



CORNERSTONE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND GOSPEL RENEWAL
New Year's Eve—First Sunday of Christmas
31 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

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

The musical score is written for a piano accompaniment. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are written below the treble clef staff. The first system of music covers the first line of lyrics: "O Splendor of God's glo - ry bright, O thou that bring - est light from light, O". The second system of music covers the second line of lyrics: "Light of light, light's liv - ing spring, O Day, all day's il - lum - in - ing." The music is a simple, homophonic setting of the text.

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

Call to Worship—from Psalm 90:I-4, 12,

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

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

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 - crite and crown Him Lord of__ all. To
join the ev - er - last - ing__ song, and crown Him Lord of__ all. We'll

forth the ro - yal di - a - dem, and crown Him Lord__ of all.
Him Who saves you by__ His__ grace, and crown Him Lord__ of all.
Him all ma - jes - ty__ as - crite and crown Him Lord__ of all.
join the ev - er - last - ing__ song, and crown Him Lord__ of all.

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.

(Please be seated)

Old Testament Reading—Psalm I

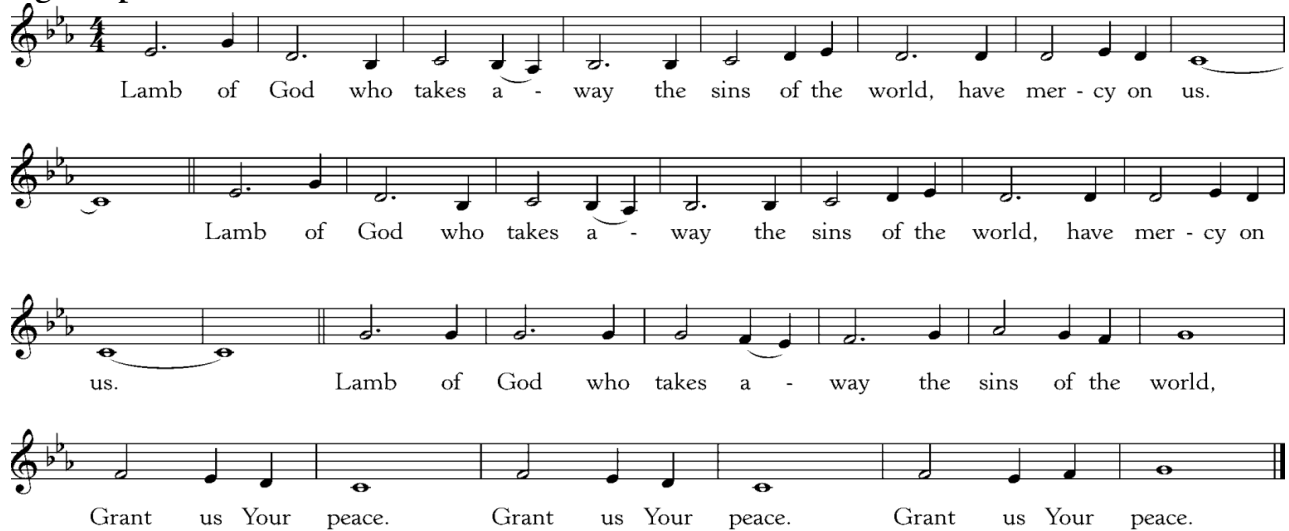
- 1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
 nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
- 2 but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.
- 3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in 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 getting 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 get 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 member 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—Tender Mercy

Hear my cry — for mer - cy as I call — to You;
In Your ten - der mer cy brought by grace — through faith,

as I lift my hands in Spir - it and in truth. We cry —
I will lift my heart t'ward Your most ho - ly place.

WOMEN

in the name — of the Fa - ther, most ho - ly. in the name — of the

mer - - - cy, ——— We cry mer - - - cy. ———

Son who was slain. in the name — of the Spir - it in - dwell - ing; mer - cy,

— Lord, have — mer - - - - cy ten - der mer - cy

Lord. in the name — of the Fa - ther, most ho - ly.

Lord. You are — mer - - - - cy, ——— You are —

in the name — of the Son who was slain. in the name — of the

mer - - - - cy, ——— Lord, have — mer - - - - -

Spir - it in - dwell - ing; mer - cy, Lord, ten - der mer - cy, Lord

cy, ten - der mer - cy, Lord, ten - der mer - cy, Lord

CCLI #11121087 Text and Music: Scott Roley and Paige Overton Pitts, © 1999 Used by Permission.

The Reading of the Word—Proverbs 3:13-18

- ¹³ Blessed is the one who finds wisdom,
and the one who gets understanding,
¹⁴ for the gain from her is better than gain from silver
and her profit better than gold.
¹⁵ She is more precious than jewels,
and nothing you desire can compare with her.
¹⁶ Long life is in her right hand;
in her left hand are riches and honor.
¹⁷ Her ways are ways of pleasantness,
and all her paths are peace.
¹⁸ She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her;
those who hold her fast are called blessed.

Leader: The grass withers, the flower fades;

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

Sermon— *New Year's Resolution: Find Wisdom!*

—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—The Apostles' Creed

We believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into Heaven

and now sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty,

from whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* church,

The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

The resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

* "Catholic" refers to the universal church of God's people throughout all time and from all places

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 bboile, 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—Dave and Robin Dillard serve as the Executive Director and Office Administrator for Servant Group International (SGI), a non-profit ministry focused on sharing the hope and love of Christ in Muslim communities. SGI was established in 1992 in response to the large number of Iraqi Kurdish refugees relocating to Nashville following the first Gulf War. Since that time, SGI has expanded to include outreach projects in Iraq, Turkey and Greece. In Nashville, SGI manages a network of staff and volunteers serving in after-school programs, summer camps and English language classes. In Iraq, SGI helped launch and currently provides teachers for a network of Christian schools enrolling 2,500+ Muslim students. Recently, SGI has been organizing and supporting a number of projects focused on helping refugee families return to their homes and rebuild their lives after ISIS. SGI also organizes short-term teams and projects to help serve among the large number of refugees arriving in Greece.

- Pray for safety for the Iraq team and open hearts among those they love and serve.
- Pray for additional overseas staff, as well as additional local volunteers.
- Pray for the Cornerstone church team that will be serving among refugees in Greece Summer 2018.
- Pray for open hearts among the refugees returning to their homes in Iraq.

Available Today!

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, "New Year's Resolution: Find Wisdom!" is taken from Proverbs 3:13-18. Please take time to discuss the following questions with your family, friends, or Home Fellowship Group.

- In your own words, how would you define biblical wisdom? How is wisdom different from being smart or having knowledge?
- Solomon says that wisdom's profit is better than riches and more precious than jewels (v.14-15). But how does one measure the value of wisdom?
- Think of the wisest person you know. What character qualities, habits, and practices do you observe in them? Is there a sense in which you can say that wisdom has been "a tree of life" to them (v.18)?
- Looking back over the past year, where do you see a lack of wisdom in your life? What would seeking-and-finding wisdom in 2018 look like for you? Take time over the next few days to consider some actionable steps to move toward wisdom this year.

CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Presbyterian Church in America

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All Scripture quotations from the English Standard Version

