

The Order for the Worship of God

December 24, 2023

11:00 a.m.

Fourth 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

Call to Worship from Isaiah 9, 11 and 12

PASTOR: 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.... You will say in that day: “I will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away that you might comfort me.... Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

ALL: Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

*Hymn #196 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* words printed on back

*Congregational Prayer to be prayed in unison by all

Almighty God, our salvation, in you do we trust, you are our strength and song! On this Christmas Eve we celebrate the Gift of gifts – Jesus the Christ, the only begotten Son of God – who came to save his people from their sins. We rejoice that by his obedience, death and resurrection he has reconciled us to you and made peace for us. Grant us the daily experience of the peace that surpasses understanding by the power of the Holy Spirit, who dwells in our hearts by faith. Amen.

*Hymn #198 *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!* words printed on back
(stanzas 1, 3, 5, and 6 – Hymn Tune: WALTHAM)

Morning Prayers for Christ’s Church and the World

Scripture Lesson Galatians 5:22-26

Sermons on Galatians # 25

Rev. Dr. H. Andrew Silman

Silent Reflection and Prayer

We are not at peace with others because we are not at peace with ourselves, and we are not at peace with ourselves because we are not at peace with God. (Thomas Merton)

God hates sin not just because it violates his law, but because it violates **shalom** (Hebrew word for “wholeness”) ... because it interferes with the way things are supposed to be... Sin is blamable human vandalism of shalom. (Cornelius Platinga, [A Breviary of Sin](#))

Our Lord indicates that there will always be wars and disputes in the world, and that in particular that which is the fruit of the Spirit will never be found in the world.... Even the ancient Israelites ... were told by Jeremiah that they had a personal stake in peace when they would be captives in Babylon: “And seek the peace of the city to which I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray unto the Lord for it: for in its **shalom**, you shall have peace” (29:7). (John W. Sanderson, [The Fruit of the Spirit](#), pp. 76-77).

*Hymn #203 *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* words printed on back

Benediction

Postlude Judy Bailey

*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. **OFFICER TRAINING – Pastor’s Study this Wednesday the 27th at 10:30 a.m.**

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

INVITATION: Lou Gebb and Al Vissers cordially invite you to celebrate with them on their wedding day, Saturday, December 30th at 3:00 p.m. here at the church. They will welcome your presence and receive it as a precious present.

CHURCH STAFF

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

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

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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 ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee, Dayspring from on high appear; come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of thy birth we long to hear! O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth: "Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness, he whose glories knew no end; by his life he brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend. Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall; this the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

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.

LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, YE MIGHTY GATES

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits; the King of kings is drawing near, the Savior of the world is here.

O blest the land, the city blest, where Christ the Ruler is confessed! O happy hearts and happy homes to whom this King in triumph comes!

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide! Let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.

So come, my Sovereign, enter in! Let new and nobler life begin! Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on, until the glorious crown be won.

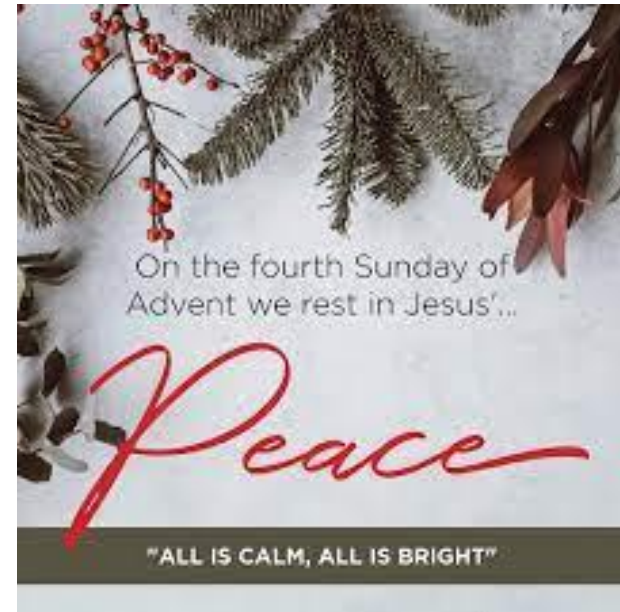
HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

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 the'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 God-head see; hail th'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, ris'n 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."

...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.