

The Order for the Worship of God

May 18, 2025
11:00 a.m.

“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!)**

Piano Prelude Judy Bailey

Call to Worship from Psalm 148

PASTOR: Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD from the heavens, praise him in the heights above. Praise him, all his angels, praise him, all his heavenly hosts. Praise him, sun and moon, praise him., all you shining stars Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding, wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds, kings of earth and all nations ... let them praise the name of the Lord.

ALL: His splendor is above the earth and the heavens. Praise the LORD.

*Hymn #112 *Praise Ye, Praise Ye the Lord* words printed on back
(stanzas 1, 3 and 5)

Congregational Prayer (to be prayed in unison)

Sovereign Lord, Author and Giver of Life – temporal and eternal – we give thanks for the truth that the world belongs to you and everything in it. We are thankful that though this world is fraught with temptations and allurements that are strong and powerful, that you are more powerful and in Christ we have overcome them by the power of His indwelling Spirit. We lift up our hearts and voices in praise this day to you: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Hymn # 179 *Hallelujah! Thine the Glory* words printed on back
(stanzas 2- 4)

Morning Prayers for Christ’s Church and the World John Rowe

Scripture Lesson Esther 3:8-11; 4:1, 10-17

Sermon Series on the Books of the Bible #16: Esther Rev. Dr. H. Andrew Silman

Silent Reflection and Prayer

While the book of Esther falls in the Bible after the books of Ezra and Nehemiah, the story related in the book takes place right in the middle of the events described in those two books. It takes place between the first wave of Jews making their way back to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple and Ezra’s leading the second return of a group of Jewish exiles to Jerusalem. The first king over the Persian Empire, Cyrus, had released Jews to go back to Jerusalem. When Darius ascended to the throne of Peria, he affirmed the earlier decree of Cyrus and encouraged the continuation of the work. The story of Esther takes place during the reign of the next king, Xerxes (also called Ahasuerus), and before Artaxerxes, the king to whom Nehemiah was a cupbearer.

Have you ever paid a price personally for your faith in Jesus Christ as the only way we sinful, alienated humans can be reconciled to God? Perhaps you have been ridiculed, or – maybe – shunned by some you considered to be friends. Esther identified herself with the God of the Jews and her kinsmen putting her life on the line in hopes of saving them. (4:15-16). She doesn’t see her death as just one possible outcome for her actions as mediatrix for her people – but she concludes: “If I perish, I perish.” The king could have had her executed on the spot – but did not. We have an infinitely better mediator than Esther. Jesus did not put his life at risk for us – but laid it down! For us: “the wages of sin is death” – but Jesus received them for us. Which means, even if we should be put to death because of our identification with God and our King Jesus, we will not ultimately perish. By losing our lives in obedient service to Jesus, our lives will be preserved forever. So, ask for grace to get over your reluctance to go public with your faith. Let it be known WHO and WHOSE you are!

*Hymn #65 *Before Jehovah’s Awesome Throne* words printed on back
(stanzas 1, 3 - 5)

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 CLASS MEETS AT 9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Sunday School for children meet in classroom #3

THE MONTHLY AFTER-CHURCH LUNCHEON will be held after the worship service next Lord’s Day, May 25th. Ridge Haven Summer Staff will be joining us – so, please, bring AMPLE dishes (sides or desserts) to share!

NURSERY SCHEDULE FOR MAY– (TODAY) May 18th Nancy Davis, Joan Pretorius, 25th – Suzy Greene, Gail Grissom. **Ladies, please arrive in the nursey by 10:45, thank you.**

PRAISE YE, PRAISE YE THE LORD

Praise ye, praise ye the Lord in yonder heav'nly height; ye angels, all his hosts, in joyful praise unite; O sun and moon, declare his might, show forth his praise, ye stars of light.

Ye creatures in the sea and creatures on the earth, your mighty Maker praise and tell his matchless worth; praise him, ye stormy winds that blow, ye fire and hail, ye rain and snow.

By all let God be praised, for he alone is great; above the earth and heav'n he reigns in glorious state; praise him, ye saints, who know his grace and ever dwell before his face.

HALLELUJAH! THINE THE GLORY

We praise thee, O God! For the Son of thy love, for Jesus who died and is now gone above.

REFRAIN: Hallelujah! thine the glory, hallelujah! we sing; hallelujah! thine the glory, our praise now we bring.

We praise thee, O God! For the Spirit of light, who has shown us our Savior and scattered our night. REFRAIN

All glory and praise to the Lamb that was slain, who has borne all our sins and has cleansed ev'ry stain. REFRAIN

BEFORE JEHOVAH'S AWESOME THRONE

Before Jehovah's awesome throne, all nations, bow with sacred joy; know that the Lord is God alone, he can create, and he destroy – he can create, and he destroy.

We are his people, we his care, our souls and all our mortal frame; what lasting honors shall we rear, almighty Maker, to your name? Almighty Maker, to your name?

We'll crowd your gates with thankful songs, high as the heav'ns our voices raise; and earth, with her ten thousand tongues, shall fill your courts with sounding praise – shall fill your courts with sounding praise.

Wide as the world is your command, vast as eternity your love; firm as a rock your truth must stand, when rolling years shall cease to move – when rolling years shall cease to move.

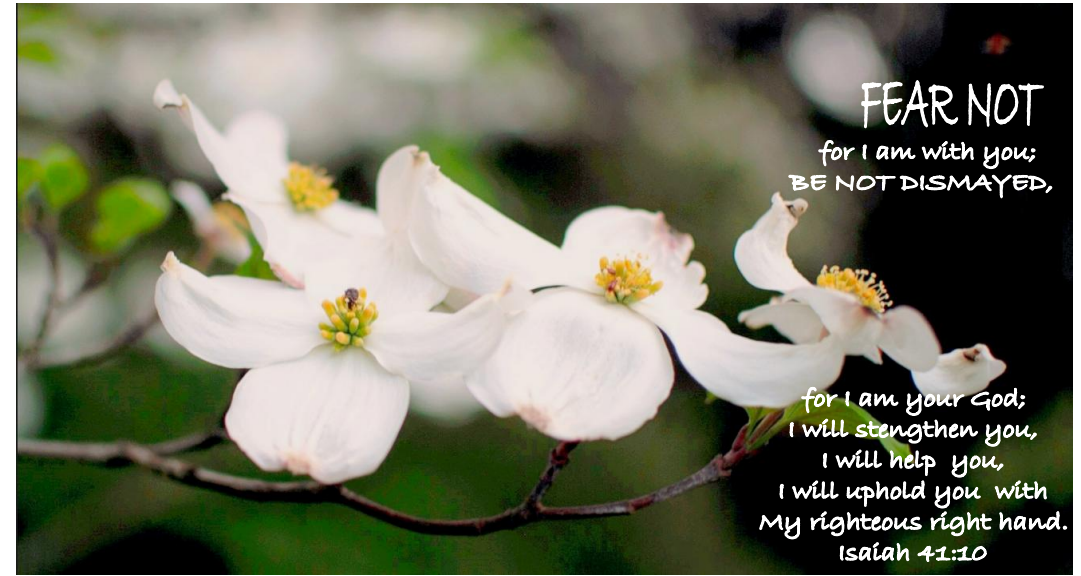
CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Office: (828) 884-3305 Pastor's Mobile: (828) 226-2800

E-mail: cornerstonep@comporium.net Web Page: www.cornerstonepcbrevard.com

Prayer Requests may be sent to: cornerstonenews@comporium.net

*...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.