



CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Follow Me!



The Gospel of Mark

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND GOSPEL RENEWAL
The Sundays of Pentecost—Ordinary Time
01 August 2021

Pastoral Notes

Dear Cornerstone Family,

Can you believe it? It's already August! I guess time (summer!) flies when you're having fun.

Just as families are busily preparing to start back to school, we are busily preparing for the launch of our fall Sunday School ministry. Next week you'll hear from our Children's Coordinator, Meredith Suits, about all the plans for children's Sunday School. Today, however, I want to encourage every Cornerstone *adult* to attend our important opening Sunday School series of the fall term.

The series is titled, *The Lay of the Land: Reflecting on the PCA and the 2021 General Assembly*. This class will teach you about the foundations and story of our denomination in light of the key business of this year's General Assembly. Special attention will be given to the study committee on sexuality and the issue of same sex attraction. You will walk away from this class with a better understanding of the issues biblically and in light of the PCA's history and distinctive. I hope to see you in the chapel during Sunday School on August 15th!

Before I wrap up, I have some great news to share with you. We hired a new Office Administrator at Cornerstone! Her name is Laura Sessions. Yes, some of you will recognize that last name. Laura is the wife of Rev. Richie Sessions, who is the campus minister with Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) at Vanderbilt.

Laura was born and raised in Jackson, MS. She graduated from Baylor University with a Bachelor of Business Administration with a particular emphasis in management of informational systems. While at Baylor, she met Richie, and they were married in 2000. After spending a few years in Cleveland, MS, and Memphis, TN, Laura moved to Franklin in 2015 when Richie accepted a call to be the Campus Minister at Vanderbilt.

Laura has served in a variety of administrative roles over the years. Most recently, she's been an Administrative Assistant with RUF. She's also volunteered her skills on a number of boards, serving as president and treasurer. For the last nineteen years, however, Laura's primary work has been at home raising their three children: Mamie (19), Griffin (17), and Margaret (14).



If you would, whisper a prayer of thanksgiving to God for the provision of Laura. We are very excited to see how the Lord will use her in our midst. Also, pray for Laura! Pray her transition on staff will be smooth, and that the Lord will use her to help us accomplish our vision, "To glorify God in the gospel as disciples who make disciples."

Your servant,

Steve

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.

Introit—O For a Thousand Tongues, Vs I & 2

O for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,

the glo-ries of my God and King, the tri-umphs of His grace.
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of Thy name.

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

Call to Worship—from Psalm 116:12-19

Pastor: What shall we render to the LORD for all his benefits to us?

All: We will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD,

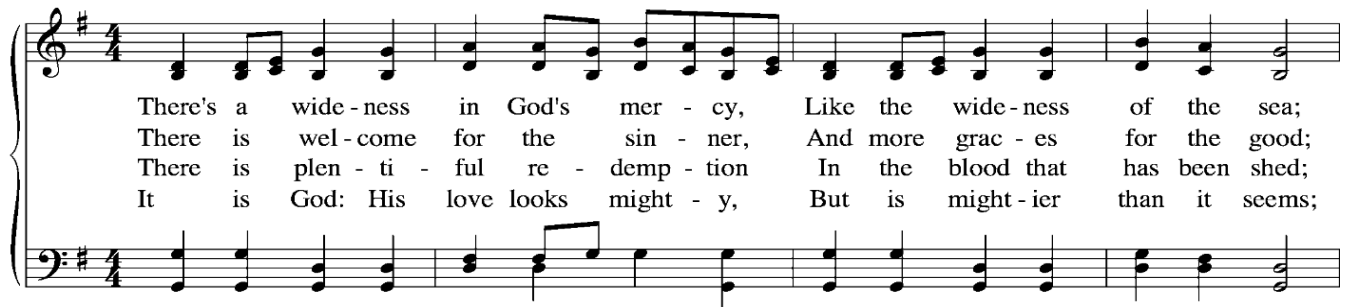
Pastor: We will pay our vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people.

All: We will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the LORD.

Pastor: I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people,
in the courts of the house of the LORD, in your midst, O Jerusalem.

All: Praise the LORD!

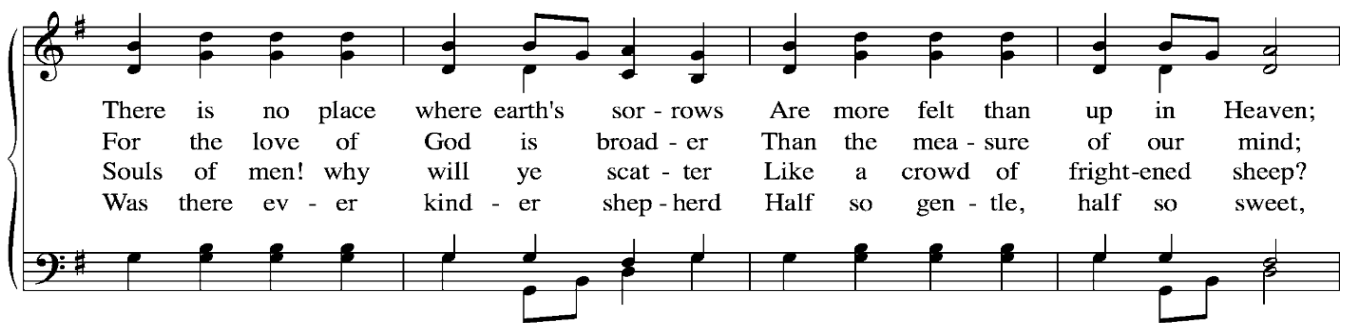
Hymn of Praise—There's a Wideness in God's Mercy



There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, Like the wide-ness of the sea;
There is wel - come for the sin - ner, And more grac - es for the good;
There is plen - ti - ful re - demp - tion In the blood that has been shed;
It is God: His love looks might - y, But is might - ier than it seems;



There's a kind-ness in His jus - tice, Which is more than lib - er - ty.
There is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; There is heal - ing in His blood.
There is joy for all the mem - bers In the sor - rows of the Head.
'Tis our Fath - er: and His fond - ness Goes far out be - yond our dreams.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows Are more felt than up in Heaven;
For the love of God is broad - er Than the mea - sure of our mind;
Souls of men! why will ye scat - ter Like a crowd of fright-ened sheep?
Was there ev - er kind - er shep - herd Half so gen - tle, half so sweet,



There is no place where earth's fail - ings Have such kind - ly judg - ment given.
And the heart of the E - ter - nal Is most won - der - ful - ly kind.
Fool - ish hearts! why will ye wan - der From a love so true and deep?
As the Sav - ior who would have us Come and gath - er at His feet?

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1854; Music: HOLY MANNA, Attr. To William Moore, 1825.

New Testament Reading—2 Corinthians 4:1-6

Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart.² But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God.³ And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.⁴ In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.⁵ For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.⁶ For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

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

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy, Lord.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy, have mer - cy, Lord.

WOMEN
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy, Lord.

MEN
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy, Lord.

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

Congregational Confession of Sin—based on Ephesians 4:17-24

Leader: Lord, we come confessing. You call us to not walk any longer as unbelievers do
in the futility of their minds
and in the darkness of their understanding.

All: Too often we are alienated from the life of God
because of the ignorance that is in us
due to our hardness of heart.

Leader: We become callous and give ourselves up to sensuality—
pleasing our own thoughts and desires
and practicing every kind of impurity.

All: But this is not the way we learned Christ—having heard about him,
being taught in him. For truth is in Jesus.

Leader: Give us your Spirit to continually put off the old self
which belongs to our former manner of life
and is corrupt through deceitful desires.

All: May we be renewed in our minds
and put on the new self,
created after your likeness in true righteousness and holiness.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon—from Colossians 1:15-20

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Hymn of Praise—How Deep the Father's Love For Us

How deep the Fa - ther's love for us, How vast be - yond all meas - ure That
Be - hold the man up - on a cross, My sin up - on His shoul - ders. A -
I will not boast in an - y - thing: No gifts, no power, no wis - dom. But

He should give His on - ly Son To make a wretch His treas - ure. How
shamed I hear my mock - ing voice Call out a - mong the scoff - ers. It
I will boast in Je - sus Christ: His death and res - ur - rec - tion. Why

great the pain of sear - ing loss. The Fa - ther turns His face a - way As
was my sin that held Him there Un - til it was ac - com - plished; His
should I gain from His re - ward? I can - not give an an - swer. But

wounds which mar the Cho - sen One Bring man - y sons to glo - ry.
dy - ing breath has brought me life. I know that it is fin - ished.
this I know with all my heart: His wounds have paid my ran - som.

CCLI #11121087 ©1995 Thankyou Music; Text and Music: Stuart Townend, 1995.

The Reading of the Word—Mark 12:13-17

¹³And they sent to him some of the Pharisees and some of the Herodians, to trap him in his talk. ¹⁴And they came and said to him, “Teacher, we know that you are true and do not care about anyone’s opinion. For you are not swayed by appearances, but truly teach the way of God. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? Should we pay them, or should we not?” ¹⁵But, knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, “Why put me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me look at it.” ¹⁶And they brought one. And he said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” They said to him, “Caesar’s.” ¹⁷Jesus said to them, “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” And they marveled at him.

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 4I

Render to God

—Nate Shurden, *Pastor*

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

The musical score is written for a piano accompaniment in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Teach me, O Lord, Thy way of truth, And from it I will not de - part; That". The second system also has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "I may stead - fast - ly o - bey, Give me an un - der - stand - ing heart." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

Text: Joseph P. Holbrook, ca. 1878; Music: TALLIS' CANON, Thomas Tallis, ca. 1567.

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.

* "Catholic" refers to the universal church of God's people throughout all time and from all places

Sung Response—Let Glory Be to God



Let glo - ry be to God on high: Peace be on earth as
O Lord, the sole be - got - ten Son, Who bore the crimes which
Have mer - cy on us, through Thy blood; Re - ceive our prayer, O
in the sky; Good will to men! We bow the knee,
we had done; Son of the Fa - ther, who wast slain
Lamb of God! For Thou art ho - - ly; Thou a - lone,
We praise, we bless, we wor - ship Thee; We give Thee thanks, Thy
To take a - way the sins of men; O Lamb of God, whose
At God's right hand, up - on His throne, In all His glo - ry,
name we sing, Al - might - y Fa - ther! Heav'n - ly King!
blood was spilt For all the world, and all its guilt—
art a - dored, With Thee, O Ho - ly Ghost, one Lord.

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

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—Psalm 84: O Lord of Hosts

O Lord of Hosts, how love - ly Thy tab - er - nac - les are; ___ For
Be - neath Thy care the spar - row Finds place for peace - ful rest; ___ To
Blest they who dwell in Zi - on, Whose joy and strength Thou art; ___ For -
them my heart is yearn - ing In ban - ish - ment a - far. My ___
keep her young in safe - ty The swal - low finds a nest; Then, ___
ev - er they will praise ___ Thee, Thy ways are in their heart. Though
soul is long - ing, faint - ing. Thy ___ sa - cred courts to see; My
Lord, my King Al - might - y, Thy ___ love will shel - ter me; Be -
tried, their tears like show - ers Shall ___ fill the springs of peace, And
heart and flesh are cry - ing, O liv - ing ___ God, for ___ Thee.
side Thy ho - ly al - tar My dwell - ing ___ place shall be.
all the way to Zi - on Their strength shall still in - crease.

Text: *The Psalter*, 1912; Music: NCA, 2021 Used by Permission.

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—Deck Yourself My Soul With Gladness

Deck your - self, my soul, with glad - ness, Leave the gloom - y haunts of
 He who craves a pre - cious trea - sure Neith - er cost nor pain will
 Ah, how hun - gers all my spir - it For the love I do not
 Je - sus, Bread of Life, I pray You, Let me glad - ly here o -

sad - ness; Come in - to the day - light's splen - dor, There with
 mea - sure; But the price - less gifts of heav - en God to
 mer - it! Oft have I, with sighs fast thron - ing, Thought up -
 bey You. By Your love I am in - vi - ted, Be Your

joy your prais - es ren - der Un - to Christ Whose grace un - bound - ed
 us has free - ly giv - en. Though the wealth of earth were of - fered,
 on this food with long - ing, In the bat - tle well nigh worst - ed,
 love with love re - qui - ted; From this sup - per let me mea - sure,

Has this won - drous ban - quet found - ed. Higher o'er
 Naught would buy the gifts here of - fered: Christ's true
 For this cup of life have thirst - ed, For the
 Lord, how vast and deep love's trea - sure. Through the

all the heav'ns He reign - eth, Yet to dwell with you He deign - eth.
 bod - y, for you riv - en, And His blood, for you once giv - en.
 Friend Who here in - vites us And to God Him - self u - nites us.
 gifts You here do give me As Your guest in heav'n re - ceive me.

Text: Johann Franck, 1649, Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1858; Music: SCHMÜCKE DICH, Johann Crüger, 1598-1662.

GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND IN GRATEFUL PRAISE

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—Glory be to God the Father

Glo - ry be to God the Fa - ther, Glo - ry be to God the Son, Glo - ry
Glo - ry be to Him who loved us, Washed us from each spot and stain! Glo - ry
Glo - ry to the king of an - gels, Glor - y to the Church - 's king, Glo - ry
"Glo-ry, bless - ing, praise e - ter - nal!" Thus the choir of an - gels sings; "Ho-nor,

be to God the Spir - it, Great Je - ho - vah, Three in One! Glo-ry,
be to Him who bought us, Made us kings with Him to reign! Glo-ry,
to the king of na - tions! Heaven and earth, your prais - es bring; Glo-ry,
rich - es, power, do - min - ion!" Thus its praise cre - a - tion brings; Glo-ry,

glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry, While e - ter - nal ag - es run!
glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry, To the Lamb that once was slain!
glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry, To the King of glo - ry bring!
glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry, Glo - ry to the King of kings!

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1868; Music: Gregory Wilbur, 2011. ©2011 Greyfriars Press. Used by Permission.

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—2 Thessalonians 2:I6-I7

¹⁶Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, ¹⁷comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word. Amen.

Sung Response—To You, O God, We Render Thanks, Vs 4

The image shows a musical score for a sung response. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "To You, O God, we ren - der thanks, To You give thanks sin - cere, Be - cause Your won - drous works de - clare That You are ev - er near."

Text: Psalm 75; Music: ST, ANNE, William Croft, 1678-1727.

Missions Prayer Focus—*Andrew Young is the church planting Minister of Oxford Evangelical Presbyterian Church, UK. This involves me preaching twice a week, leading regular Bible studies, speaking at evangelistic events, doing all the administration for the church, pastoring the church members, doing various forms of outreach, meeting for one-on-one Bible studies with young Christians, and serving in various capacities in the Presbytery of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of England and Wales.*

Prayer Focus:

... that we would be able to resume morning in person services at St. Luke's Chapel soon. Our relationship with the University staff who run the booking system for the Chapel is very good and they are keen for us to resume use of it ASAP. However, they are waiting to see how the University will respond to the latest easing of lockdown measures. Our hope is that we will be able to re-start services there very soon.

... for further growth. We would love to see more students and local Oxonians come to hear the life-giving truth about Jesus Christ and to give their lives in love, faith and hope to his service and glory. Whilst we are so encouraged by the growth we have enjoyed, we are also due to 'lose' some key families and individuals as the Lord moves them on to other callings and places. *Please pray for the Lord to make up for their absence, and to continue to establish the church here in Oxford.*

... for a more permanent building. We are so thankful for both St. Luke's Chapel and the Friends Meeting House. Both are centrally located and have served us well to date. However, the need for our own more permanent (and larger) location is pressing. Covid has created unusual opportunities in UK city centres and we are pushing on a few promising doors. *Please pray for the Lord to provide and to bless us with our own building.*

Welcome to Cornerstone! If you are visiting with us today, we are glad you're here and would love the opportunity to welcome you personally. We invite you to fill out the visitor card available in the pew in front of you. Please drop it in the offering boxes at either chapel entrance as you leave.

Focus on Church Ministry

Women's Fall Bible Studies

Cornerstone Women will study Ruth and Esther together this Fall beginning the week of August 30 and ending before Thanksgiving. Register and find more details about times and locations, books, and childcare on the website and app!

Come Share Jesus with the Next Generation!

We need some folks who are willing to jump into a class when regular SS 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

Elementary Sunday School Registration

Please visit the church website or app to register your children, ages three years through 6th grade, for the 2021-22 Sunday School year.

Coffee with Calvin

The men of Cornerstone are studying *The Golden Booklet of the Christian Life*, by John Calvin. Our next gathering is Thursday, August 26 at 7:00 a.m. at the Franklin Mercantile. No RSVP needed. Contact men@cstonepres.org for more information.

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.

Giving

There are boxes for tithes and alms available at both entrances to the Chapel. You can also give safely and securely online through the church website and 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 by providing childcare during English classes on Mondays and/or Wednesdays and coordinating transportation for those attending. Contact Colleen McGarry for more information. (colleen@servantgroup.org) SGI is also looking for volunteers to assist with the refugee sewing program, Sew for Hope. They are need someone to sort donations and as well as a teaching assistant. Contact Bonnie. bonnie@servantgroup.org

Prayer

The weekly prayer meeting is moving back to Tuesdays at 6:30pm as of this week. We meet in person on the third floor of Cornerstone, or you can join us via Zoom.

To submit a prayer request or receive a Zoom invitation, email prayer@cstonepres.org.

Sunday School

All Sunday School classes are on summer break. We will resume on August 15.

Taking the Message Home

Today's message, "Render to God" is taken from Mark 12:13-17. Please take time to discuss the questions below with your family, friends, or Home Fellowship Group.

- The Pharisees and Herodians use deception and flattery to lay a trap for Jesus. How can one guard themselves against deception and flattery?
- Can you explain the dilemma posed by the question the Pharisees and Herodians asked, "Is it lawful for us to give tribute to Caesar, or not?" (v.14)
- How does Jesus's response, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's" (v.17) escape the trap? What does His response teach us?
- Reflect on this: what is the difference between a self-rendered life and a God-rendered life?
- How did Jesus Christ fulfill the demand to give Caesar and God His due?

CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Presbyterian Church in America

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All Scripture quotations from the English Standard Version

