

CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Service of Celebration and Gospel Renewal

Pentecost Sunday

23 May 2021

Pastoral Notes

Dear Cornerstone Family,

I sometimes joke about the people of Cornerstone being *long* suffering. How week after week you sit under my *long* sermons and, wonder of wonders, you come back the following week. Thankfully, the Scripture tells us that suffering produces character, endurance, and hope (Romans 5:3-4). So, take heart, these long sermons are one of God's means for growing you up in the faith ;-)

Now, as long as my sermons are, you might be surprised by the amount of content I prepare and *don't* preach. I actually wrote two sermons on last week's passage! (Mercifully, I only delivered one—you're welcome!) In the sermon I *didn't* preach, I laid out six practical instructions for putting sin to death. After speaking with a few of you this week, I thought the little tidbit below might be helpful more generally. I hope and pray it is.

First, refuse to tolerate sin's presence – Sin will try to desensitize your conscience, so that you might be lulled into accommodating its presence. Be aware of this and resist this tug! Let this be your settled position: to not allow sin to make a home within your heart. Take Paul at his word, "Consider yourself dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus" (Romans 6:11).

Second, become deaf to the false promises of temptation – Temptation always talks a big game, but it never delivers. It says, "This is not a big deal. One time won't hurt anything. You know this will satisfy you." But this is just the bait hiding the hook. Don't be deceived by temptation's lies: "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death" (Proverbs 14:12).

Third, stir up a holy hatred for sin and its consequences – In our mind's eye, we must see "the sinfulness of sin," to borrow a phrase from Ralph Venning. In other words, we must see sin for the horror it is and increasingly hate what it does to us, the world, and the affront it is to glory of God. In a word, we must cultivate hearts that, "Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good" (Romans 12:11).

Fourth, strike temptation and sin with the sword of the Spirit – We are most vulnerable to sin when we are spiritually on our heels. The flesh is weak, so if our guard is down, we will fall. But if we resist temptation with the Godordained weapon for this battle, the sword of the Spirit, then sin doesn't stand a chance. Listen to the Psalmist, "I have hidden your word in my heart that I may not sin against you" (Psalm 119:11).

Fifth, run for refuge and strength to the Savior of sinners – Always, always remember the immeasurable grace available to you in Jesus Christ. This grace is two-pronged: grace to forgive and grace to sanctify! Go early and often to the throne of grace, meeting with the Savior who died to free you from sin, for he promises that, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John I:9).

Sixth, set your hope on future glory — Take this in: Jesus has won *your* battle against sin. You read that right. In his death, resurrection, and ascension, the death blow to sin was levied for God's people. It's just a matter of time before the presence of sin is no more! When worn down with the battle of sin, pause and cast an eye to the future—when sinless you stand before the glorified Savior, "...face to face... [and you] shall know fully, even as [you] have been fully known" (I Cor. 13:12).

Your servant,

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Worship is a response to the love of God that brings us out of darkness into his light. The rhythm and flow of the service reflects this present reality as God calls his people and reveals himself, forgives their sins, teaches them from his Word, the Bible, feeds them, and then sends them out to live what they have learned.

This is the pattern of his love in redeeming and saving his people.

Prelude—Send, O God, Your Holy Spirit

Send, O God, your Holy Spirit On your people gathered here. Fill our lives with gentle courage; Let your love cast out our fear.

Come, O Spirit, come.

Every perfect gift is given
By the God whose name we bear,
To equip the saints of Jesus
For the saving work we share.

Gifts of wisdom, gifts of knowledge Gifts of faith and healing grace, Gifts that in the spirit's power Will reveal the savior's face.

All God's children, all Christ's people, All the saints, receive this word! Claim the gift, the faith, the promise Build the body of the Lord.

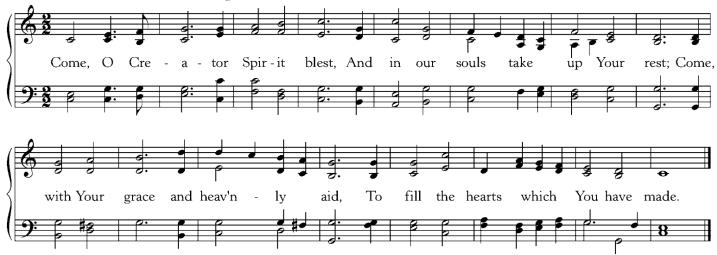
Text: Sylvia Dunstan, 1995; Music: Bob Moore, 2003.

