

Chestnut Mountain Presbyterian Church

Christmas Communion Service

December 17, 2023 6:30 pm

Announcements and Welcome

Terry Ensley
Ruling Elder

Call to Worship

“For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed,” says the LORD, who has compassion on you.”
Isaiah 54:10

Invocation and Confession

Declaration of Truth

Isaiah 53 (Selected Verses)

Elder: Who has believed what he has heard from us?

All: And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

Elder: [He] was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities;

All: upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

Elder: All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way;

All: and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Elder: And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death,

All: although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Hymn

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

#194

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: *Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, O come, thou Lord of might, Who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the law In cloud and majesty and awe.

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save, And give them victory o'er the grave.

O come, thou Dayspring from on high And cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight.

O come, thou Key of David, come And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery.

The Gift of Music

Golgotha In Bethlehem

Choir

A cross within the wooden manger,
A thorn within each piece of straw,
A traitor in each kneeling stranger,
A tomb within the cattle stall
Swaddling clothes, a linen shroud,
Angel choirs, an angry crowd
Each Gloria a requiem
Golgotha in Bethlehem.
The joy and Passion intertwining,
At the moment of the Savior's birth
And as the star was brightly shining,
The shadow of a cross, the shadow of a cross fell on the earth.

A cross within the wooden manger,
A thorn within each piece of straw,
A traitor in each kneeling stranger,
A tomb within the cattle stall
Swaddling clothes, a linen shroud,
Angel choirs, an angry crowd
Each Gloria a requiem
Golgotha in Bethlehem.

Message

“Presence and Peace”
Judges 6:11-24

Pastor Ben Phillips

¹¹ Now the angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the wine press to hide it from the Midianites. ¹² And the angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, “The LORD is with you, O mighty man of valor.” ¹³ And Gideon said to him, “Please, sir, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, ‘Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the LORD has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian.”

¹⁴ And the LORD turned to him and said, “Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?” ¹⁵ And he said to him, “Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house.” ¹⁶ And the LORD said to him, “But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man.”

¹⁷ And he said to him, “If now I have found favour in your eyes, then show me a sign that it is you who speak with me. ¹⁸ Please do not depart from here until I come to you and bring out my present and set it before you.” And he said, “I will stay till you return.”

¹⁹ So Gideon went into his house and prepared a young goat and unleavened cakes from an ephah of flour. The meat he put in a basket, and the broth he put in a pot, and brought them to him under the terebinth and presented them. ²⁰ And the angel of God said to him, “Take the meat and the unleavened cakes, and put them on this rock, and pour the broth over them.” And he did so.

²¹ Then the angel of the LORD reached out the tip of the staff that was in his hand and touched the meat and the unleavened cakes. And fire sprang up from the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened cakes. And the angel of the LORD vanished from his sight. ²² Then Gideon perceived that he was the angel of the LORD. And Gideon said, “Alas, O Lord GOD! For now I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face.” ²³ But the LORD said to him, “Peace be to you. Do not fear; you shall not die.” ²⁴ Then Gideon built an altar there to the LORD and called it, The LORD Is Peace. To this day it still stands at Ophrah, which belongs to the Abiezrites.

Invitation To The Table

Those who have not yet come to the place in their lives of trusting Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord are requested to let the elements pass. Please use this time to read Isaiah 53 (p. 613 in the Pew Bible) and I Corinthians 1.18-25 (p. 952), asking God to show you the glory of His Son Jesus Christ. If you are unsure about your relationship with Christ, please see a member of the pastoral staff or one of the elders after the service.

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

Hymns of Preparation *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

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!"

Receiving the Bread and Cup For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. I Corinthians 11:26

Please note: the bread is gluten-free. Our custom is we take each element in unison after everyone has been served.

Our Response

Hymn of Praise *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* #216

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 a 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.

Angels lifting praise before You Sing throughout this holy night
Joyful, joyful they adore You God of glory, Lord of light.
Praise resounds as earth rejoices Trumpets sound and anthems raise
And with joy our hearts are lifted Joined in wonder, love and praise.

