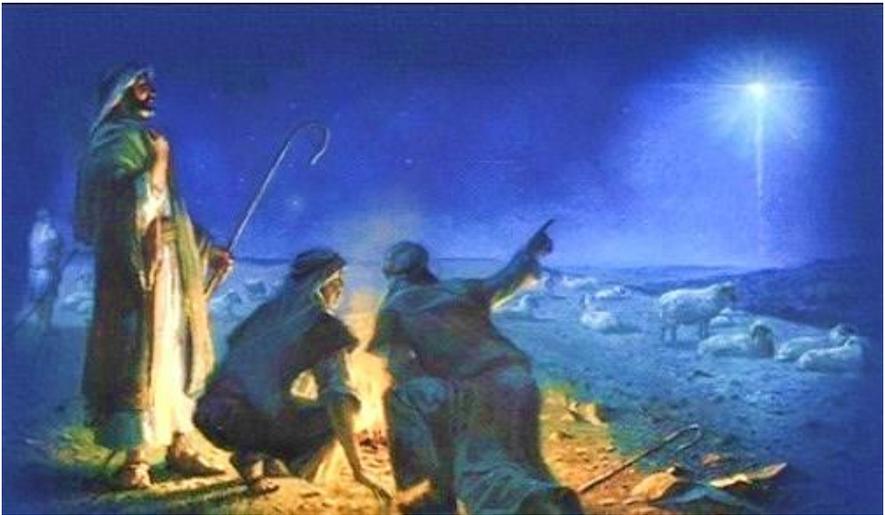


Cornerstone Church PCA

Fourth Sunday in Advent



December 23, 2018



"Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth, peace, goodwill toward men!"

Luke 2:14

A Service of Covenant Renewal Worship

A WELCOME GUIDE TO WORSHIP AT CORNERSTONE

To Our Guests:

Visiting a church can be an intimidating experience. We are glad you are here, and we hope to remove as much of that awkwardness as we can from your visit to Cornerstone. Our Sunday service usually lasts about 75 minutes, and the following is designed to help you navigate it, whether you have been to church before or this is your first time. The goal of the service is to help each of us to see God's glory in Jesus Christ more clearly and understand more fully how he makes a difference in our lives.

Please sign our guestbook in foyer so we can get to know you more!

The Sequence of Worship:

The flow of the worship service at Cornerstone follows a Biblical pattern that is very purposeful. It matches the story of God's work in our lives:

Called by God

God invites us to come into His presence, so we enter with joy and praise.

Cleansed by God

When God calls us, He also wants us to admit our need for Him. We confess our sins together and God cleanses us in Christ.

Consecrated by God

To be "consecrated" means to be set apart for a purpose or goal. We are consecrated by God's Word as we then read from the Scriptures and hear a sermon based on the Bible. One way we respond to God's Word is by giving to God's mission in the world through His church.

Communion with God

Having heard God's Word to us, we speak our requests back to God, and we have fellowship with Him in our prayer together. We also have the Lord's Supper at this time, a meal that expresses God's communion with us.

Commissioned by God

The end of the worship service is God sending us back into the world to be His witnesses with His blessing (benediction).

Childcare:

Children of all ages are welcome in the service. We love to have children participating with the whole church in worship – even if they are a bit squirmy! However, should parents want assistance with their young children, we have a **nursery available** with nursery volunteers. Please do not hesitate to ask! We're ready to serve you and your children in any way we can.

*Note that we also have devices for the hearing impaired, if needed.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS – PASTOR ROBBIE CROUSE

Pastor: "The Lord be with you!"
Congregation: "And also with you!"

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

ADVENT READING: ISAIAH 9:2

Congregation: "*Come Lord Jesus, our light and life!
Let us walk in the light of the Lord!*"

†CALL TO WORSHIP: PSALM 96:1–4

†ENTRANCE SONG:

"ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY" (#218)

CONFESSION OF SIN

ALMIGHTY AND MOST MERCIFUL FATHER,

You have called us out of darkness into Christ's marvelous light to glorify Your name, yet we still refuse to let You into the darkest places of our lives. We have occupied ourselves with our own concerns and not waited on You. We have not noticed the needs of the people around us, nor have we sought first Your kingdom. Forgive us for not facing our sins as we ought, for our slowness of heart, for our unreadiness, and for our lack of watchfulness. Search us, O God, and know our hearts; try us, and know our anxious thoughts; see if there is any wicked way in us, and lead us in the way everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

†ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

†DOXOLOGY (#731)

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow!
Praise Him, all creatures here below!
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host!
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen!*

†GREETING OF GRACE AND PEACE OF CHRIST

† Congregation stands as they are able

Angels from the Realms of Glory (#218)

1. 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!
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King!