Announcements, and Preparation

GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE AND REVEALS HIMSELF

God calls His people to worship and come before Him. The Creator of all things reveals Himself through His Word and calls us into His presence.

Introit—Come, O Creator Spirit Blest, Vs I



Text: Rhabanus Maurus, circa 800, Trans by Edward Caswall, 1849; Music: TRURO, Psalmodia Evangelica, 1789.

Call to Worship—from Psalm 104:24, 27, 30-31, 33-34

Pastor: O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have You made them all; the earth is full of Your creatures.

All: These all look to You, to give them food in due season.

Pastor: When You send forth Your Spirit, they are created, and You renew the face of the ground.

All: May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in His works.

Pastor: I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;

I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

All: May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the LORD.



New Testament Reading—Acts 2:I-4, I4-2I

The Birth of the Church and the Coming of the Kingdom on the Day of Pentecost

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. 15 For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. 16 But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

17 "And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; 18 even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. 19 And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; 20 the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. 21 And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO CONFESSION, REPENTANCE & RECONCILIATION

The People of God respond to His Word by confessing their sins, repenting of their sinful ways, and seeking God's favor through the reconciling work of Jesus, the Son of God.

Sung Preparation—Come, O Redeemer, Come



Fa - ther en-throned on high, Ho - ly, Ho - ly: An - cient e - ter - nal light, hear our prayer. Look now up - on our need, Lord be, with us; heal us and make us free, from our sin.



Come, O Re-deem-er, come, grant us mer-cy. Come, O Re-deem-er, come, grant us peace.

CCLI #11121087 ©1996 Metro One, Inc. Text and Music: Fernando Ortega, 1996.

Congregational Prayer of Confession—based on Ephesians 4:I-4, I4-I6

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing.

You have made us to be one body, in one Spirit, called to one hope.

But our pride and impatience have spawned only dissension and division.

All: We have not been strong in the strength of your might and have not readied ourselves for the daily work of reconciliation.

Pastor: We have neglected the grace given to us by Christ's gift

and have failed to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

All: Forgive us for being tossed to and fro by selfish whims, for building our own kingdoms rather than living in submission to Christ's Kingdom.

Pastor: Help us to speak the truth in love, and walk in love.

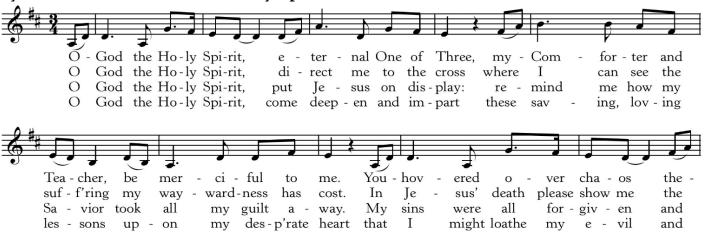
Rescue us and fill us with your Spirit.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon—Colossians I:13-14

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Hymn of Praise—O God, the Holy Spirit





land and sea to part so - man - i - fest Your pow - er to - calm my rest - less heart. pow - er of my sin and by His life con - vince me this bat - tle He will win. sa - tis - fac - tion made; a - tone - ment was com - ple - ted, my cap - tive soul was saved. flee from Sa - tan's snares then run to my Re - deem - er and cast on Him my cares.

The Reading of the Word—Mark 10:1-12

And he left there and went to the region of Judea and beyond the Jordan, and crowds gathered to him again. And again, as was his custom, he taught them.

² And Pharisees came up and in order to test him asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" ⁴ They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce and to send her away." ⁵ And Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. ⁶ But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' ⁷ 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, ⁸ and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two but one flesh. ⁹ What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

¹⁰ And in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. ¹¹ And he said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her, ¹² and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

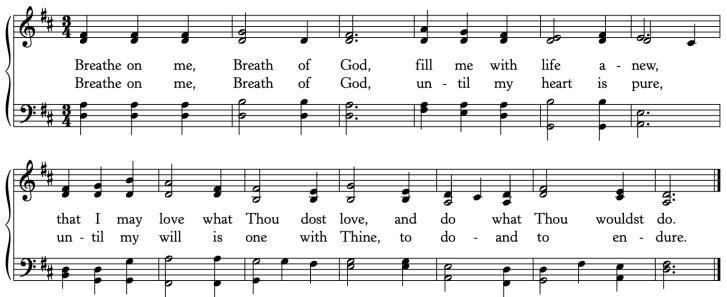
Leader: The grass withers, the flower fades;

All: But the Word of our God will stand forever.

