

Order of Worship December 18, 2022

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Angels' Candle

John 1:1-4, 14

Preparation for Worship

"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."
(Luke 2:30-32 ESV)

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

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 Mendelssohn Bartholdy
Words and Music: Public Domain

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
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Scripture Reading

Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law. Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it: "I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols. Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them."

(Isaiah 42:1-9 ESV)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Come Thou long-expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation
Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver
Born a child and yet a King
Born to reign in us forever
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"
Text: Charles Wesley | Music: Rowland Prichard
Arrangement: Steve Sedlack | Jennifer Sloan

Corporate Profession of Faith: The Word Made Flesh

The LIGONIER STATEMENT on CHRISTOLOGY

We confess the mystery and wonder of God made flesh and rejoice in our great salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord.

With the Father and the Holy Spirit, the Son created all things, sustains all things, and makes all things new. Truly God, He became truly man, two natures in one person.

He was born of the Virgin Mary and lived among us. Crucified, dead, and buried, He rose on the third day, ascended to heaven, and will come again in glory and judgment.

For us, He kept the Law, atoned for sin, and satisfied God's wrath. He took our filthy rags and gave us His righteous robe.

He is our Prophet, Priest, and King, building His church, interceding for us, and reigning over all things.

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Wilson A. Shirley, Senior Pastor

Offertory

"Wexford Carol"

Preaching of the Word

Rev. Brian Russ, Associate Pastor

"REJOICE! Simeon's Song"

Luke 2:21-35

Song of Response

Joy to the World

Joy to the world the Lord is come / Let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare Him room / And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing / And heaven and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth the Savior reigns / Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy / Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow / Nor thorns infest the ground.
He comes to make His blessings flow / Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found / Far as far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace / And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness / And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love / And wonders wonders of His love.

"Joy To The World" | George Frideric Handel |
Isaac Watts | © Public Domain

Benediction

Wexford Carol

*Good people all this Christmastime, consider well and bear in mind
What our good God for us has done, in sending His beloved Son.
With Mary holy we should pray to God with love this Christmas Day;
In Bethlehem upon that morn there was a blessed Messiah born.*

*Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep,
To whom God's angels did appear, which put the shepherds in great fear.
"Prepare and go," the angels said, "to Bethlehem, be not afraid;
For there you'll find, this happy morn, a princely Babe, sweet Jesus born."*

*There were three wise men from afar directed by a glorious star,
And on they wandered night and day until they came where Jesus lay.
And when they came unto that place where our beloved Messiah was,
They humbly cast them at his feet, with gifts of gold and incense sweet.*

"Wexford Carol"
Irish Traditional

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Guest - Welcome to Cornerstone Presbyterian Church. We are glad you are here! If you would 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 9:45am.

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

Chrismons - Our tree in the sanctuary is decorated with Chrismon Ornaments. For more information about these ornaments, see the card in the seatback pockets or lobby. Thank you to the ladies who joyfully helped make the Chrismons!

Cornerstone Christmas Events:

Christmas Brunch - Today in the FLC during the Sunday School hour.

Christmas Eve Services - We will have two identical candlelight Christmas Eve Services on Saturday, December 24th, at 4pm and 5:30pm. Please invite family, friends and neighbors to join us! In order to avoid overcrowding at each service, we are asking families to sign up for the service they plan to attend. To register see this week's communication or scan the QR code.



Christmas Day Service - Sunday, December 25th, at 11am only.

(A nursery will NOT be provided for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services)

New Year's Day - We will have worship services at 8:30am and 11am. Sunday School classes will not be held, but will resume Sunday, January 8th.

Abounding - Visit cornerstoneabounding.org to learn more about Abounding. Please turn your commitment card in by today if you are planning to contribute to the initiative.

Year-End Giving - Please remember that in order for your contributions to be posted this year they will need to be postmarked by Saturday, December 31st.

Women's Bible Study - Join us beginning Tuesday, January 17th, as we resume our study of Exodus (Chapters 19-40) using Jen Wilkin's God of Freedom material. Please see this week's communication regarding instructions for registration and book orders. Stay tuned for more information about FOUNDATIONS Wednesday night bible study.

Roots Retreat - Students, please join us January 20-22, 2023 at Camp ToKnow Him for a weekend of Christ-filled fellowship and discipleship. The deadline to register is today. Please email Pastor Brian with questions at brian@cornerstonehuntsville.org

Men's Ministry - Save the Date for Men's Retreat at the Vision February 24-25, 2023.

Join the Good News Club Team - Cornerstone is forming a team to launch a GNC at Blossomwood elementary. Information and sign up is located in the gathering room!

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for church members caring for family - Lora Abernathy, Diana Akridge, Bryan Gassaway, Rick McCann, Randy Petcher, Mike Bayless, Bill and JoAnn Sneed, and Kyle Mosier.

Pray for healing - Mary Allen Junen, Matthew Lawrence, Berin Wendorf, Phil Freeze, Gayle Ricks, Lauren Davenport, Sharon Ibsen, Farris Powell, Bob Boerner, and David Kimrey.

Pray for our nursing home resident - Ruby Petcher

Pray for our expectant mothers - The Kawell adoption.

Pray that the Lord would raise up an assistant pastor to serve at Cornerstone.

Pray for our Missional Partnerships - PCA General Assembly and First Presbyterian Church, Tusculumbia, AL (Dr. Randy Thompson).



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DECEMBER 18, 2022
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Simeon's Song
LUKE 2:21-35