

Order of Worship December 17, 2023

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Shepherd's Candle

Matthew 1:18-25

Preparation for Worship

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David.

(Luke 1:68-69 ESV)

Call to Worship

Pastor: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people!

People: And has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David.

Pastor: As he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us;

People: To show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our father Abraham,

Pastor: To grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

ALL: Praise the Lord! *(Luke 1:68-75 ESV)*

Invocation

Praise and Adoration

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild; God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise! Join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Christ, by highest heav'n adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, Offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, Risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, Born that man no more may die.
Born to raise the sons of earth. Born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"
Charles Wesley | Felix Mendelsohn Bartholdy
Words and Music: Public Domain

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

God rest ye merry, gentlemen / Let nothing you dismay
Remember Christ our Saviour / Was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan's pow'r / When we were gone astray.

*Chorus: O tidings of comfort and joy
Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy*

From God our heavenly Father / A blessed angel came
And unto certain shepherds / Brought tidings of the same
How that in Bethlehem was born / The Son of God by name.

Fear not then said the angel / Let nothing you affright
This day is born a Saviour / Of a pure virgin bright
To free all those who trust in Him / From Satan's pow'r and might.

The shepherds at those tidings / Rejoiced much in mind,
And left their flocks feeding / In tempest, storm and wind
And went to Bethlehem straightway / The Son of God to find.

"God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen" | Public Domain

Scripture Reading

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples — of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious. (Isaiah 11:1-10 ESV)

Pastor: This is the Word of the LORD.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sing We The Song of Emmanuel

Sing we the song of Emmanuel
This the Christ who was long foretold
Lo in the shadows of Bethlehem
Promise of dawn now our eyes behold

*Chorus 1: God Most High in a manger laid
Lift your voices and now proclaim
Great and glorious Love has come to us
Join now with the hosts of heaven*

Come we to welcome Emmanuel
King who came with no crown or throne
Helpless He lay the Invincible
Maker of Mary now Mary's son

*Chorus 2: O what wisdom to save us all
Shepherds sages before Him fall
Grace and majesty what humility
Come on bended knee adore Him*

Go spread the news of Emmanuel
Joy and peace for the weary heart
Lift up your heads for your King has come
Sing for the Light overwhelms the dark

*Chorus 3: Glory shining for all to see
Hope alive let the gospel ring
God has made a way He will have the praise
Tell the world His name is Jesus (REPEAT)*

"Sing We The Song Of Emmanuel"
Keith Getty, Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, Stuart Townend
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Profession of Faith

Westminster Shorter Catechism 21 and 22

Pastor: Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?

People: The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, became man, and so was, and continues to be, God and man in two distinct natures, and one person, forever.

Pastor: How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?

People: Christ, the Son of God, became man, by taking to himself a true body, and a reasonable soul, being conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, in the womb of the virgin Mary, and born of her, yet without sin.

Pastoral Prayer

Mr. Chris Moody, Dir. of Students & Families

Offertory

Preaching of the Word

Rev. Wilson A. Shirley, Senior Pastor

“The Genealogy of Christmas: Jesus, the Son of David”

Matthew 1:20

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Song of Response

What Child Is This?

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping?

Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,

While shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;

Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?

Good Christian fear for sinners here, the silent Word is pleading

Nails spear shall pierce Him through the cross be borne for me for you.

Hail hail the Word made flesh, the babe the son of Mary.

So bring Him incense gold and myrrh; come peasant king to own Him.

The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone Him.

Raise raise the song on high, the Virgin sings her lullaby.

Joy joy for Christ is born, the babe the son of Mary.

“What Child Is This?”

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Benediction

The Gift of Gifts

O SOURCE OF ALL GOOD,

What shall I render to thee for the gift of gifts, thine own dear Son, begotten,

not created, my Redeemer, proxy, surety, substitute, his self-emptying

incomprehensible, his infinity of love beyond the heart’s grasp. Herein is

wonder of wonders: he came below to raise me above, was born like me that I

might become like him. Herein is love; when I cannot rise to him he draws near

on wings of grace, to raise me to himself. Herein is power; when Deity and

humanity were infinitely apart he united them in indissoluble unity, the

uncreated and the created. Herein is wisdom; when I was undone, with no will

to return to him, and no intellect to devise recovery, he came, God-incarnate, to

save me to the uttermost, as man to die my death, to shed satisfying blood on

my behalf, to work out a perfect righteousness for me. O God, take me in spirit

to the watchful shepherds, and enlarge my mind; let me hear good tidings of

great joy, and hearing, believe, rejoice, praise, adore, my conscience bathed in

an ocean of repose, my eyes uplifted to a reconciled Father; place me with ox,

ass, camel, goat, to look with them upon my Redeemer’s face, and in him

account myself delivered from sin; let me with Simeon clasp the new-born child

to my heart, embrace him with undying faith, exulting that he is mine and I

am his. In him thou hast given me so much that heaven can give no more.

(From the “Valley of Vision”. Used with permission, Banner of Truth)

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 Today at 9:45 am.

Parking for Christmas Eve Services - Due to limited parking for the morning and evening services, please plan to carpool and arrive early to both services. Parking will be available in the lawn areas in front of the sanctuary and on the east side of the main building. Please save the parking areas near the entrance to the Family Life Center for families and individuals with mobility issues.

Cornerstone Christmas Events

Christmas Brunch - Today in the FLC during Sunday School.

Joni & Friends Caroling and Gift Delivery - Today at 2:00 pm

Christmas Eve Morning Service - Sunday, December 24 at 10:00 am

Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols Service - Sunday, December 24 at 5:00 pm

New Year’s Eve Morning Service - Sunday, December 31 at 10:00 am

* No Sunday School on December 24 or 31

Office Holiday Hours - Our office will be closed from December 25 - January 1.

Roots Winter Retreat - January 19-21 for 6th-12th grade at CampToKnowHim. This year’s speaker is Nathan White and the theme is “My Savior Makes Me Whole”. The cost is \$125 per student. To register, visit www.cornerstonehuntsville.org/news and scroll down to “Upcoming Events”. The registration deadline is December 31.

Women’s Ministry Save the Date - Ladies Tuesday morning Bible study will begin January 16. Please join us as we study the prophets in the Old Testament in “The Word of the Lord” by Nancy Guthrie. More details and registration information coming soon.

New Members Class - January 28 - March 3 during the Sunday School hour. If you’re interested in becoming a member or learning more about Cornerstone, please email office@cornerstonehuntsville.org to sign up.

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 - Seth and Jessica Lewis (Missionaries to Ireland with UFM) and Christ Covenant Presbyterian Church, Cullman, AL (Pastor Jason Ellerbee).