



The First Sunday of Advent ~ November 29, 2020

Prelude

"Sleepers Awake!" from Bach's Cantata 140

God Calls Us to Worship & Welcomes Us

Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.

³You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

⁴For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Seeking God's Blessing on Our Worship

* Praising God in Song

Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her
 2. Joy to the earth! The Sav - ior reigns: let men their songs em -
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions

King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heav'n and na - ture sing.

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Based on Psalm 98
 Isaac Watts, 1719

ANTIOCH C.M.rep.
 George Frederick Handel, 1742
 Arr. by Lowell Mason, 1836

* Declaring Our Faith

Westminster Shorter Catechism 82, 84-87

We believe that God is holy, and that every sin deserves His anger and curse, both in this life and in the life to come.

We believe that since the fall no ordinary man or woman perfectly keeps the commandments of God but breaks them every day in thought, word, and action.

We believe that to escape God's anger and curse, which we deserve for our sin, God requires from us faith in Jesus Christ and repentance unto life.

We believe that faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, by which we receive and rest on Him alone for our salvation, as He is offered to us in the Gospel.

We believe that repentance unto life is a saving grace, by which we, being truly aware of our sinfulness, understand the mercy of God in Christ, grieve for and hate our sin, and turn from it to God, fully intending and striving for a new obedience.

Turning to God in Prayer

Presenting & Dedicating Our Offerings to the Lord

God Speaks through His Word

Luke 1:1-25

¹Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, ²just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, ³it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.

⁵In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. ⁷But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

⁸Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, ⁹according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. ¹¹And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. ¹³But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. ¹⁴And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's

womb. ¹⁶And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, ¹⁷and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”

¹⁸And Zechariah said to the angel, “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.” ¹⁹And the angel answered him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time.” ²¹And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. ²²And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. ²³And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

²⁴After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, ²⁵“Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people.”

“Advent Repentance, Advent Faith”

November 29, 2020

The announcement of John’s birth shows repentance & faith as essential to salvation.

Use the season of advent to turn to the Lord your God in repentance.

Use the season of advent to trust the Lord’s mercy in Christ to take away your shame.

* Responding to God's Word in Song

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

1. Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
 2. Yea, her sins our God will par - don, blot - ting out each dark mis - deed;
 3. For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 4. Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er plac - es plain;

com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, mourn - ing 'neath their sor - row's load.
 all that well de - served his an - ger he no more will see or heed.
 bid - ding all men to re - pen - tance, since the king - dom now is here.
 let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits his ho - ly reign.

Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them; tell her
 She hath suf - fered man - y a day, now her griefs have passed a - way; God will
 O that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way; let the
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad; and all

that her sins I cov - er, and her war - fare now is o - ver.
 change her pin - ing sad - ness in - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
 val - leys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him.
 flesh shall see the to - ken, that his word is nev - er bro - ken.

Johannes Olearius, 1671
 Tr. by Catherine Winkworth, 1863

THIRSTING 8.7.8.7.7.8.8.
 Louis Bourgeois, 1551

* God Dismiss Us with His Blessing

A - men, a - men, a - - - men.

* Those who are able, please stand

Announcements

- This morning after the worship service we continue in-person **Sunday School** with classes for children and adults. Please enjoy fellowship on the front lawn or in the Dewey Ave end of the Fellowship Hall until 11:20 when classes begin. The Adult Class (taught by Elise van der Jagt) will meet around the tables on the kitchen end of the Fellowship Hall, the Elementary Class (taught by Amy Pisani) will meet in Rm 102, the Middle School Class (taught by Kurt Schumacher) will meet in Rm 209, and the High School Class (taught by Eric Runion) will meet in Rm 300. Rooms have been arranged for social distancing, and are supplied with hand sanitizer. Masks are needed while moving throughout the building, but may be removed when seated in the classrooms. A friendly reminder to wear masks properly by placing them over both nose and mouth.
- The **Sunday evening devotional** at 6 PM will continue a study of 2 Timothy, with tonight's passage being 2 Timothy 1:8-10 on the theme "Do Not Be Ashamed"
- The **Wednesday Evening Devotional** studying the book of Esther resumes this Wednesday at 7 PM.
- A reminder that donations to the **Thank Offering** will be received through December 13th, either through checks made out to Cornerstone with "Thank Offering" in the memo line or through the Donations page of the website (being sure to use the drop down menu to choose Thank Offering).
- Helping with this morning's service are: Charlotte Giebel, Eliot Giebel & Luke Pisani (musicians), Dan Lash (usher), Richard Backus (sound) and Tony Pisani (video).

www.cornerstonepresbyterian.org ~ (585) 865-3917

Email: info@cornerstonepresbyterian.org ~ Morning service available onsite at FM 91.9

Cornerstone Presbyterian Church is a congregation of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church

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