

## *The Order for the Worship of God*

December 17, 2023

11:00 a.m.

### **Third Sunday of Advent**

*“To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”* (Revelation 1:5b-6)

Welcome and Announcements (**Please turn your cell phone to “silent” mode. Thank you!**)

Prelude Judy Bailey and Jill Plemmons

Call to Worship from Psalms 67, 96 and 97

PASTOR: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! Let the nations be glad and sing for you, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.... Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it! Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in his faithfulness.

**ALL: The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice .... Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous, and give thanks to his holy name!**

\*Hymn #195 *Joy to the World! The Lord is Come* words printed on back

\*Congregational Prayer to be prayed in unison by all

**Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one eternal God in three Persons – we rejoice on this third Sunday of Advent that Jesus has come to deliver us and all creation from the curse of sin and death. We rejoice in your love for us that will stop at nothing until your image in which we were created, badly marred by sin, has been restored and we have been delivered not only from the penalty and power of sin but from its presence. We rejoice and give thanks to your holy name as we long for Jesus to return and reign o’er the renewed creation! Amen.**

\*Hymn #646 *Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts* words printed on back

Morning Prayers for Christ’s Church and the World Paul Sawyer

Scripture Lesson Galatians 5:22-26

Sermons on Galatians # 24 Rev. Dr. H. Andrew Silman

Silent Reflection and Prayer

It may be asked how does one get joy? It comes only with Him who Himself is the God of all joy. The extent to which He occupies the ground of my whole being, that is the extent to which I have His joy. If Christ controls and has His way in my career, business, hobbies, home, friendships, service, and interests, whatever they may be, there I will also experience His joy. It is quite literally impossible to be at variance with God in any area of life and there find joy. Joy is part and parcel of harmony with Him in my activities. The instant I comply with His wishes, His joy energizes my being. The moment I disagree with His desires joy fades, and faith falters. As Christ comes into our affairs His desire is that our attention and interest be refocused on Him. It is He who is at work within us both to will and do of His own good pleasure (Philippians 2:13). Too often we are looking for joy when we should just be looking away to Jesus Christ. Our joy is in Him. Our strength is in His ability to produce the joy. W. Phillip Keller, *A Gardener Looks at the Fruit of the Spirit*, pp. 102-103.

*Chara* = joy, a delight in God for the sheer beauty and worth of who He is. Its opposite is hopelessness or despair, and its counterfeit is an elation that is based on experiencing blessings, not the Blessor, causing mood swings based on circumstances. Tim Keller, *Galatians for You*, p. 154.

\*Hymn #310 *Rejoice, the Lord is King* words printed on back

Benediction Judy Bailey and Jill Plemmons

Postlude

\*Congregation Stands. (Please feel free to be seated at any time.)

**WELCOME TO ALL** who are spiritually weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort; to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who sin and need a Savior; to all who are strangers and want fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness; and to whoever will come this church opens wide her doors and offers her welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES MEET AT 9:45 a.m.** Adults meet in the Fellowship Hall. **YOUTH FELLOWSHIP FOR TEENS** – meets today @ 5:30 p.m. **OFFICER TRAINING – Pastor’s Study at 9:45 a.m. and Wednesday at 10:30 a.m.**

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES** will be held at 11:00 a.m. and 5 p.m. Judy Bailey will be playing the harp and piano for the morning and the evening candlelight service which will be a festive service and a wonderful time to invite family and friends.

#### CHURCH STAFF

Dr. H. Andrew Silman, Pastor (828-226-2800)

Mrs. Rebecca Hagedorn, Hostess (828-508-3516)

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## **JOY TO THE WORLD! THE LORD IS COME**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come: let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare him room, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n 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.

## **JESUS, THOU JOY OF LOVING HEARTS**

Jesus, thou joy of loving hearts, thou fount of life, thou light of men, from the best bliss that earth imparts, we turn unfilled to thee again.

Thy truth unchanged hath ever stood; thou savest those that on thee call; to them that seek thee thou art good, to them that find thee all in all.

Our restless spirits yearn for thee, where'er our changeful lot is cast; glad when thy gracious smile we see, blest when our faith can hold thee fast.

O Jesus, ever with us stay, make all our moments calm and bright; chase the dark night of sin away, shed o'er the world thy holy light.

## **REJOICE, THE LORD IS KING**

Rejoice, the Lord is King: your Lord and King adore! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing, and triumph evermore.

**REFRAIN:** Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Jesus, the Savior reigns, the God of truth and love; when he had purged our stains, he took his seat above. **REFRAIN**

His kingdom cannot fail, he rules o'er earth and heav'n; the keys of death and hell are to our Jesus giv'n. **REFRAIN**

He sits at God's right hand till all his foes submit, and bow to his command, and fall beneath his feet. **REFRAIN**

Rejoice in glorious hope: Our Lord, the Judge, shall come, and take his servants up to their eternal home. **REFRAIN**

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



°CORNERSTONE°

° PRESBYTERIAN ° CHURCH ° IN ° AMERICA °  
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### **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.