

CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Service of Celebration and Gospel Renewal

The Sundays of Pentecost—Ordinary Time

18 July 2021

Pastoral Notes

Dear Cornerstone Family,

All of us have (or will at some point) received a gift we don't want. For some of us, these gifts come from a well-meaning grandmother: "Ah, another knit cardigan!" For others, it's an obligatory Christmas gift from a boss: "Gee, a subscription to 'Birds & Blooms' magazine. How could I ever deserve this?"

When an unwanted gift comes our way, we all do the same thing. We promptly stuff it in a box in our closet to be regifted. "Surely someone, somewhere will like this!" Well, probably not. Truth is, the poor soul who receives your regift is going to do exactly what you did with it—pawn it off as a gift on some other unsuspecting victim.

In order to avoid this cycle, some of us cut through the guess work and just ask the person what they want. We say, "Hey, your birthday is coming up. Any hints?" They respond, "I want a new watch or a tie." And we promptly go out and get it. It's as easy as that.

As convenient as this arrangement is – and it is convenient – it diminishes the impact of the gift-giving experience. The expression of love that the gift symbolizes is unavoidably lessened when the thoughtfulness and surprise elements in the gift-giving experience are missing.

The gifts that have meant the most to me over the years are the ones I've never asked for and came as a total surprise. I have been gifted, for instance, quite a few original self-portraits over the years, thanks to the dear children of Cornerstone. These splendid crayoned creations have brought me tremendous joy (and more than a few laughs!). These uncommission masterpieces are unbidden surprises, heartfelt expressions of love for me from the hands of little artists.

As I've thought about this today, it seems to me that God's gifts work similarly. How so, you ask? Well, last week our little Lila—now six months old—rolled over for the first time. I wish you could have heard the cheers of her parents and siblings. It was quite the event. As the Lord would have it, Christy and I celebrated 20 years of marriage last week as well. You read that right: 20 years! If you had told me in our first year of marriage that on our 20-year anniversary we'd be hootin' and hollerin' over our sixth month old rolling over, I would have done the math and surmised that something had gone terribly wrong. But that, of course, is not the case, for our little Lila is one of the most precious gifts we've ever received. No, we didn't ask for her, and, yes, she came as a total surprise, but with every passing day we realize more how this unbidden gift from God is a living expression of His tremendous love for us.

When you are surprised by life's unwanted gifts (we usually call them "trials"), consider the Giver. Consider His love for you. Consider His purposes. He knows the *gifts* you need. And even if what He gives you doesn't feel like a gift, go ahead receive it as one. For in due time, you'll discover—that's exactly what it is. "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good" (Romans 8:28).

Your servant,

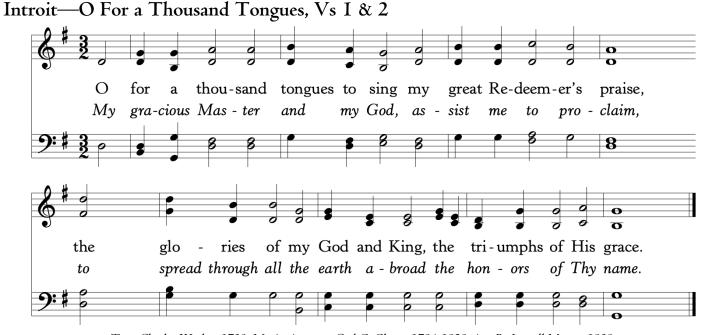
Worship is a response to the love of God that brings us out of darkness into his light. The rhythm and flow of the service reflects this present reality as God calls his people and reveals himself, forgives their sins, teaches them from his Word, the Bible, feeds them, and then sends them out to live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

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

Prelude, 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.



Text: Charles Wesley, 1739; Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784-1829, Arr. By Lowell Mason, 1839.

Call to Worship—based on Psalm 63:I-4

Pastor: O God, you are my God;

earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you;

All: My flesh faints for you,

as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

Pastor: So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,

beholding your power and glory.

