

WORSHIP OF THE LIVING GOD

November 30, 2025

Reflection

“Money is one of the most common counterfeit gods there is. When it takes hold of your heart it blinds you to what is happening, it controls you through your anxieties and lusts, and it brings you to put it ahead of all other things.” — Tim Keller, *Counterfeit Gods*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Advent Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

Tom and Cindy Darnell

*Invocation

*Carol of Praise

Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus, Hymn #196

St. 1,4 Charles Wesley, 1744; St. 2,3 Mark E. Hunt, 1978; Rowland Hugh Pritchard

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear Desire of ev'ry nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee
Dayspring from on high, appear
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse,
Of thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing
News glad tidings of a birth
Go to him, your praises bringing;
Christ the Lord has come to earth

Come to earth to taste our sadness,
He whose glories knew no end
By his life he brings us gladness
Our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend
Leaving riches without number
Born within a cattle stall
This the everlasting wonder
Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born thy people to deliver,
Born a child, and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

Song of Confession

Come and Make Us Free

Zac Hicks and Julie Anne Vargas

I'm a doubter of your grace, and my heart won't cease
Seeking love in every place but your perfect arms of peace
Though I see that all my longings find their journey's end in you
Oft they wander in the byways cheaply lured by every hue

I'm a slave to lowly thoughts that I cannot shake
Lust of eyes and pride of life, hardened heart that ne'er will break
Though I hear that you alone can make this stone a heart of flesh
Oft in bitterness I linger choosing chains, not freedom's rest

CHORUS: All our hearts long for, we find in you, O Lord
Help us want you more, than idols we adore
Give us eyes to see your matchless beauty
Shatter unbelief, come and make us free

I'm addicted to the lie that my thirsty soul
Can be quenched by earth's supply, vainly seized by my control
Though I know that you alone have living water's richest store
Oft you find me savoring droplets out of cisterns cracked and poor

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness & Pardoning Grace

Psalm 73:21-26

When my soul was embittered, when I was pricked in heart, I was
brutish and ignorant; I was like a beast toward you. Nevertheless,
I am continually with you; you hold my right hand. You guide me
with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory.
Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth
that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but
God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

*Song of Assurance

Hast Thou Heard Him, Seen Him?

anonymous early 20th century hymn; alt. Kevin Twit

Hast thou heard him, seen him, known him?
Is not thine a captured heart?
Chief among ten thousand own him;
Joyful choose the better part

CHORUS: Captivated by his beauty; worthy tribute haste to bring;
Let his peerless worth constrain thee;
Crown him now unrivaled King.

What can strip the seeming beauty
From the idols of the earth? Not a sense of right or duty
But the sight of peerless worth *(repeat chorus)*

'Tis the look that melted Peter
'Tis the face that Stephen saw; 'Tis the heart that wept with Mary
Can alone from idols draw *(repeat chorus 2x)*

Congregational Prayer

Tithes and Offerings

Men's Ensemble

**You may also give at clemsonpres.org/give*
**K5-1st Grade are invited to Engage.*

Beautiful Star of Bethlehem

Reading of Scripture

1 Timothy 6:3-10

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Sermon

The Gain of Godliness

*Carol of Response

Joy to the World the Lord Is Come, Hymn #195

Based on Psalm 98; Isaac Watts, 1719; G. F. Handel, 1742; Arr. by Lowell Mason

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 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 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 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 of his love

*Benediction

**Women's Christmas Gathering | December 4
7pm | Sanctuary**

Today is the last day to get a ticket to the Christmas Gathering! We'll have dessert ready for you before we sing, pray, and hear God's word. The Christmas Gathering is a great place to invite your friends to pause and celebrate Christmas at the beginning of the season. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at clemsonpres.org/gathering or in the CPC app. Have questions? Stop at the table in the lobby.

Welcome Breakfast | December 7 | 9am | Library

If you're visiting or new to the church, we'd love to have you for breakfast! Hosted by staff and a few members of Clemson Pres, come meet other newcomers over an informal breakfast. This is a great way to get to know us and for us to get to know you. We'll give you a short introduction to the church as well and answer any questions you have.

Lessons & Carols and Cookie Fellowship | Dec 14 | 6pm | Sanctuary

Lessons and Carols is one of our favorite services of the year! The service alternates between singing a hymn and reading Scripture, working our way through the entire Christmas story. Lessons and Carols allow us to engage in Scripture in a fresh way.

Bring a plate of cookies to share for afterwards!

Middle School Progressive Dinner | Dec 3 | 6pm

The Middle School progressive dinner is a fun event for middle school students and their friends! They will go to three church members' homes and have a different part of their meal at each home. At the last home they do a white elephant gift exchange. The middle schoolers will be in one neighborhood so they can walk to each of the homes. Email youthministry@clemsonpres.org with any questions.

Christmas Eve Service | December 24 | 5:30pm

Worship with us for a candlelight Christmas Eve Service! Family, friends, and neighbors are welcome. The nursery will be open for children 4 years old and under.

Elders: *Bryan Counts, Matthew Icard, Reid Jones, Brinck Bowers, Bill Caldwell, Jimmy Dixon, Mark Dodd, Bill Fisk, Will Huss, Kevin Miles, David Myers, Chris Peters, Conrad Shuler, Barry Swiger*
Deacons: *Tommy Barron, John Thomas Campbell, David Gambrell, David Haile, Zach Miller, Fred Sons, Paul Watters*

What's happening at Clemson Pres this week? Find the church calendar in the CPC app or at clemsonpres.org/calendar.

Stay in Touch: Subscribe to church emails or download the Clemson Pres app at clemsonpres.org/contact.

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Living Truth

The Gain of Godliness
1 Timothy 6:3-10
