre - vail o - ver un - be - lief.
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built And the earth is filled with Your glo - ry.

GOD TEACHES US THROUGH HIS WORD

The Reading of the Word—Luke 2:22-32

²² And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” ²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷ And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹ “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;
³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation
³¹ that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel.”

Leader: The grass withers, the flower fades;

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

Sermon—*The Songs of Christmas, Part 5*

Singing with Simeon: The Nunc Dimittis

—Tony Giles, Assistant Pastor

Sung Response—Doxology

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise
him a - bove ye heav'n - ly host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1709; Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois's *Genevan Psalter*, 1551.

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—Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life

Come, my Way, my Truth, — my Life: Such a
Come, my Light, my Feast, — my Strength: Such a
Come, my Joy, my Love, — my Heart: Such a
way as gives — us breath; Such a truth as ends all
light as shows — a feast, Such a feast as mends in
joy as none — can move, Such a love as none can
strife, Such a life as kill — — — — — eth death.
length, Such a strength as makes — — — — — his guest.
part, Such a heart as joys — — — — — in love.

Text: George Herbert, 1633; Music: THE CALL, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1911.

Hymn of Communion—Holy Father, Hear My Cry



Ho - ly Fa - ther, hear my cry; Ho - ly Sav - ior, bend Thine ear;
Fa - ther, save me from my sin; Sa - vior, I Thy mer - cy crave;
Fa - ther, let me taste Thy love; Sav - ior, fill my soul with peace;
Fa - ther, Son, and Spi - rit— Thou One Je - ho - vah, shed a - broad



Ho - ly Spir - it, come Thou nigh; Fa - ther, Sav - ior, Spir - it, hear.
Gra - cious Spir - it, make me clean: Fa - ther, Sav - ior, Spir - it, save.
Spir - it, come my heart to move: Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it, bless.
All Thy grace with - in me now; Be my Fa - ther and my God.

CCLI #11121087 Text: Horatius Bonar, 1843; Music: Gregory D Wilbur, 2010.

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—Be Thou My Vision



Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart; nought be all
Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word; I ev - er
Be thou my bat - tle - shield, sword for my fight; be thou my
Rich es I heed not, nor man's emp - ty praise, thou mine in -
High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won, may I reach
else to me, save that thou art. Thou my best thought, by
with thee and thou with me, Lord; thou my great Fa - ther,
dig - ni - ty, thou my de - light, thou my soul's shel - ter,
her - i - tance now and al - ways: thou and thou on - ly,
heav-en's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun! Heart of my own heart, what-
day or by night, wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres-ence my light.
I thy true son; thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one.
thou my high tow'r: raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
first in my heart, High King of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
ev - er be - fall, still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: *Rob to mo bhoile, a Comdi cride*, Ancient Irish Poem, 8th century, trans Mary Byrne, 1880-1931;
Music: SLANE, Traditional Irish Melody.

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—Barocha (Numbers 6:24)

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine up - on you,
and give you peace, and give you peace, and give you peace for - ev - er. The
Lord be gra - cious to you. The Lord turn His face to - ward you,
and give you peace, and give you peace, and give you peace for - ev - er.
And give you peace, and give you peace, and give you peace for - ev - er.

CCLI #11121087 © 1989 Birdwing Music; Text and Music: Michael Card, 1989.

Prayer Focus—Ross Lockwood is the Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) campus minister at Western Kentucky University (WKU) in Bowling Green, Kentucky. RUF is the college ministry agency of the Presbyterian Church in America, and the mission of RUF is to reach students for Christ and equip them to serve for a lifetime of ministry in and through the local church. RUF “reaches and equips” through weekly worship nights on campus, various small groups on and off campus, one-on-one pastoral and counseling ministry and hosting on campus outreach and fellowship events. RUF at WKU is in its 10th year on campus, and Ross is in his 4th year as the campus minister. Ross is married to Anne Todd, and has two boys Bo (4 yrs.) and Ira (16 mos.). Please pray for RUF at WKU in the following ways:

- Pray for interns Matt Horne and Cathy Clark as they raise financial support over winter break. Also pray for Ross’ financial support raising efforts during the month of December.
- Pray for the students in RUF who are struggling with depression, homelessness, drug/ substance abuse, especially during the winter break which can be the hardest time for students struggling with these difficulties.
- Pray for wisdom and clarity for Ross as he prepares to teach on Leviticus in the Spring.
- Pray for conversion of the non believers in RUF.

Today's message, "Singing with Simeon: The Nunc Dimmitis" is taken from Luke 2:22-32. Please take time to discuss the questions below with your family, friends or Home Fellowship Group.

1. What has prepared Simeon for what (who) he encounters in the temple court?
2. Before Simeon, faith meant waiting. After him, faith will mean following. How does doxology (praise) turn to obedience (following) in your life? What does following Christ require? Cost?
3. These references to the Holy Spirit and the "consolation of Israel" (Luke 2:25) point forward to Luke 4:18-19 where Jesus quotes Isaiah 61:1-2. In what ways is Jesus your consolation or comfort? Where do you need His consolation or comfort today? Take some time to ask Him for that now.
4. Simeon seems to have a cheerful readiness to die ("depart"). What would need to happen in your life for you to be ready to depart in peace? Read Romans 5:1-2. To depart in peace is to die with this sure hope.
5. Can you turn these words into a prayer? "As we learn to love and trust the Lord "we believe the promises he has given in his word. They have become the spectacle lens through which we see everything – and that is what injects the melody of hope into our lives." (Sinclair Ferguson)

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*On Sabbatical

^oLeave of Absence

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All Scripture quotations from the English Standard Version