All: Because your steadfast love is better than life,

my lips will praise you.

Pastor: So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands.

Hymn of Praise—Holy, Holy, Holy



Old Testament Reading—Deuteronomy 18:15-22

brothers—it is to him you shall listen— ¹⁶ just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.' ¹⁷ And the LORD said to me, 'They are right in what they have spoken. ¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. ¹⁹ And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. ²⁰ But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.' ²¹ And if you say in your heart, 'How may we know the word that the LORD has not spoken?'— ²² when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word that the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously. You need not be afraid of him.

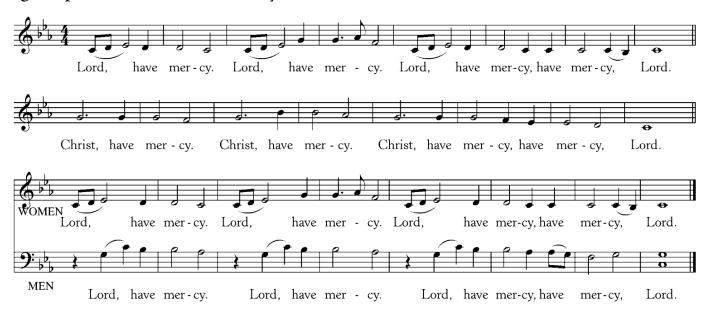
Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

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 Response—Lord, Have Mercy



Text: Luke 18:13; Music: Franklin Kyrie, Gregory D Wilbur, 2009. ©2009 Greyfriars Press.

Corporate Confession of Sin—based on Titus 3:1-3

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. You call us to be submissive to rulers and authorities and to be obedient and ready for every good work.

All: Far too often, we only want to submit to authority that we respect or rulers with whom we agree.

We think we are free to disobey.

Pastor: We are to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people.

All: Instead, we defend our actions by maligning others, by blaming others, and encouraging quarrels that help our cause.

We fail to be gentle and to treat others more kindly than ourselves.

Pastor: For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures.

All: We passed our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon—based on Titus 3:4-7

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Hymn of Praise—O God, My Joy



CCLI #11121087 © 2008 Watchsong (www.watchsong.com) Text: Paul Keew & Brian Pinner; Music: Paul Keew

The Reading of the Word—Mark 11:27-33

²⁷ And they came again to Jerusalem. And as he [Jesus] was walking in the temple, the chief priests and the scribes and the elders came to him, ²⁸ and they said to him, "By what authority are you doing these things, or who gave you this authority to do them?" ²⁹ Jesus said to them, "I will ask you one question; answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things. ³⁰ Was the baptism of John from heaven or from man? Answer me." ³¹ And they discussed it with one another, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ³² But shall we say, 'From man'?"—they were afraid of the people, for they all held that John really was a prophet. ³³ So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And Jesus said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things."

Leader: The grass withers, the flower fades;

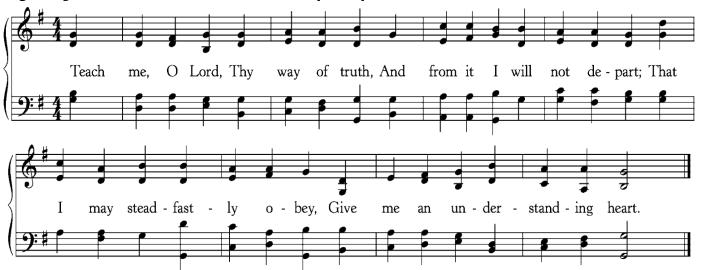
All: But the Word of our God will stand forever.

Sermon—Follow Me: The Gospel of Mark, pt 39

The Question of Authority

—Tony Giles, Pastor

Sung Response—Teach Me, O Lord, Thy Way of Truth, Vs I



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.

Sung Response—Let Glory Be to God



CCLI #11121087 Text: From the Liturgy of St. James & an 8th Century manuscript (Gloria in excelsis Deo); Music: Greyfriars Press, 2018.

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

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.

