

WORSHIP OF THE LIVING GOD

December 21, 2025

Reflection

“You could more easily catch a hurricane in a shrimp net than you can understand the wild, relentless, passionate, uncompromising, pursuing love of God made present in the manger.”

-Brennan Manning

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Advent Reading

Luke 1:26-33

Nolan and Reegan Kindinger

*Invocation

*Carol of Praise

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence, Hymn #193

Liturgy of St. James, 5th Cent. Adapted by Gerard Moultrie;
Arr. by R. V. Williams, 1906

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded, for, with blessing in his hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood.
He will give to all the faithful, his own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven, spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of light descendeth, from the realms of endless day,
That the pow'rs of hell may vanish, as the darkness clears away.

At His feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the Presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,
“Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord Most High!”

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear, Hymn #200

Edmund H. Sears, 1850; Richard S. Willis, 1850

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 heav'n's all-gracious King;"
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav'nly music floats
O'er all the weary world:
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hov'ring wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

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.

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.

Confession of Sin

Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and turn them into bonds of oppression. Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness & Pardoning Grace

Hebrews 1:3-4

He (Jesus) is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

*Carol of Assurance

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen, Hymn # 211

English carol and melody, 18th Cent.

God rest you merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Savior
Was born on Christmas day,
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray;

REFRAIN: O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy.

From God our heav'nly Father,
A blessed angel came;
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same:
How that in Bethlehem was born
The son of God by name.

'Fear not then,' said the angel,
'Let nothing you affright,
This day is born a Savior
Of a pure virgin bright,
To free all those who trust in him
From Satan's power and might.'

The shepherds at those tidings
Rejoiced much in mind,
And left their flocks afeeding,
In tempest, storm, and wind:
And went to Bethlehem straightway,
The Son of God to find.

Congregational Prayer

Tithes and Offerings

Choir

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

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Arr. by Dan Forrest

Reading of Scripture

Isaiah 7:1-14

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Sermon

Christ's Presence and Power

*Carol of Response

Good Christian Men Rejoice, Hymn # 207

Medieval Latin Carol; Tr. by John Mason Neale, 1853; alt; Alt. 1961; Arr. by W. D., 1918

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart, and soul, and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
Earth and heav'n before him bow, and he is in the manger now.

Christ is born today! Christ is born today!
Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door, and man is blessed evermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all, to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

***Benediction**

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/.

Sunday School does not meet next week, December 28th. We'll see you in Worship Service at 10:30am!

The Church Office is closed December 25-January 1.

Engage will not meet next Sunday, December 28th. We'll look forward to having the kids in worship with us! Don't forget about the Kids' Korner in the lobby with a kids' bulletin, coloring sheets, books, and fidget toys.

January startup: Get a jump on the new year and see when regular programming resumes at clemsonpres.org/January.

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

Christ's Presence and Power
Isaiah 7:1-14