Sermon—Follow Me: The Gospel of Mark, pt 32

Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage: A Look at the Bible's Teaching —Nate Shurden, Pastor

Sung Response—Breathe on Me, Breath of God, vs 1-2



Text: Edwin Hatch, 1878, Music: TRENTHAM, Robert Jackson, 1888, Mod. 2007. Used by Permission.

Profession of Faith—The Apostles' Creed

We believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into Heaven

and now sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty,

from whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* church,

The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

The resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

^{* &}quot;Catholic" refers to the universal church of God's people throughout all time and from all places

Sung Response—Sanctus



CCLI #11121087 Text: Is 6:3, Rev 4:8, Mt 21:9; Music: Franklin Sanctus, Gregory D Wilbur, 2009. ©2009 Greyfriars Press.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

God offers to His people the gift of communion with Him through the grace of the sacrament and we respond in thanksgiving.

Words of Institution and the Lord's Table

Guidelines for the Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is the family meal for Christians. We invite all baptized Christians who are members of a congregation that proclaims the gospel, and who are at peace with God and with their neighbor, and who seek strength to live more faithfully for Christ to join us.

If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer. You can find some sample prayers on the next page. We hope that this time is helpful to you as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ and with His people, the church.

At Cornerstone, we come forward to receive communion. Proceed to the first table for the bread, and then on the second for wine/juice.

Choral Hymn—Lord, Send Out Your Spirit

Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

Come bless the Lord, O my soul!
O Lord, my God, how great you are!
What diversity in your creations, O Lord!
Blest is the earth with things you have made.

If you remove their spirit they die,
Back to the dust from which they came.
When you send out your spirit they are created,
And you renew the face of the earth.

Glory forever be to the Lord
In all his works, may God delight!
May my thought and prayer be pleasing to him;
I find my joy, my joy in the Lord.

Text: Psalm 104, adapt. Paul Gibson; Music: Paul Gibson, 1994.

Prayers for Those Not Taking the Lord's Supper

If you are not able to partake in the Lord's Supper today, please use this time to meditate on one of the following prayers.

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth. Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, 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 in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen

Prayer of Commitment. Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship through membership in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen

Hymn of Communion—Come Down, O Love Divine



Text: Bianco da Siena, d. 1434, Tr Richard Littledale, 1867; Music: DOWN AMPNEY, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

Hymn of Praise—Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God



CCLI #11121087 © 2006 Thankyou Music Text ad Music: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend.

GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT TO BE LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

After calling His people into His presence, forgiving their sins, instructing them in His Word, and providing a foretaste of the marriage supper of the Lamb, God sends His people into the world to show His light in the darkness.

Benediction—John 14:25-27a

"These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you." Amen.

Sung Response—There is a Redeemer



CCLI #11121087 ©1982 Birdwing Music. Text and Music: Melody Green-Sievright.

Mission Prayer Focus—Dave and Robin Dillard's ministry with Servant Group International (SGI) is focused on outreach to Muslim and refugee communities. Their work began in 1992 in response to the large number of Iraqi Kurdish refugees relocating to Nashville following the first Gulf War. Since that time, SGI's ministry has expanded to include outreach to other Muslim communities, including Iraq, Turkey, and refugees arriving in Greece.

Dave serves as Associate Director of SGI, with the primary roles of (a) working to encourage and support the Executive Director, (b) ministry resource development, and (c) new project and fields of ministry development.

Robin serves at SGI as the Financial Administrator. She also helps lead a growing number of successful volunteer programs designed to connect Christian women to their Muslim and refugee neighbors here in Nashville. Prayer Focus:

Our kids:

- Pauli and Zack just had another son—David Ryland Wear.
- Jonathan: He will have to make a choice for his next Coast Guard assignment in the next few months.

Iraq:

- The current team in Iraq is seeking patience and unexpected ministry opportunities as COVID -related lockdowns continue into the summer.
- Also in Iraq, we recently started partnering with a couple serving children in a nearby Iranian refugee camp and local orphanage. We're excited to be able to help them in a significant way as their heart is to share the hope of Christ in new and creative ways among some of the neediest people in the country.

Nashville:

We have a new Refugee Ministry Center in Nashville. Ladies' sewing classes have been offered this Spring, and we will have 24 new graduates of this program. It allows refugee women to gain skills needed for future employment in the textiles industry. Also, we're excited about a "teen sewing camp" for two weeks in July. We will pair refugee teens together with teenage volunteers from local Nashville churches to learn basic sewing side-by-side. We will be teaching an English literacy course during this camp.