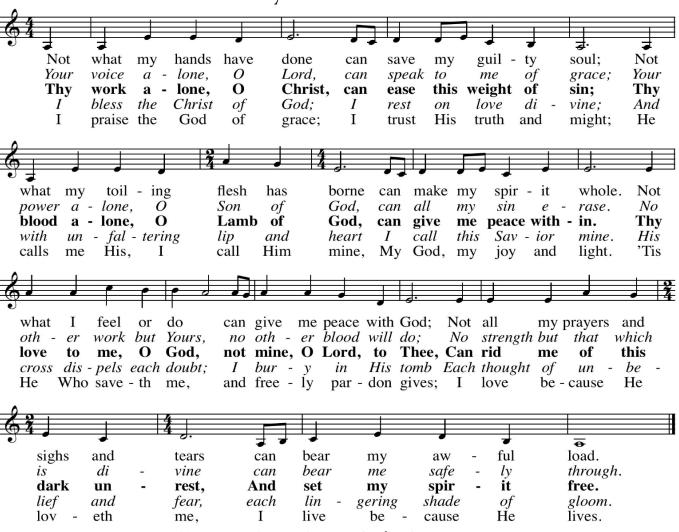
At Cornerstone, we come forward to receive communion. Proceed to the first table for the bread, and then on the second for wine/juice.

Psalm of the Month for June—Psalm 132: Arise, O Lord



Text: The Psalter, 1912; Music: Greyfriars Press, 2012. Used by Permission.

Hymn of Communion—Not What My Hands Have Done



Text: Horatius Bonar, 1861; Music: Greyfriars Press, 2013.

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

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord's Prayer

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

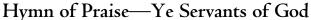
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

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





Text: Charles Wesley, Hymns in Times of Trouble and Persecution, 1744; Music: LYONS, Johann Michael Haydn, 1737-1806, Arr. In William Gardiner's Sacred Melodies, 1815.

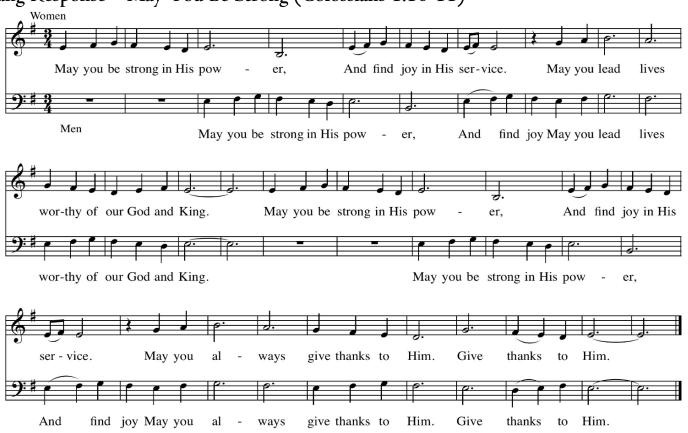
GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT TO BE LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

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—Ephesians 3:20-21

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Sung Response—May You Be Strong (Colossians I:10-II)



Mission Prayer Focus—As the campus minister at MTSU, Weston Duke is responsible for overseeing every aspect of RUF's ministry on campus. He preaches at the weekly large groups on Wednesday nights as well as leads several small

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- Pray for new student outreach at the beginning of the fall semester.

- Pray for our student leaders to feel empowered by the Spirit to serve within RUF and to reach out to others on campus.

groups throughout the week. He meets with students to disciple them on an individual basis, and equips student leaders to reach and serve the campus around them. He also supervises and mentors two interns, Josh and Meliah Campbell.

- Pray for our RUF to increasingly reflect the demographics of MTSU's campus.
- Pray for Weston and Hannah as they are learning the ropes of parenting with their quickly-growing daughter Emma.

Focus on Church Ministry

Come Share Jesus with the Next Generation!

We are so thankful to have teachers in place for every children's Sunday School class this Fall, but we need some folks who are willing to jump into a class when the regular teachers need to miss. If you are willing to participate in this important work, let Meredith Suits know by clicking the link in the weekly email, or emailing her. elementary@cstonepres.org

Women's Summer Study and Fellowship Supper

Blessed: Experiencing the Promise of the Book of Revelation

We will have our final Bible Study of the Summer this Tuesday evening, July 20, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Join your Cornerstone sisters for a catered supper beforehand on the third floor at 5:00 p.m. You can sign up and pay on the website or app. Supper registration will close this evening. Don't miss out!

Coffee with Calvin

The men of Cornerstone are studying *The Golden Booklet of the Christian Life*, by John Calvin. Our next gathering is Thursday, July 29 at 7:00 a.m. at the Franklin Mercantile. No RSVP needed. Contact men@cstonepres.org for more information.

Sunday School Summer Break

All Sunday School classes will be on break beginning today. We will resume classes on August 15.

Exploring Cornerstone Class-Weekend Edition!

If you're interested in learning more about Cornerstone or uniting in membership, please join Pastor Nate for an upcoming Exploring Cornerstone Class. In this class, you will learn about the history, beliefs, vision, and ministries of Cornerstone as well as meet key ministry leaders. The class will be held at the chapel on Friday evening August 20 and Saturday morning August 21. Space is limited, so sign up today by filling out the registration form through the church website or app.

New College Franklin

New College Franklin is seeking housing for one NCF student for this Fall. If you are interested in housing an NCF student beginning in the second week of August, please contact Tammy McCoy. office@newcollegefranklin.org

Servant Group International

SGI is looking for volunteers to serve Nashville's refugee population in the following ways:

Refugee English Classes:

- <u>Pre-school refugee childcare</u>: Mondays and/or Wednesdays 10:30 a.m. - noon at Haywood Hills Baptist Church. You can bring your own child(ren)! Follows Metro Nashville Public Schools calendar.
- <u>Transportation Coordinator</u>: Mondays and Wednesdays. This person would coordinate our volunteer drivers and refugees needing rides to English classes.

Contact: colleen@servantgroup.org for questions or more information

Sew for Hope: Refugee sewing program

- <u>Donation sorter</u>: Whenever you can between 9 a.m.-3:00 p.m., on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Some sewing knowledge would be helpful, but not absolutely necessary.
- <u>Teaching Assistant for Beginners:</u> Tuesday and/or Thursday, 9 a.m. noon. Basic sewing experience is necessary. Takes place at Servant Group International, 506 Tanksley Avenue

Contact: bonnie@servantgroup.org for questions or more information

Men's Theology Study

The Friday morning study will continue to meet from 7 - 8:30 a.m., every Friday through the end of July

Today's message "The Question of Authority" is taken from Mark 11:27-33. Please take time to discuss the questions below with your family, friends or Home Fellowship Group.

- I. What area(s) of your life do you find yourself "holding on to" rather than relinquishing to the authority of Christ? Give one example.
- 2. It has been said, "a Christian is someone God has subdued." What have you come to see and understand about the character of God or the person of Jesus that has a subduing effect on your life?
- 3. If God's word is authoritative (and it is!) how does that change the way you read it?
- 4. John Calvin's personal emblem was a picture of flaming heart held up in a hand with an inscription of his life motto: *My heart I offer to you, O Lord, sincerely and promptly.* What do you like about Calvin's emblem? Motto? Read Romans II:33- I2:2. Take some time to pray for that kind of consecration.



Presbyterian Church in America

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Men's Ministry: Ron Moffat or men@cstonepres.org

Acting Youth Director: Taylor Thompson (717-371-0848) or youth@cstonepres.org Children's Director: Meredith Suits (865-250-3579) or elementary@cstonepres.org

Nursery Coordinator: Christy Shurden or nursery@cstonepres.org

Prayer Requests: prayer@cstonepres.org

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Will Kesler (423-313-7493) John Millard (423-443-8852) Ron Moffat (629-215-5135) *Jim Payne (615-497-0613) Jim Smith (615-347-4188)

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*On Sabbatical

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All Scripture quotations from the English Standard Version

