

# Order of Worship December 24, 2023

## Prelude

## Welcome & Announcements

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

*The Angel's Candle*

*John 1-4, 14 ESV*

## Preparation for Worship

*Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14 ESV)*

## Call to Worship

Pastor: Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

**People: For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.**

Pastor: And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

**ALL: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!** *(Luke 2:10-14 ESV)*

## Invocation

## Praise and Adoration

### Angels 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.

*Chorus: Come and worship come and worship  
Worship Christ the newborn King.*

Shepherds in the field abiding / Watching o'er your flocks by night  
God with us is now residing / Yonder shines the infant light.

Sages, leave your contemplations / Brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great Desire of nations / Ye have seen his natal star.

All creation join in praising / God the Father, Spirit, Son  
Evermore your voices raising / To the eternal Three in One.

*"Angels from the Realms of Glory" | Henry Thomas Smart  
James Montgomery | © Public Domain*

### Good Christian Men Rejoice

Good Christian men, rejoice / With heart, and soul, and voice;  
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;  
Earth and heav'n before him bow / And he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice / With heart, and soul, and voice;  
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He hath opened heavens' door / And man is blessed evermore.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice / With heart, and soul, and voice;  
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all / To gain his everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

*"Good Christian Men Rejoice" | John Mason Neale  
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## Scripture Reading

*Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.* *(Philippians 2:5-11 ESV)*

Pastor: This is the Word of the LORD.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

### Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains.

*Chorus: Gloria, in excelsis Deo,  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo.*

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be,  
Which inspire your heav'nly song? *(Chorus)*

Come to Bethlehem and see  
Christ Whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *(Chorus)*

*"Angels We Have Heard on High"  
Edward Shippen Barnes | James Chadwick  
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## Profession of Faith

### The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.

Who, for us and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## Pastoral Prayer

*Rev. John Summers, Assistant Pastor*

## Offertory

*"Noel"*

## Preaching of the Word

*Rev. Wilson A. Shirley, Senior Pastor*

*"The Genealogy of Christmas: Jesus, Immanuel"*

*Matthew 1:23*

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## Song of Response

### O Come, O Come Emmanuel

O come, O come Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here,  
Until the Son of God appear.

*Chorus: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, Thou Dayspring come and cheer,  
Our spirits by Thine advent here.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight. *(Chorus)*

O come Thou Wisdom from on high,  
And order all things far and nigh,  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
And cause us in her ways to go. (Chorus)

O come, Desire of nations bind,  
All peoples in one heart and mind;  
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease,  
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace. (Chorus)

*"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"*  
John Mason Neale \ Thomas Helmore  
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## Benediction

### Noel

*Love incarnate, love divine/Star and angels gave the sign;  
Bow to babe on bended knee/The Savior of humanity.  
Unto us a Child is born/He shall reign forevermore.*

Chorus: Noel, Noel  
Come and see what God has done  
Noel, Noel  
The story of amazing love!  
The light of the world, given for us  
Noel

*Son of God and Son of man/There before the world began.  
Born to suffer, born to save/Born to raise us from the grave.  
Christ the everlasting Lord/He shall reign forevermore. (Chorus x2)*

*"Noel"*  
Words & Music: Chris Tomlin  
Ed Cash \ Matt Redman

### Sermon Notes:

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Guest** - Welcome to Cornerstone Presbyterian Church. We're glad you're here! If you'd like more information about our church and its ministries, please fill out the "Connect Card" and visit our website. Another great way to connect is through Sunday School. There are classes for all ages at 9:45 am.

**Connect Cards** - Please take a "Connect Card" from the chair pocket in front of you, fill out one per family, and place it in the offering plate.

**Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols Service** - Tonight at 5:00 pm

**Parking for Christmas Eve Services** - Due to limited parking, please plan to carpool this evening. Parking will be available in the lawn areas in front of the sanctuary and on the east side of the main building. Please save the parking areas near the entrance to the Family Life Center for families and individuals with mobility issues.

**New Year's Eve Morning Service** - Sunday, December 31 at 10:00 am. No Sunday School.

**Office Holiday Hours** - Our office will be closed from December 25-January 1.

**Women's Ministry Save the Date** - The ladies' Tuesday morning Bible study will begin on January 16. More details and registration information are coming soon.

**Roots Winter Retreat** - January 19-21 for 6th-12th grade at CampToKnowHim. To register, visit [www.cornerstonehuntsville.org/news](http://www.cornerstonehuntsville.org/news) and scroll down to "Upcoming Events". Next Sunday, December 31 is the last day to register.

**Communicants Class** - A communicants class for children interested in becoming communing members of Cornerstone will be offered in January. Please contact Pastor Brian at [brian@cornerstonehuntsville.org](mailto:brian@cornerstonehuntsville.org) for more information.

**New Members Class** - January 28-March 3 during the Sunday School hour. If you're interested in becoming a member or learning more about Cornerstone, please email [office@cornerstonehuntsville.org](mailto:office@cornerstonehuntsville.org) to sign up.

**Men's Retreat** - Save the date for February 23-24 at Alpine Camp in Mentone, AL.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

**Pray for church members caring for family** - Diana Akridge, Susan Dupré, Bryan Gassaway, Kyle Mosier, Randy Petcher, Bill and JoAnn Sneed, Bonnie Stock, and Mike and Carol Wellfare.

**Pray for healing** - Suzi and Bill Bolton, Phil Freeze, Anne Harbarger, Loren and April De Jong, and Earl Myers.

**Pray for our homebound friends** - Ruby Petcher and Betty Baldwin.

**Pray for our expectant mothers** - Olivia Clemons (January), Lauren Hudgins (February), Olivia Hitt (June), and the McMillan adoption.

**Pray for peace** in Israel, Ukraine, and Sudan.

**Pray for our Missional Partnerships** - Northeast AL Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Christ Presbyterian Church, Hampton Cove, AL (Rev. Michael Calvert).