2. Shepherds in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing,
yonder shines the infant Light!
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King!

3. Sages leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of Nations,
ye have seen his natal star!
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King!

4. Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear!
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King!

5. All creation join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son;
evermore your voices raising
to th'eternal Three in One!
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King!

The First Noel

Refrain:

*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel!*

The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep! [Refrain]

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night! [Refrain]

Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of naught,
And with his blood mankind hath bought! [Refrain]

†RESPONSIVE PSALM READING: PSALM 8

¹ O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens!

² Out of the mouth of babies and infants,
*you have established strength against your foes,
to still the enemy and the avenger!*

³ When I look at your heavens,
the work of your fingers,

the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place,

⁴ what is man that you are mindful of him,
and the son of man that you care for him?

⁵ Yet you have made him for a little while lower than the angels
and crowned him with glory and honor!

⁶ You have given him dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under his feet,

⁷ all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,

⁸ the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes through the paths of the seas!

⁹ O LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

†GLORIA PATRI (#735)

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end,
Amen, Amen!*

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament: Genesis 1:1–8, 14–19

New Testament: Luke 2:8–14; Revelation 21:1–7, 22:1–5

Genesis 1:1–8, 14–19

¹ In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

³ And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶ And God said, “Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters.” ⁷ And God made the firmament and separated the waters that were under the firmament from the waters that were above the firmament. And it was so. ⁸ And God called the firmament Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. . . .

¹⁴ And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for appointed times, and for days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the firmament of heaven to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶ And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷ And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, ¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

Revelation 21:1–7, 22:1–5

21¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

⁵ And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new!” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are

trustworthy and true.”⁶ And he said to me, “It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end! To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.”⁷ The one who conquers will have this inheritance, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

22¹ Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb² through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the Tree of Life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the Tree were for the healing of the nations.³ No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him.⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.⁵ And night will be no more. They will need no light of a lamp or sun, for the Lord God himself will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever!

Luke 2:8–14

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.⁹ And an angel of the LORD appeared to them, and the glory of the LORD shone around them, and they were filled with great fear.¹⁰ And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people.¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among people of His favor!”

SERMON – PASTOR ROBBIE CROUSE
Luke’s Christmas Musical: Singing the Promises of God
“Gloria in Excelsis! The Song of Heaven”

COLLECTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS
&
SONG OF RESPONSE:
"IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR" (#200)

1. It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing!

2. Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world,
above its sad and lowly plains,
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing!

3. And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow,
look now! for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing:
O rest beside the weary road,
and hear the angels sing!

4 For lo, the days are hast'ning on,
by prophet bards foretold,
when with the ever-circling years
comes round the age of gold;
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world give back the song
which now the angels sing!

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE FOR CHURCH AND WORLD

Show us your mercy, O Lord;
And grant us your salvation.

Clothe your servants with righteousness;
Let your people sing with joy!

Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
For only in You can we live in safety.

Lord, keep this nation under your care;
And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

Let your way be known upon earth;
Your saving health among all nations.

Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

Create in us clean hearts, O God;
And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church,
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve You;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for our church leaders and all servants of the gospel,
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and harmony on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Have mercy upon those to whom death draws near.
Bring consolation to those in sorrow or mourning.

For Christian marriages, we pray,
That husbands and wives may be faithful in love and respect.

For Christian parents, we pray,
That they may train their children patiently and diligently in the faith.

For Christian children, we pray,
That they may grow in maturity and in wisdom.

For Christian singles, we pray,
That they may serve You with sincerity in their present station.

For all Christian people, whatever their vocation, we pray,
That they may serve Christ and give him preeminence in all things.

For our neighbors and all those whom our lives touch, we pray,
Give us favor with them and increase our influence for the sake of the gospel.

Let our hearts be open in generosity and our lives fragrant with the mercies of Christ;
And open our homes for hospitality, that we might welcome strangers to You.

Let our careers flourish and give us satisfaction in our jobs,
That our needs would be met, and we would be content with what we have.

Bless the work of our hands and multiply the fruit of our labor,
That we might serve our communities and share with those in need.

Help us to use the time and resources You have given us, with wisdom and care;
Give us rest in our toil, and refresh us for godly striving and perseverance.

