

The Order for the Worship of God

December 14, 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!**)

Prelude Tim Browning

Call to Worship Isaiah 40:1-4

PASTOR: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins. A voice cries: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

ALL: And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

*Hymn *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People* words printed on back
(Hymn Tune: HYFRDOL)

Congregational Prayer of Confession (to be prayed in unison)

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart, mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, grant us grace to repent and by your word and Spirit be transformed and live as you created and redeemed us to live; that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

*Hymn #226 *As with Gladness Men of Old* words printed on back
(stanzas 1, 4 and 5)

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

Scripture Lesson Isaiah 9:2-7

Sermon *What’s In a Name?* Rev. Dr. H. Andrew Silman

Silent Reflection and Prayer

Christmas is about receiving presents, but consider how challenging it is to receive certain kinds of gifts. Some gifts by their very nature make you swallow your pride. Imagine opening a present on Christmas morning from a friend – and it’s a dieting book. Then you take off another ribbon and wrapper and you find it is another book from another friend, *Overcoming Selfishness*. If you say to them, “Thank you *so* much,” you are in a sense admitting, “For indeed I am fat and obnoxious.” In other words, some gifts are hard to receive, because to do so is to admit you have flaws and weaknesses and you need help.... There has never been a gift offered that makes you swallow your pride to the depths that the gift of Jesus Christ requires us to do. Christmas means that we are so lost, so unable to save ourselves, that nothing less than the death of the Son of God himself could save us. That means you are not somebody who can pull yourself together and live a moral and good life. To accept the true Christmas gift, you have to admit you’re a sinner. You need to be saved by grace. You need to give up control of your life. That is descending lower than any of us really wants to go. Yet Jesus Christ’s greatness is seen in how far down he came to love us. (Tim Keller, [Hidden Christmas](#) (pp.16-18).

*Hymn #213 *What Child Is This* words printed on back

Benediction

Postlude Tim Browning

*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. **PLEASE SIGN, PASS THE FRIENDSHIP REGISTRATION BOOKS DOWN THE AISLE AND THEN PASS IT BACK. USE IT TO GREET ONE ANOTHER BY NAME!**

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES MEETS AT 9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Children meet in classroom #3.

WHITE GIFTS FOR SHARING HOUSE – Pick up a white bag under the poinsettia tree, fill it with non-perishable food suggestions on the list, return it and place it under the tree. The food will be delivered to Sharing House for distribution to Transylvania County residents in need the week after Christmas.

CHRISTMAS EVE AT CORNERSTONE. Music will be provided by our cherished musicians – Judy Bailey and Tim Browning. The festive service will feature congregational carol singing by candlelight, and a special homily from Dr. Silman. **PLEASE NOTE:** The twilight service will begin at 4 o’clock in the afternoon

NURSERY SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER: (TODAY – 14th) Lou Vissers, Karen McKee; 21st Amy Holman, Karen McKee; 28th Marsha Elliott, Denise Sawyer. **January 4th Rebecca Hagedorn, Lou Vissers; 11th BK Decker, Gail Grissom.**

COMFORT, COMFORT YE MY PEOPLE

Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God; comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning 'neath their sorrow's load. Speak ye to Jeru-sa-lem ... of the peace that I shall send; tell her that her sins I cover, that her warfare I will end!

Yea, her sins our God will pardon, blotting out each dark misdeed; all that well deserved his anger he no more will see or heed. She hath suffered many sorrows, now her griefs have passed away; God has changed her pining sadness into endless, joyous day!

For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near, bidding all men to repentance, since the kingdom now is here. O that warning cry obey ... for the Lord may come today; let the valleys rise to meet him, hills bow down, prepare the way!

Make ye straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain; let your hearts be true and humble as befits his holy reign. For the glory of our God ... o'er the earth is shed abroad; and all flesh shall see and wonder, "I have promised!" saith the Lord.

AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold; as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright; so, most gracious God, may we evermore be led to thee.

Holy Jesus, ev'ry day keep us in the narrow way; and when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.

In the heav'nly country bright need they no created light; thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down; there forever may we sing alleluias to our King.

WHAT CHILD IS THIS

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing: haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christian, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. Nails, spear, shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you; hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary.

So, bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him, the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him. Raise, raise, the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby; joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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