

Order of Worship

December 31, 2023

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Preparation for Worship

And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. (Matthew 2:11 ESV)

Call to Worship

Pastor: Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things!

People: His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

Pastor: The Lord has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

People: He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

Pastor: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

ALL: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises! (Psalm 98:1-4 ESV)

Invocation

Praise and Adoration

Joy to the World

Joy to the world the Lord is come/Let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare Him room/And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing/And heaven and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth the Savior reigns/Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy/Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow/Nor thorns infest the ground.
He comes to make His blessings flow/Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found/Far as far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace/And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness/And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love/And wonders wonders of His love.

"Joy to the World" | George Frideric Handel
Isaac Watts | © Public Domain

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

God rest ye merry, gentlemen/Let nothing you dismay
Remember Christ our Saviour/Was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan's pow'r/When we were gone astray.

*Chorus: O tidings of comfort and joy
Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy*

From God our heavenly Father/A blessed angel came
And unto certain shepherds/Brought tidings of the same
How that in Bethlehem was born/The Son of God by name.

Fear not then said the angel/Let nothing you affright
This day is born a Saviour/Of a pure virgin bright
To free all those who trust in Him/From Satan's pow'r and might.

The shepherds at those tidings/Rejoiced much in mind,
And left their flocks feeding/In tempest, storm and wind
And went to Bethlehem straightway/The Son of God to find.

"God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen" | Public Domain

Scripture Reading

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the Lord.

(Isaiah 60:1-6 ESV)

Pastor: This is the Word of the LORD.

People: Thanks be to God!

Fairest Lord Jesus

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature
O Thou of God and man the Son!
Thee will I cherish, thee will I honor
Thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,
And all the twinkling, starry host:
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels heav'n can boast.

Beautiful Saviour! Lord of the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
Now and forevermore be thine.

"Fairest Lord Jesus"
August Heinrich Hoffmann von Fallersleben | Joseph August Seiss
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Corporate Prayer of Confession

ALL: Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open us to a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. (from the Book of Common Worship)

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Pastor: But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. (Galatians 4:4-5 ESV)

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory

"There Is A Redeemer"

Preaching of the Word

Rev. John Summers, Assistant Pastor

"The Genealogy of Christmas: Jesus, the King"

Matthew 2:1-12

Pages 807-808

Song of Response

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.

“What Child Is This?”

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Benediction

There Is A Redeemer

There is a redeemer, Jesus, God’s own Son;

Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One

Jesus my redeemer, Name above all names;

Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, oh, for sinners slain.

(Chorus): Thank you, oh my Father, for giving us Your Son

And leaving Your Spirit ‘til the work on Earth is done

When I stand in Glory, I will see His face;

And there I’ll serve my King forever in that Holy Place. (Chorus)

“There Is A Redeemer”

Melody Green

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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.

Church Office Holiday Hours - The church office will be closed tomorrow, January 1.

Women’s Ministry Save the Date - The ladies’ Tuesday morning Bible study will begin on January 16. Please join us as we study the prophets in the Old Testament in “The Word of the Lord” by Nancy Guthrie. 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 and scroll down to “Upcoming Events”. Today 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. There will be an initial meeting on Sunday, January 14 after the second service. Please contact Pastor Brian at 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 to sign up.

Men’s Retreat - Save the date for the men’s retreat on 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, Mike and Carol Wellfare, and Mark and Robbie Kimbrough.

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 our transition time during construction.

Pray for peace in Israel, Ukraine, and Sudan.

Pray for our Missional Partnerships - Sacred Road Ministries and Decatur Presbyterian Church, Decatur, AL (Pastor Scott Phillips).