

WORSHIP OF THE LIVING GOD

December 28, 2025

Reflection
The incarnation is the universe-sundering, history-altering, life-transforming, paradigm-shattering event of history. -Tim Keller

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship **Psalm 27:4**
One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.

***Invocation**

***Carol of Praise**
As with Gladness Men of Old, Hymn #226
William Chatterton Dix, 1860; Alt. 1861; Conrad Kocher, 1838; Arr. by William Monk, 1861

As with gladness men of old, did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious God, may we, evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped, to that lowly cradle bed,
There to bend the knee before, him whom heav’n and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet, ever seek thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare, at that cradle rude and bare;
So may we with holy joy, pure, and free from sin’s alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav’nly King.

Holy Jesus, ev’ry day, keep us in the narrow way;
And, when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.

In the heav’nly country bright, need they no created light;
Thou its Light, its Joy, its Crown, thou its Sun which goes not down;
There forever may we sing, alleluias to our King.

What a Beautiful Name
Ben Fielding and Brooke Ligertwood
© 2016 Hillsong Music Publishing (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

You were the Word at the beginning, one with God the Lord Most High
Your hidden glory in creation, now revealed in you our Christ

What a beautiful Name it is, what a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ, my King, what a beautiful Name it is
Nothing compares to this, what a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

We turned away from God rebellious
So Jesus you brought mercy down
My sin was great your love was greater, what could separate us now

What a wonderful Name it is, what a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ, my King, what a wonderful Name it is
Nothing compares to this, what a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus, what a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

Death could not hold you, the veil tore before you
You silence the boast of sin and grave, the heavens are roaring
The praise of your glory, for you are raised to life again
You have no rival, you have no equal
Now and forever God you reign, yours is the kingdom
Yours is the glory, yours is the Name above all names

What a powerful Name it is, what a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ, my King, what a powerful Name it is
Nothing can stand against, what a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

What a powerful Name it is, the Name of Jesus
What a powerful Name it is, the Name of Jesus

Confession of Sin
Eternal God, you do not change. You have revealed yourself to us in your Word. You call us to worship you in spirit and in truth. But we confess that we often worship not your true self but who we wish you to be. We too often ask you to bless what we do rather than seeking to do what you bless. Forgive us for seeking concessions when we should be seeking guidance. Forgive us when our worship shapes you into what we want instead of shaping us into what you want. Help us to meet you here, that we might bow before your unspeakable majesty and so live for you now and ever, in Christ. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness & Pardoning Grace **1 Peter 1:18-21**
Knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

***Song of Assurance**
Thank You, Jesus, for the Blood
Bryan McCleery, Charity Gayle, David Gentiles, Elisha Albright Hoffman,
John Hart Stockton, Ryan Kennedy, Steven Musso
© 2021 Centricity Music Publishing; Brother Gayle Hymnal; Come Up Kings Publishing;
ComissionMusic; Steven Musso Music; McCleery MSC; Watershed Worship Publishing

I was a wretch, I remember who I was
I was lost, I was blind, I was running out of time
Sin separated, the breach was far too wide
But from the far side of the chasm, you had me in your sight

So You made a way, across the great divide
Left behind Heaven's throne to build it here inside
There at the cross you paid the debt I owed
Broke my chains, freed my soul, for the first time I had hope

Thank You, Jesus, for the blood applied
Thank You, Jesus, it has washed me white
Thank You, Jesus, you have saved my life
Brought me from the darkness into glorious light

You took my place, laid inside my tomb of sin
You were buried for three days
But then you walked right out again
And now death has no sting, and life has no end
For I have been transformed by the blood of the Lamb

BRIDGE: There is nothing stronger
Than (Oh) the wonder working power
Of the blood the blood
That calls us sons and daughters
We are ransomed by our Father
Through the blood, the blood

ENDING: Glory to his name, glory to his name
There to my heart was the blood applied
Glory to his name

Ministry Moment **Grace Watters, Mercy Ministry**

Congregational Prayer

Tithes and Offerings
**You may also give at clemsonpres.org/give*
** Engage will resume in the new year.*

Reading of Scripture **Isaiah 11, page 539**

Sermon *Postcard from the Future*

***Carol of Response**
Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming, Hymn #221
German Hymn, ca. 1500; St. 1-2 tr. by Theodore Baker
St. 3-4 by Harriett R. Spaeth, 1875, Arr. by Michael Praetorius, 1609; alt.

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming, from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung.
It came, a flow'ret bright, amid the cold of winter
When half-spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind:
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to men a Savior
When half-spent was the night.

The shepherds heard the story, proclaimed by angels bright
How Christ, the Lord of glory, was born on earth this night
To Bethlehem they sped, and in the manger found him
As angel heralds said

This Flow'r, whose fragrance tender, with sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor, the darkness ev'rywhere.
True man, yet very God, from sin and death He saves us
And lightens ev'ry load

O Savior, child of Mary , who felt our human woe
O Savior, King of glory, who dost our weakness know
Bring us at length, we pray, to the bright courts of heaven
And to the endless day.

***Benediction**

The Church Office will reopen January 5.

January startup | clemsonpres.org/January

As regular programming begins to start up, we'd love for you to join us! There are opportunities to serve, learn, and connect throughout the week!

January 4: Nursery, CPC Kids, Middle & High School Sunday School, Adult Sunday School Kickoff, Worship Service, Engage

January 6: Community Group Leader Training

January 11: Middle School Youth Group, High School Youth Group

January 14: Midweek, Youth Dgroups, Prayer Meeting, Choir

January 16: Men's Friday Bible Study

January 21: Women's Wednesday Morning Bible Study, Men's Wednesday Evening Bible Study

January 28: Women's Wednesday Evening Bible Study

January 29: Women's Thursday Evening Bible Study

February 2: Welcome Lunch

February 7-8: Membership Class

Adult Sunday School Kickoff | January 4 | 9am | Fellowship Hall

New class offerings are on their way this semester for Sunday School. Come hear about the classes and catch up from the break over coffee and donuts! Get a jump on them at clemsonpres.org/sundayschool

Mercy Ministry has been working to refocus their work over the past year and is so excited to continue leading us in caring for those who are in need through relief, rehabilitation, and reconciliation. Learn more about what the team does and how to pray or get involved at clemsonpres.org/mercy.

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.

Songs used by permission CCLI License #237085

Living Truth

Postcard from the Future
Isaiah 11