Welcome to Cornerstone! We're glad you're visiting with us today and would love the opportunity to welcome you personally. We invite you to fill out our visitor card by following this link.

https://cornerstonepresbyterianchurch.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/40/responses/new

Focus on Church Ministry

Women's Summer Study/ Youth Fundraiser

Blessed: Experiencing the Promise of the Book of Revelation This summer the women of Cornerstone will be led by Nancy Guthrie in a study of the first eleven chapters of the book of Revelation, We will gather on Tuesday evenings, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., June 15 – July 20. Personal Bible study questions are now available on the Women's Ministry page of the church website. Invite friends and neighbors! No registration; just show up! **Bring a few dollars to support the Senior High Youth Group—they will be selling drinks in the courtyard to raise money for their trip to the Reformed Youth Ministries Conference.

Youth Group – Mark your calendars!

5/26 – Guys game night (a), the Allens'

5/28 – Girls movie night @ the Brookses'

6/6 – Summer SS starts

6/9 – Wednesday night kick off (a) the Allens'

Questions? Contact Taylor: youth@cstonepres.org

Reformed Youth Ministries Conference Donations

Be on the lookout! We will have special opportunities to support the Youth Group on June 6 and 13 as they make plans to attend the Reformed Youth Ministries Conference in Panama City this July.

Men's Summer Study

Using R.C. Sproul's *Everyone's a Theologian: An Introduction to Systematic Theology*, Randy Allen will lead the men of Cornerstone through an entrance level study of Reformed theology on Friday mornings in June and July, 7-8:30 a.m. on the 3rd floor at Cornerstone. Books are available on The Bookshelf! Register through the website or app.

Cornerstone Talent Bank

We are creating the Cornerstone Talent Bank which will

help us know what areas you may have interest and ability in to serve the body of Christ at Cornerstone. You will receive a link in your email, or you can fill out the form by scanning the QR code. More to



come on this in the June 6 Cornerstone Family Meeting!

Summer Sunday School Opportunities

The Children's Ministry is in need of three teacher assistants to serve this Summer in Sunday School. There is no prep involved in being an assistant – just show up and love kids! Assistants are needed in the $1^{\rm st}/2^{\rm nd}$ grade class, the $3^{\rm rd}/4^{\rm th}$ grade class, and the 5th grade class, June 6-July 18. Don't let a vacation or two prevent you from inquiring about this—even if you won't be in town all seven weeks, you can still serve! Contact Meredith Suits: elementary@cstonepres.org

Cornerstone Family Meeting

During the Sunday School hour on Sunday, June 6th, we will have a mid-year Cornerstone Family Meeting. All adult members and regular attendees are strongly encouraged to attend. Please make plans to join us for this important meeting!

Cornerstone Cookbook

Everyone, young and old, male and female, is invited to be a part of our new church cookbook, *The Seasonings of Life!* Building on the "Seasons of Life" theme, the Women's Ministry is creating a cookbook to help us make delicious food as well as give us a glimpse into the stories of our pewmates. Go to the website or app to submit your recipe and tell us why it's meaningful. Questions? Contact Rachel Taggart or Martha Brooks.

On The Bookshelf

After Sunday's sermon, I had several people ask me for book recommendations on the practice of putting sin to death. Below are two titles I've found supremely helpful and have returned to often over the years. Both titles can be found on The Bookshelf—Pastor Nate

Overcoming Sin and Temptation edited by Kelly Kapic and Justin Taylor — Chocked full of profound practical insights and gospel rich truths, this volume is absolutely worth your time.

The Enemy Within: Straight Talk about the Power and Defeat of Sin by Kris Lundgaard — An entrance level must-read for anyone serious about fighting sin.

Taking the Message Home

Today's Message, "Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage: A Look at the Bible's Teaching" is taken from Mark 10:1-12 with reference to Deuteronomy24:1-5 and 1 Corinthians 7:10-16. Please take time to discuss the questions below with your family, friends, or Home Fellowship Group.

- What did you learn about marriage, divorce, and remarriage today?
- Why does God allow for divorce when it's not something he desires? (see Deuteronomy 24:I-5, Malachi 2:I4-I6)
- According to the message today, what are the two biblically allowable exceptions for divorce? Where in the Bible would you turn to defend these two exceptions?
- What questions do you still have about marriage, divorce, and remarriage?
- Regardless of your current status—single, married, divorced, or remarried—how does your/our marriage with Christ provide the love, peace, and hope we need? (see Ephesians 5:22-33 and Revelation 21:I-4)

CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Presbyterian Church in America

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All Scripture quotations from the English Standard Version

