

Order of Worship December 10, 2023

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Preparation for Worship

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:11 ESV)

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Bethlehem Candle Luke 1:26-33

Call to Worship

Pastor: Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!

People: His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

Pastor: The LORD has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

People: He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

Pastor: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

ALL: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises! (Psalm 98:1-4 ESV)

Invocation

Praise and Adoration

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him born the King of angels;

*Chorus: O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
O sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God all glory in the highest; (Chorus)

Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; (Chorus)

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"
C. Frederick Oakley | John Francis Wade
© Words: Public Domain | Music: Public Domain

Scripture Reading

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace. (Micah 5:2-5a ESV)

Pastor: This is the Word of the LORD.

People: Thanks be to God!

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem how still we see thee lie,
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above
While mortals sleep the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the King and peace upon the earth.

How silently how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin
Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels; the great glad tidings tell.
O come to us abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel.

"O Little Town Of Bethlehem" | Phillips Brooks
© Words & Music: Public Domain

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Wilson A. Shirley, Senior Pastor

Offertory

"Jesus Messiah"

Preaching of the Word

Mr. Chris Moody, Dir. of Student Ministries

"The Genealogy of Christmas: Jesus, the Christ"

Matthew 1:18

Song of Preparation

O Come Let Us Adore Him

O come let us adore Him; O come let us adore Him;
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Corporate Profession of Faith: The Apostles Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell.* The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I 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.

*Christ was buried, and continuing in the state of the dead,
and under the power of death till the third day (WLC #50)
**catholic means the universal, world-wide church

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

*Please hold the elements so we can take them individually and corporately.
Please feel free to pray, sing or quietly meditate as the elements are passed.
Gluten-free bread is available, please let the elders know as they pass the bread.
Children and guests who have not made a personal profession of faith in Christ
and have not become a communing member of this (or some other) church are
welcome to stay and watch but please do not partake.* (1 Corinthians 11:23-30)

Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry / In the dawning of the King;
He the theme of heaven's praises / Robed in frail humanity.
In our longing, in our darkness / Now the light of life has come;
Look to Christ who condescended / Took on flesh to ransom us.

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry / He the perfect Son of Man,
In His living, in His suff'ring / Never trace nor stain of sin.
See the true and better Adam / Come to save the hell-bound man,
Christ the great and sure fulfillment / Of the law in Him we stand.

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry / Christ the Lord upon the tree;
In the stead of ruined sinners / Hangs the Lamb in victory.
See the price of our redemption / See the Father's plan unfold
Bringing many sons to glory / Grace unmeasured love untold.

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry / Slain by death the God of life;
But no grave could e'er restrain Him / Praise the Lord He is alive!
What a foretaste of deliv'rance / How unwavering our hope;
Christ in power resurrected / As we will be when He comes.

"Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery"
Matt Boswell | Matt Papa | Michael Bleecker
© 2012 Bleecker Publishing (Admin. by Michael Bleecker)

Song of Response

Good Christian Men Rejoice

Good Christian men, rejoice / With heart, and soul, and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
Earth and heav'n before him bow / And he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice / With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heavens' door / And man is blessed evermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice / With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all / To gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

"Good Christian Men Rejoice"
John Mason Neale
© Words & Music: Public Domain

Benediction

Jesus Messiah

*He became sin who knew no sin
That we might become His righteousness.
He humbled Himself and carried the cross.
Love so amazing, love so amazing.*

*Chorus: Jesus Messiah Name above all names,
Blessed Redeemer Emmanuel.
The Rescue for sinners,
The Ransom from heaven,
Jesus Messiah Lord of all*

*His body the bread, His blood the wine;
Broken and poured out all for love.
The whole earth trembled and the veil was torn.
Love so amazing, love so amazing. (Chorus) x2*

"Jesus Messiah"
Chris Tomlin | Daniel Carson | Ed Cash | Jesse Reeves
© 2008 Sixsteps Music

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Guest - Welcome to Cornerstone Presbyterian Church. We're glad you're here! If you'd like more information about our church and its ministries, please fill out the "Connect Card" and visit our website. Another great way to connect is through Sunday School. There are classes for all ages at 9:45 am.

Connect Cards - Please take a "Connect Card" from the chair pocket in front of you, fill out one per family, and place it in the offering plate.

Cornerstone Congregational Meeting - The Session has called a brief joint meeting of the congregation and Cornerstone Presbyterian Church, Inc. at 9:45 am for an update on renovations and construction. No votes will be taken at this meeting.

Christmas Poinsettias - Today is the last chance to purchase a poinsettia in honor or memory of someone. To order, please fill out the order form in the chair pocket in front of you, enclose your payment of \$12 (cash or check), and place it in the offering plate.

Christmas Giving Announcement - This year, we are partnering with Sacred Road and Joni & Friends to assist them with Christmas donations. The deadline for the return of Joni & Friends gifts is Monday, December 11. Please continue to take Sacred Road ornaments and follow the instructions to make a donation towards their Christmas fund until December 17.

Cornerstone Christmas Events

Adult Sunday School Parties - Check with your Sunday School leader for details.

Youth Christmas Party - Wednesday, December 13 at 6 pm in the Family Life Center.

Christmas Potluck Brunch - Sunday, December 17 in the Family Life Center during the Sunday School hour. For more details and to sign up to bring an item, please visit www.cornerstonehuntsville.org/news and scroll down to "Upcoming Events".

Joni & Friends Caroling & Gift Delivery - Sunday, December 17 from 2-4 pm.
We will meet in the FLC lobby.

Christmas Eve Morning Service - Sunday, December 24 at 10 am

Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols Service - Sunday, December 24 at 5 pm

New Year's Eve Morning Service - Sunday, December 31 at 10 am

** No Sunday School on December 24 or 31*

Men's Retreat - Save the date for February 23-24 at Camp Alpine in Mentone, AL.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for church members caring for family - Diana Akridge, Susan Dupré, Bryan Gassaway, Kyle Mosier, Randy Petcher, Bill and JoAnn Sneed, Bonnie Stock, and Mike and Carol Wellfare.

Pray for healing - Suzi and Bill Bolton, Phil Freeze, Anne Harbarger, Loren and April De Jong, Earl Myers, and David Zimmerman.

Pray for our homebound friends - Ruby Petcher and Betty Baldwin.

Pray for our expectant mothers - Olivia Clemons (January), Lauren Hudgins (February), and Olivia Hitt (June).

Pray for our transition time during construction.

Pray for peace in Israel, Ukraine, and Sudan.

Pray for our Missional Partnerships - PCA General Assembly and Westminster Presbyterian Church, Huntsville, AL (Pastor Joe Steele).

**The Lord's Day
December 10, 2023**