Heavenly Father, in your Word You have given us a vision of that Holy City to which the nations of the world bring their offerings:

Behold and visit, we pray, the cities of the earth. Renew the ties of mutual regard which form our civic life. Send us honest and able leaders. Enable us to fight poverty, prejudice, and oppression, that peace may prevail with righteousness and justice with order.

Loving Redeemer, we pray for all those who need You now,
remembering especially [...]

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive
our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen!*

CONFESSION OF FAITH – APOSTLES CREED

*I believe in GOD, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our LORD,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen!*

**† COMMISSIONING SONG:
"ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH" (#214)**

† COMMISSION & BENEDICTION

Angels We Have Heard on High (#214)

Refrain

Glor - __ - __ - __ - ria

in excelsis Deo,

Glor - __ - __ - __ - ria

in excelsis Deo!

1. Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echo back their joyous strains!
[Refrain]

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be,
which inspire your heav'nly song?
[Refrain]

3. Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing!
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King!
[Refrain]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School begins at 9:45 am on Sunday mornings and finishes at 10:30 am. Brian Mumme leads the adult discussion on “What Is a Disciple of Jesus?” **Children** and **Young Adult Sunday Schools** are available at this time as well.

Monday night prayer meeting is each Monday at 7:00 pm. Please come to share prayer requests and intercede for one another.

Our **Christmas Eve service** is Monday, December 24, at **5:30 pm**. It’s a candle lighting service of readings and carols. Please bring a friend! There is a sign-up sheet for bringing light snacks and finger foods.

Any gifts given to the church after December 30 will be reported for the 2019 tax year.

For those who are interested in membership at Cornerstone, please see the pastor, Robbie Crouse. **Church membership** is a commitment for the church to nurture and shepherd its members, and a commitment for the member to be an active participant in the mission of the church.

*Please turn off all cell phones during the service.
Thank you!*

CORNERSTONE MINISTRIES

Sunday School

Adults (Brian Mumme)

Young Adults

Children

Monday Night Prayer Meeting (Gary Butler)

2nd Sunday Outreach (Barry Pitts)

All-Church Fellowship Lunch (Joycelyn Branscome)

Men’s Prayer Breakfast (Tom Joseph)

Women’s Ministry (Joycelyn Branscome)

PRAYER LIST

The Family of Harry Castner – for comfort and peace after Harry’s passing; give thanks for Harry’s life and that he is with his Savior

Leyda Ruiz – for full recovery and restoration of health

Becky Crouse – for a healthy pregnancy and health of the baby; for relief from nausea and sickness; for the family as they care for her

Tom Joseph – for healing and recovery from broken ribs

Aaron Blood – for recovery from a broken collar bone and other injuries

Branche Family – for success for their new store in Jupiter

Harold Gooding – for health and comfort for the death of his grandson

Linda Jackson – for her ailing father in PA and her care for him

Debbie Jackson – for comfort as she grieves the loss of her grandmother

Betty Butler – for help and wisdom dealing with heart palpitations

Melanie Pitts – for successful treatment of brain cancer; encouragement for Melanie and Barry as he cares for her

Jayne Sellards – for care for his parents’ cancer treatment; for witness to his parents; transition at new job

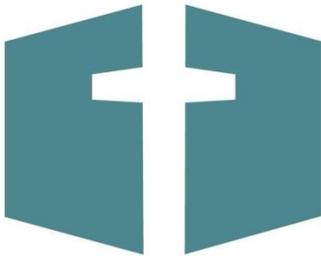
Brian Mumme – for care for his mother and for her to believe in Christ

Harry & Norma Bromilow – Harry’s continued recovery from headaches; for relief for Norma from arthritis

Matt & Carmen O’Reilly – for a smooth transition to FL for Carmen

Cody & Eseta Drinkwine – for financial issues and for Eseta’s health

Christy Branche – relief from chronic headaches; preparation for college



Cornerstone Church PCA

“Christ Jesus himself is the cornerstone.”
Ephesians 2:20

Exalting the King & Extending His Kingdom

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Robbie Crouse
rcrouse@cornerstone-pca.org
(214) 282-8983

Elders (Session)

Lee Branscome
Rev. Gary Butler
Jim Zetler

Deacons (Diaconate)

Tom Joseph (chairman)
Brian Mumme
Barry Pitts

Cornerstone Church is a Bible believing, Reformed and evangelical congregation in the PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (**PCA**).

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