Joyful, joyful we adore You God of glory, Lord of light
Angels lifting praise before You Sing Thro' – out this holy night
In a manger lies a baby Child of Mary, Son of God
Voices joined in joyful chorus Praise You for Your gift of love

All Your works declare Your glory All creation joins to sing
Praise resounds as earth rejoices In the birth of Christ the King
Shepherds kneel before the infant Trumpets sound and anthems raise
As with joy our hearts are lifted Joined in wonder, love and praise

Benediction



**EXALT GOD
EQUIP GOD'S PEOPLE
ENGAGE GOD'S WORLD**

PO Box 7280, Chestnut Mountain, GA 30502
770-967-3440 www.cmpca.org
churchoffice@cmpca.org
Office Hours: Mon—Thurs, 9am—3pm
WiFi Password: CMPC-TULIP



Staff

John S. Batusic, *Pastor* • Ben Phillips, *Pastor of Ministries*
Kennedy Smartt, *Chaplain to the Community* • Dee Hammond, *Pastor of Missions & Outreach*
Richard MacLagan, *Minister of Music* • Mike Owens, *Minister to Children*
Travis Brown, *Pastor to Youth* • Sarah Tilley, *Youth Ministry Assistant*
Lynn Perkins, *Kitchen Coordinator* • Nancy Burkhardt, *Preschool Director*
Floy Jumper, *Facility Manager* • Mindy Burch, *Church Administrator*
Susan MacLagan, *Accompanist* • Bev Bradbury, *Organist*

Session

Scott Allen • Bob Bishop • Jason Cunningham • Andy Jobson • Robert Martin
Will McVey • Marty Moore • John Rollo • Steve Saville
Dennis Swinehart • Dean Warnock

Elders Emeriti

Dick Batusic • John Browning • Jim Parks • Jack Sweeney • Andy Watkins

Diaconate

Jake Braselton • P.J. Friedell • Matt Hall • Mark Pignolet • Steve Wentz

Women's Ministry Leadership Team

Susan Wentz • Peggy Creighton • Linda Hutchinson • Lynn Price • Lezlie Valentine
Sarah Lingerfelt • Jen Burkhardt • Barbara Jumper

CMPC Supported Missions

Unless otherwise indicated, all missionaries are with *Mission to the World*

Asia/New Zealand

Japan: Darlene Johnson, Jonas & Christina Davison, Melanie Johnson • *Taiwan:* Becky White
Thailand: Tim & Rhianna Mills, Noah & Karleigh Stephens, Trey & Kiki Adams
New Zealand: Paul & Crystal Henry

Europe

Bulgaria: Grace Chung, Gary & Tammy Elliott REF
Poland: Nathan & Kasia Tunnell REF • *Czech Republic:* Miriam Grady
Germany: Sam & Elizabeth Goodwin, Pamyla Burrack, Brian & Megan Moore
England: Brett & Valerie McAlpin,
Romania: Derek & Catalina Kreider • *Greece:* David & Erin Pervis

Americas

Canada: Bill & Mae Lee Letchworth, Rohan & Rebecca Crown, Carrie Rice
Honduras: Alex & Maggie Halbert • *Peru:* Andrew & Krista May, Julia King

Africa

East Africa: Donna • *Kenya:* Sherwood & Bethany Griggs, *Anaweza*

Unreached Peoples

Last names and locations withheld due to the sensitive nature of their situations.

David & Marcia • Franklin & Beth • Emily • Kurt & Jill • Chris & Savanna
David & Jan • Phil & Amina • Calvin & Geeta • Micah & Blair • Mark & Nathalie

Global Ministries:

Linda Summer, *Agape Puppets* • *Global Training:* Mike & Robin McMahan

United States

Hernando & Debbie Saenz, *MNA Hispanic Ministry Coordinator*
Alan & Kim Foster, *MNA Church Planter Recruiter*;
Reformed University Fellowship International Jeff & Caroline Thompson, UGA ;
Reformed University Fellowship: Tracey & Suzanne West, GA Tech;
Ben & Anna Coppedge, Caysie Ashton, UGA;
Vision 938: Mwamba & Nyema Johnson, Atlanta University Center
PCA Church Planters: Curran & Abby Bishop, Milford, CT;
Buck & Kaitlyn Rogers, Braselton, GA;
Alejandro & Beth Oropeza, Amistad Hispana, Chestnut Mountain, GA;
Clay & Liz Werner, Oconee County, GA

Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) Agencies

Administrative Committee • The Committee on Discipleship Ministries • Covenant College
Georgia Foothills Presbytery • MTW • MNA • Reformed University Fellowship • Ridge Haven

Local Ministries

Adults Protecting Children • Center Point • Choices Pregnancy Care Center • Eagle Ranch
Frontline Response (Out of Darkness) • Gateway House • Good News at Noon
Sacred Roots Farm • Young Life



Chestnut Mountain Presbyterian Church

Christmas Communion Service