

# The Celebration of the Nativity of Jesus, the Christ

December 24, 2023

5:00 P.M.

*Welcome to Cornerstone Presbyterian Church and the celebration of the birth of Immanuel – “God with us!” Our service involves congregational participation, so please be ready to respond, pray and sing joyfully without prompting. You’ll be reading the darker, bold print. After the homily, during the candle lighting and singing of carols, please turn your candle to the “on” position and keep it on while the lights are dimmed; turn them off after the lights have been raised. Again, welcome. “O come, let us adore Him: Christ the Lord!”*

The Prelude. Judy Bailey, harp

The Call to Worship Rev. Dr. H. Andrew Silman, Pastor

Pastor: Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.

**ALL: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulders,**

Pastor: And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Ever-lasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**ALL: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased.**

\*The Hymn of Adoration 208 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

\*The Prayer of Adoration concluding with this congregational prayer:

**Father in Heaven, you make this night radiant with the splendor of Jesus Christ our Light. We welcome him as Lord, true Light of the world. By faith in his obedience, death and resurrection bring us to eternal joy and peace in the kingdom of heaven where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.**

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 7:14 and 9:6-7

The Musical Meditation Judy Bailey, harp

The Gospel Lesson John 1:1-5,14 and 3:16-19

\*The Hymn 201 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

The Call to Confession: *Let us draw near to God with faith and make our humble confessions to Him.*

The Corporate Prayer of Confession - After the printed prayer on the facing page is read in unison, please spend time silently confessing your personal sins to God. **“This saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners...”** (1Timothy 1:15).

Lord Jesus, on this the eve of your birth, I am glad that you left the splendor of Heaven’s glory to bring into this world, darkened by sin, the light of your kingdom. I have been reminded that you came to your own, but they did not receive you, and still today people reject you; sin scars your creation including my heart and life. I rejoice that you grant full and free forgiveness: cleansing from every stain of sin and removing every trace of sin’s guilt, to all who acknowledge their need of you and put their complete trust in you. Forgive me; cleanse my heart tonight by your Word and Spirit that I may welcome and worship you as my Savior and King and serve you as your loyal, loving subject. Amen.

Silent Confession followed by the Assurance of Pardon

Pastor: Almighty God, who does freely pardon all who repent and turn to You, now fulfill in every contrite heart the promise of redeeming grace, remitting all our sins, and cleansing us from an evil conscience through the perfect sacrifice of Christ Jesus our Lord.

**All: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners! Thanks be to God!**

\*The Hymn 214 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

The Epistle Lesson 2 Corinthians 9:15

The Christmas Eve Homily *God’s Inexpressible Gift* Dr. Silman

\*The Singing of Carols by Candlelight (please join in singing the carols as printed on the insert)

\*The Affirmation of Faith: The Nicene Creed (to be read in unison)

**We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made, who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.** [\*catholic = universal]

\*The Benediction:

Let the just rejoice, for their Justifier is born. Let the sick and infirm rejoice, for their Savior is born.

Let the captives rejoice, for their Redeemer is born. Let slaves rejoice, for their Master is born.

Let free men rejoice, for their Liberator is born. Let all Christians rejoice, for Jesus Christ is born.

(Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, AD 354-440)

The Postlude Judy Bailey, harp

\*The Congregation stands (Please feel free to be seated at anytime.)

**Special thanks to Judy Wolter-Bailey for her contribution to our Christmas Eve Service again this year!**

## CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday School – 9:45 a.m.  
Lord's Day worship – 11:00 a.m.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Office: (828) 884-3305  
Email: [cornerstonep@comprium.net](mailto:cornerstonep@comprium.net)  
Web page: [www.cornerstonepcabrevard.com](http://www.cornerstonepcabrevard.com)  
FaceBook: CORNERTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH – PCA

### OUR MISSIONARIES

Phil and Amina Fiol (Northern India)  
Alec and Riley Cotton, RUF Appalachian State University (Boone, NC)  
Andrew and Laura Kate Lupton (Oslo, Norway)  
Quentin and Karen Nantz (Psalm 78 Teachers)  
Brian and Mandy Stock (Southeast Asia)  
Andrew and Trish Shank, RUF Western Carolina University (Cullowhee, NC)



### **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** Christina Rosetti (1872)

In the bleak mid-winter frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak mid-winter long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain; Heaven and earth shall flee away when  
He comes to reign: In the bleak mid-winter a stable-place sufficed the Lord God Almighty  
Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him whom cherubim worship night and day, A breastful of milk and a mangerful of  
hay; enough for Him whom angels fall down before, the ox and ass and camel which adore.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there. Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air, but  
only His mother in her maiden bliss worshipped the Beloved with a kiss.

What can I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb, if I were a wise  
man I would do my part, - Yet what I can I give Him, Give my heart

*...built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets,  
Christ Jesus Himself being the chief cornerstone. Ephesians 2:20*



°CORNERSTONE°  
° PRESBYTERIAN ° CHURCH ° IN ° AMERICA °  
645 BERT LANE ROAD BREVARD, NC 28712

### **OUR VISION**

Cornerstone Presbyterian Church is a vibrant and unified community of Christians and their covenant children whose sole desire is to glorify God in everything. Because God's grace has won our affections we are wholeheartedly committed to the following: the absolute authority of the Bible because it is the very Word of God; enthusiastic and biblical worship; deeds of mercy and sacrificial service; earnest prayer; deepening relationships with one another; and joyful, intentional proclamation of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ to all the world beginning in Brevard. We warmly welcome as members all who trust in Jesus Christ alone for salvation and fully share our vision.

### **OUR MISSION**

The mission of Cornerstone Presbyterian Church is to glorify the triune God by exalting Him and by edifying and equipping our members to share the gospel with everyone in both word and deed beginning in Brevard and to the ends of the earth.