

CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Service of Celebration and Gospel Renewal

The Sundays of Pentecost—Ordinary Time

12 September 2021

Pastoral Notes

Dear Cornerstone Family,

I was delighted this week to receive a prerelease copy of Dr. Guy Richard's new book, *Persistent Prayer*. Guy has been a dear friend for many years, and I've always benefited from his writing ministry. This new work is no exception! It's filled with rich teaching on the purpose of prayer and wise instruction on the practice of prayer. As soon as it's available for purchase, look for it on The Bookshelf at Cornerstone!

Speaking of prayer, I recently gave a talk on prayer, leaning heavily on John Calvin's magisterial work, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. The rules of prayer Calvin sets forward have done much to revive and grow my own prayer life over the years.

The first rule in prayer for Calvin is *the fear of God*. All true prayer must sense the seriousness and magnitude of what prayer is—speaking with Almighty God. Contrary to the way it sounds, Calvin is not suggesting we should be scared of God. No, instead, the fear Calvin has in mind is holy reverence and awe, recognizing we are speaking with God Himself when we pray. If we do not experience a holy tremble in the soul as we approach the God of the universe in prayer, then we're not alive to who God is or the reality of prayer.

The second rule of prayer for Calvin is *spiritual humility*. As holy fear captures the soul, this second reality comes home—our neediness and dependence on God. Simply stated, Calvin says we should come to God aware that our only hope is in his grace and forgiveness. That is, we come broken and contrite, honest about our doubts, fears, and insufficiencies. We come, as Martin Luther liked to say, "as a beggar begging bread." By implication, this means we must shed all pretense and phoniness, entering God's presence "naked in soul," (C.S. Lewis) for that is who we really are.

The third rule and fourth rule can be paired together, for they are essentially two sides of the same coin. The third rule is *submissive trust*, and the fourth is *confident hope*. By submissive trust, Calvin means that we pray with a heart that willingly says, "Thy will be done." This does not mean we do not ask for what we desire. Instead, it means that when we ask for what we desire, we believe God knows best and will give us what we need. The submissive heart gladly receives whatever God ordains. The more this submissive, trusting heart is formed within us, the more confident hope will become the reality of our prayer life. For in the act of praying, the Spirit aligns our wills with God's will (Matthew 7:7-8). As that happens, we experience hope that our prayer will be answered, for our prayer is for God's will to be done.

As you can see, these instructions are less about the content of prayer and more about the heart with which we are to pray. That is because the greatest work of God in prayer is often done inside of us. As we meet with God in prayer, we are conformed more into Christ's image. As we are conformed more into Christ's image, we are enabled more and more to rest in God and His will. Let's pray that godly fear, spiritual humility, submissive trust, and confident hope mark our prayers increasingly in the days ahead!

Your servant,

Mate

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—Psalm 100: All Earth with Joy



Text: Psalm 100; Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, Stralsund Gesangbuch, 1665, Arr, in Praxis Pietatis Melica, 1668

Call to Worship—from Psalm 57:I-3, 5

Pastor: Be merciful to us, O God, be merciful to us, for in You our souls take refuge;

All: In the shadow of Your wings we will take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by.

Pastor: We cry out to God Most High, to God who fulfills his purpose for me.

All: You will send from heaven and save us;
You will put to shame him who tramples on me.

Pastor: God will send out his steadfast love and his faithfulness! Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!

All: Let Your glory be over all the earth!

Hymn of Refuge—Call Jehovah, Your Salvation (Psalm 91)



Text: Psalm 91, James Montgomery, 1822; Music: CALL JEHOVAH, Gregory Wilbur, 1996. ©1996 Greyfriars Press, Used by Permission.

Old Testament Reading—Malachi 4

"For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch.² But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. ³ And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts.

⁴ "Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

⁵ "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. ⁶ And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction."

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—Search Me, O God



Text: J. Edwin Orr, 1936; Music: Gregory Wilbur, 2018. © 2018 Greyfriars Press, Used by Permission.

Congregational Prayer of Confession—based on Ephesians 5:I-14

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing.

You call us as Your beloved children to be imitators of You.

You call us to walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us

as a fragrant offering and sacrifice.

All: But instead of thanksgiving, we give ourselves over to foolish talk, impurity and covetousness—which is idolatry.

Pastor: We are deceived by empty words, immorality and impurity and squander the inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

All: We act as partners with the sons of disobedience.

We are darkness instead of being light in the Lord.

Pastor: May we walk as children of light with fruit that is good and right and true. May we discern what is pleasing to You, O Lord.

All: Forgive us for taking part in the unfruitful works of darkness, instead of exposing them.

Pastor: May we respond to the call to

"Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on us."

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon—Ephesians 2:4-7

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Psalm of Supplication—Psalm 42: As the Deer Pants for Fresh Water



Text: Psalm 42, The Ailbe Psalter, 2006; Music: NETTLETON, Asahel Nettleton, 1825

The Reading of the Word—Mark 13:1-37

And as he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!" ² And Jesus said to him, "Do you see these great buildings? There will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down."

³ And as he sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴ "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are about to be accomplished?" ⁵ And Jesus began to say to them, "See that no one leads you astray. ⁶ Many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray. ⁷ And when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. This must take place, but the end is not yet. ⁸ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. These are but the beginning of the birth pains.

9 "But be on your guard. For they will deliver you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them. ¹⁰ And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations. ¹¹ And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. ¹² And brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death. ¹³ And you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

standing where he ought not to be (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁵ Let the one who is on the housetop not go down, nor enter his house, to take anything out, ¹⁶ and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. ¹⁷ And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in

those days! ¹⁸ Pray that it may not happen in winter. ¹⁹ For in those days there will be such tribulation as has not been from the beginning of the creation that God created until now, and never will be. ²⁰ And if the Lord had not cut short the days, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect, whom he chose, he shortened the days. ²¹ And then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'Look, there he is!' do not believe it. ²² For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect. ²³ But be on guard; I have told you all things beforehand.

²⁴ "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶ And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷ And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸ "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰ Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

32 "But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. 34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. 35 Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning— 36 lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. 37 And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake."

Leader: The grass withers, the flower fades;

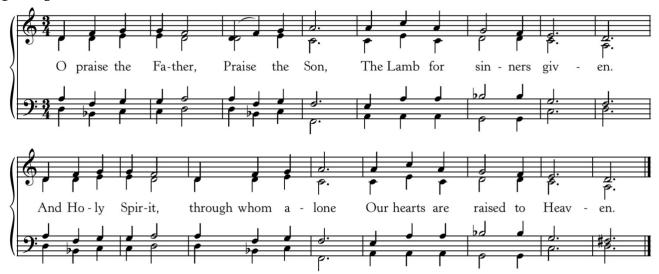
All: But the Word of our God will stand forever.

Sermon—Follow Me: The Gospel of Mark, pt 47

Living in the End Times

—Nate Shurden, Pastor

Sung Response—O Praise the Father



Text: John Mason, 1683; Music: Gregory Wilbur, 2011.

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.

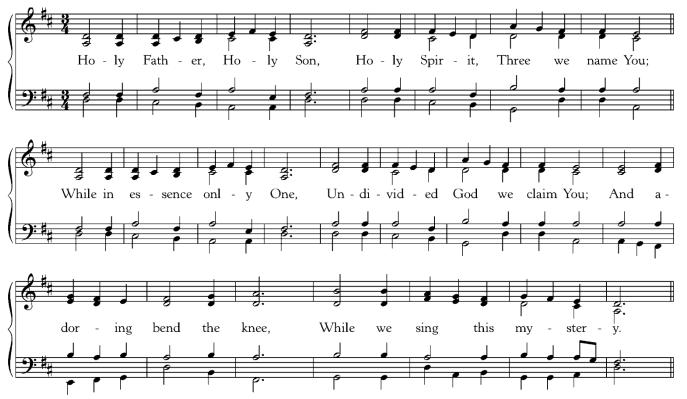
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* church,

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—Holy God We Praise Your Name, Vs 4



Text: Based on Te Deum, 4th c., Attr Ignace Franz, 1774; Music: GROSER GOTT, Katholisches Gesangbuch, 177

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 13: How Long Will You Forget Me, Lord?



CCLI #11121087 Words: The Scottish Psalter, 1650. Alt; Music: Josh Sparkman, 2020

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

Communion Hymn—If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee



If thou but suf - fer God to guide thee What can these an - xious cares a - vail thee Be pa - tient and a - wait His lei - sure All are a - like be - fore the High - est: Sing, pray, and keep His ways un-swerv-ing,

And hope in Him through all thy ways, These nev - er ceas - ing moans and sighs? In cheer-ful hope, with heart con - tent 'Tis eas - y for God, We know, our Per - form thy du ties faith - ful - ly,



He'll give thee strength, what - e'er be - tide thee, And bear thee through the e vil days. What can it help if thou be - wail thee O'er each dark mo - ment as flies? To take what-ever Fa - ther's plea-sure And His dis-cern - ing love hath sent, thy To raise thee up, though low thou li - est, To make the rich man poor and And trust His Word: though un - de - serv-ing, Thou yet shalt find it true for thee.



Builds on the rock that naught can move. Who trust in God's un - chang-ing love Our cross and tri als do but press The heav - ier for our bit - ter - ness. Nor doubt our in most wants are known To Him who chose us for His own. True won - ders still Him are wrought Who set - teth up brings by and to naught. nev - er yet for - sook in need The soul that trust - ed Him

Georg Neumark, 1641, trans Catherine Winkworth, 1855; Music: NEUMARK, Georg Neumark, 1657, Mod. 2011.

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



Text: Charles Wesley. 1707-88) and John Cennick, 1718-55; Music: HELMSLEY, 18th century English Melody.

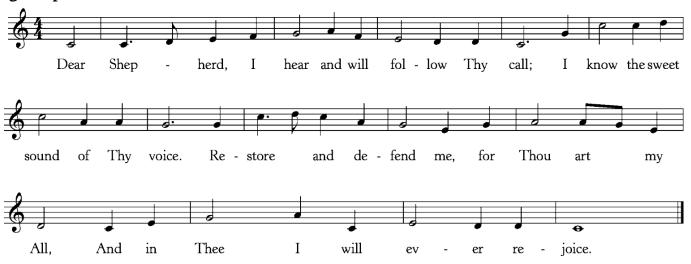
GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT TO BE LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

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 14:1-3

Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. *Amen.*

Sung Response—O Thou in Whose Presence, Vs II



Text: Joseph Swain, 1791; Music: DAVIS, 1813.

Focus on Church Ministry

Sunday School-Starts Today!

Adults: in the Chapel

Youth: Merridee's (meet on the patio in front of the Chapel to walk together)

Babies/Toddlers: Room 102

3 years - Kindergarten: Room 103

 $I^{st} - 2^{nd}$ grade: Room 104

3rd – 4th grade: Room 101

 $5^{th} - 6^{th}$ grade: Room 301

"Seasons of Life: A Season of the Unknown"

Sisters, please join us Thursday, September 30, at 6:00 p.m. at the Franklin Mercantile for our next "Seasons of Life" featuring guest speaker, Courtney Doctor. Courtney is an author and speaker, as well as the Director of Women's Initiatives for The Gospel Coalition, and we are thrilled to have the privilege of hearing from her. Bring your friends and youth aged daughters and granddaughters! Register through the website or app. *Space is limited*.

Men's Book Study

Join with other men from Cornerstone this fall in reading and discussing Carl Trueman's *The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self.* Our first meeting will take place this Tuesday, September 14, at 6:45 a.m. at Biscuit Love. Please register through the website or app.

Cornerstone Youth

Wednesday night Youth Group activities pick back up this week with an evening of fun in Pinkerton Park from 6:00–8:00 p.m. We will return to regular Youth Group activities at the church on September 22. All 7th-I2th graders are encouraged to attend. We provide dinner!

Coffee with Calvin

Our final installment of this men's summer series will take place this Thursday, September 16, 7:00 a.m. at the Franklin Mercantile.

Cornerstone Young Adults-Save the Date

Mark your calendars for Friday, September 24, at 6:00 p.m. for a fellowship at the home of Madeline Cawley. Additional details are coming soon. Contact: Taylor Thompson (taylor.thompson@tkc.edu) or Nathan Johnson (njohnson.professor@gmail.com).

Adult Sunday School

The Lay of the Land: Reflecting on the PCA and the 2021 General Assembly

This class begins today and 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.

Overflow Rooms

Masks are required in the overflow rooms during the 10:45 a.m. service.

Midweek at Cornerstone this Fall

In our fall Vespers series entitled, *Telling the Future:* The Last Days and Christian Hope, we'll explore how the doctrine of the end times provides the Christian with hope for life in today's world. In addition to this teaching series there will be Advent Choir rehearsal and discipleship programming for all ages. Please make plans to spend midweek with your Cornerstone family beginning, Wednesday, October 6. Additional details and registrations coming soon!

Seminary on Saturday

Westminster Theological Seminary is hosting "Seminary on Saturday" at Covenant Presbyterian in Nashville on November 6. Drs. David Garner and John Currie will be speaking on "Mission Unstoppable: Christ and His Church." You can find our more and register for this event at www.SeminaryOnSaturdays.com.

Today's message, "Living in the End Times" is taken from Mark 13:1-37. Please take time to discuss the questions below with your family, friends, or Home Fellowship Group.

- How do the two questions the disciples ask in v. 4 frame the content of the rest of the chapter? Why is it important to keep those two questions in mind when reading the chapter?
- Why does focusing on the end of time help order our lives in the present?
- Can you name a few of the key lessons Jesus taught his disciples in this passage? