



The Third Sunday of Advent ~ December 13, 2020

God Calls Us to Worship & Welcomes Us

Isaiah 61:1-3, 10-11

¹The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.
¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;
my soul shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
¹¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to sprout up before all the nations.

Seeking God's Blessing on Our Worship

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant,
 2. God of God, Light of Light;
 3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing:

O come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem; come and be - hold him
 lo, he ab - hors not the vir - gin's womb; ver - y God, be -
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove; glo - ry to God, all
 Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n; Word of the Fa - ther,

Refrain

born the King of an - gels;
 got - ten not cre - at - ed;
 glo - ry in the high - est; O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
 late in flesh ap - pear - ing;

us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Latin hymn
 attr. to John Francis Wade, 1751
 tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1841; alt.

ADESTE FIDELES 6.6.10.5.6.ref.
 John Francis Wade's *Cantus Diversi*, 1751

* Declaring Our Faith

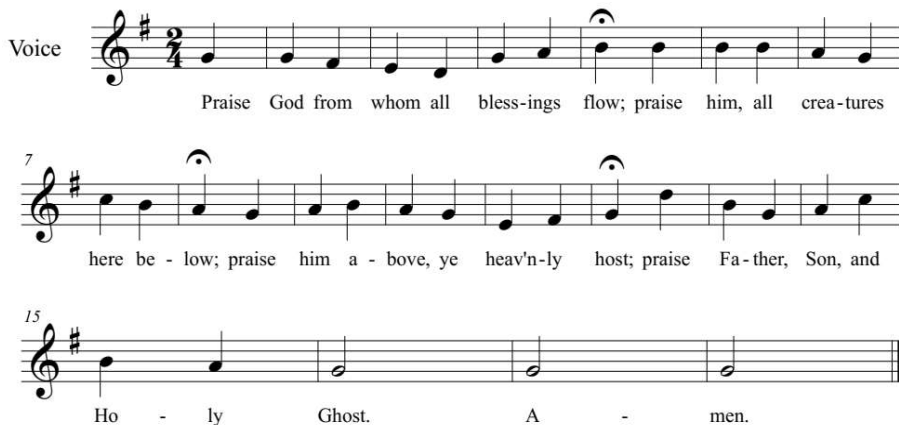
Colossians 1:15-20

We believe that in Jesus Christ, God's beloved Son, we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins, for ¹⁵he is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Turning to God in Prayer

Presenting & Dedicating Our Offerings to the Lord

Voice



Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures
here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye heav'n-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son, and
Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

God Speaks through His Word

Luke 1:39-56

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

⁴⁶And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,
⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.
For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
⁴⁹for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

⁵⁰And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

⁵²he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

⁵⁶And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

“The Music of Mercy, pt. 1”

December 13, 2020

The songs of praise which precede Christ’s birth celebrate God’s mercy.

~ In his mercy, God attends to us in our misery, which is a consequence of sin ~

A mercy producing joyful fellowship

A mercy needed by all

A mercy given to the humble (and withheld from the proud)

A mercy showing God’s unfailing commitment

* Responding to God's Word in Song

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King;
2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,
Mild, he lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,

with th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec - ond birth.

Refrain

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"

* God Dismisses Us with His Blessing



* Those who are able, please stand



Announcements

- After morning worship, enjoy fellowship in the Fellowship Hall, and then please join us at 11:20 for Sunday School. The Adult Class (taught by Elise van der Jagt) will meet around the tables in the Fellowship Hall, the Elementary Class (taught by Amy Pisani) will meet in Rm 102, the Middle School Class (taught by Kurt Schumacher) in Rm 209, and the High School Class (taught by Eric Runion) in Rm 300. Rooms are arranged for social distancing. 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 **Wednesday Evening Devotional** studying the book of Esther continues this Wednesday at 7 PM.
- **Christmas Caroling**, today at 4:30 p.m., as an outreach to the neighborhood families we've gotten to know. To keep everyone safe, we will follow the protocols of masking and distancing. Afterwards we will warm up at the church with hot drinks and cookies. There is no Sunday evening devotional this week.
- Helping with this morning's service are: Julie Runion & Jonathan Runion (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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