

WORSHIP OF THE LIVING GOD

December 14, 2025

Reflection

“The incarnation means that for whatever reason God chose to let us fall . . . to suffer, to be subject to sorrows and death—he has nonetheless had the honesty and the courage to take his own medicine. . . . He can exact nothing from man that he has not exacted from himself. He himself has gone through the whole of human experience—from the trivial irritations of family life and the cramping restrictions of hard work and lack of money to the worst horrors of pain and humiliation, defeat, despair, and death. . . . He was born in poverty and . . . suffered infinite pain—all for us—and thought it well worth his while. Isaiah 4”

–Tim Keller

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Advent Reading

Luke 2:1-9
Vance Family

*Invocation

*Carol of Praise

Angels from the Realms of Glory, Hymn #218
James Montgomery, 1816, 1825; Henry Smart, 1867

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;

REFRAIN: Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing, yonder shines the infant light:

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star:

Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear;

All creation, join in praising, God the Father, Spirit, Son;
Evermore your voices raising, to th'eternal Three in One:

Confession of Sin

Our lives are cluttered, Lord Jesus, by too many things and too much to do. We are driven by the need to succeed and distracted from our service. We have often lost our way. Forgive us. Let us, like Mary, find the one thing that is needed and sit at your feet. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness & Pardoning Grace

Philippians 2:5-8

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

*Carol of Assurance

What Child Is This?, Hymn #213
Traditional English Carol; Adapted by William C. Dix

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.

Congregational Prayer

Tithes and Offerings

Choir

**You may also give at clemsonpres.org/give; On communion Sundays all cash gifts are designated to Mercy Ministry*
**K5-1st Grade are invited to Engage.*

Joy to the World

George Frederick Handel; Arr. by Sean Paul

Reading of Scripture

1Timothy 6:17-21

Sermon

That Which Is Truly Life

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

If you are not able to receive the Lord's Supper today, we are glad you're here. We have many in our church who are processing what it means to become a Christian, or who might be believers but are not

able to receive it today. If that's you, you might spend this time meditating on one of the following prayers:

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be one with God and to be sent by him for the salvation of sinners. If what you claim is true, and what you have done matters, then open to me the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is real, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved so that I might be in union with Jesus. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

Words of Institution and Prayer

Sharing of the Bread

O Come All You Unfaithful
Bob Kauflin, Lisa Clow
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O come all you unfaithful, come weak and unstable
Come, know you are not alone
O come, barren and waiting ones, weary of praying
Come, see what your God has done

CHORUS: Christ is born, Christ is born,
Christ is born for you

O come, bitter and broken, come with fears unspoken
Come, taste of His perfect love
O come guilty and hiding ones, there is no need to run
See what your God has done

BRIDGE: He's the Lamb who was given, slain for our pardon
His promise is peace for those who believe
He's the Lamb who was given, slain for our pardon
His promise is peace for those who believe

So come though you have nothing
Come, he is the offering
Come see what your God has done

Passing of the Cup

*Carol of Response

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly, Hymn #216
Polish Carol; Paraphrased by Edith M. G. Reed, ca. 1925

Infant holy, infant lowly, for His bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing, Christ, the babe, is Lord of all.
Swift are winging, angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all! Christ the babe is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of the gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you; Christ the babe was born for you.

***Benediction**

Lessons & Carols and Cookie Fellowship | Tonight | 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! We'll have decaf coffee and hot chocolate ready for fellowship when the service ends.

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.

Look/After Christmas Offering: Each year at the Christmas Eve service, we take a special offering for the Geneva Relief Fund run by our denomination. This money goes to support pastors and their families or widows during hard times. Over the next few weeks, pray about how you may be able to give to this fund. If you'd like to donate now or learn more go to genevabenefits.org/relief-fund/lookafter/.

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

That Which Is Truly Life
1 Timothy 6:17-21