

The Order for the Worship of God

December 21, 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 Judy Bailey

Call to Worship Isaiah 9:2; John 8:12 (Charles Wesley’s hymn)

PASTOR: “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.” Jesus said: “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” 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,
ALL: “Glory to the newborn King.”

*Hymn #218 words printed on back
Angels, from the Realms of Glory
(stanzas 1, 4, and 5)

Congregational Prayer (to be prayed in unison)

All glory to you, great God, for the gift of your Son, the Sun of Righteousness, the light that dispels the darkness of sin and gives hope to the world. Thank you for sending Immanuel to save us. We blend our hearts and voices together with the holy angels to praise your holy name, and tell the earth the good news of the Messiah’s birth, that those for whom he lived and died may believe, rejoice, and bow down, acknowledging your mercy, forgiveness, and love, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

*Hymn #221 words printed on back
Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming
(stanzas 1, 2, 4 and 5)

Morning Prayers for Christ’s Church and the World Joe Holman

Scripture Lesson Matthew 2:1-18

Sermon Rev. Brian Stock

Silent Reflection and Prayer

Matthew does not begin his story of Jesus’ birth by saying, “Once upon a time.” That is the way fairy tales, legends, myths, and Star Wars begin. “Once upon a time” signals that this probably didn’t happen or that we don’t know if it happened, but it is a beautiful story that teaches us so much. But that is not the kind of account Matthew is giving us. He says, “This is the genealogy of Jesus Christ.” That means he is grounding what Jesus Christ is and does in history. Jesus is not a metaphor. He is real. This all happened. Here is why that is so important. Advice is counsel about what you must do. News is a report about what has already been done. Advice urges you to make something happen. News urges you to recognize something that has already happened and respond to it. Advice says it is all up to you to act. News says someone else has acted.... The biblical Christmas texts are accounts of what actually happened in history. They are not Aesop’s Fables, inspiring examples of how to live well. Many people believe the Gospel to be just another moralizing story, but they could not be more mistaken. There is no “moral of the story” to the nativity.... These Gospel narratives are telling you not what you should do but what God has done. The founders of the great religions say, in one way or another, “I am here to show you the way to spiritual reality. Do all this.” That’s advice. Jesus says: “You could never come up to me and, therefore, I had to come down to you.” That’s news. (Timothy Keller, [Hidden Christmas](#), 21-23)

*Hymn #219 words printed back
All Praise to Thee, Eternal Lord
(stanzas 1 and 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. **PLEASE SIGN, PASS THE FRIENDSHIP REGISTRATION BOOKS DOWN THE AISLE AND THEN PASS IT BACK. USE IT TO GREET ONE ANOTHER BY NAME!**

WELCOME TO THE STOCK FAMILY: Brian, Mandy, Lydia, Molly and Isa from Bangkok, Thailand!

WHITE GIFTS FOR SHARING HOUSE: Pick up a white bag under the poinsettia tree, fill it with suggested items on the inserted list, return it and place it back under the tree. The items will be delivered to Sharing House for distribution to County Residents in need.

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

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 homily from Dr. Silman. **PLEASE NOTE: The twilight service will begin at 4 o’clock in the afternoon.**

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

ANGEL, FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth; ye who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:

REFRAIN: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear, suddenly the Lord descending, in his temple shall appear: **REFRAIN**

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son; evermore your voices raising to th'eternal Three in One. **REFRAIN**

LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung, of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung. It came, a flow'ret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night.

Isaiah t'was foretold it, the rose I have in mind; with Mary, we behold it, the virgin mother kind. To show God's love aright she bore to men a Savior, when half-spent was the night.

This flow'r whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air, dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere. True man, yet very God; from sin and death he saves us and lightens ev'ry load.

O Savior, child of Mary, who felt our human woe; O Savior, King of glory, who dost our weakness know; bring us at length, we pray, to the bright courts of heaven and to the endless day.

ALL PRAISE TO THEE, ETERNAL LORD

All praise to thee, eternal Lord, clothed in a garb of flesh and blood, choosing a manger for thy throne, while worlds on worlds are thine alone.

All this for us thy love hath done, by this to thee our love is won: for this we tune our cheerful lays, and shout our thanks in ceaseless praise.

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.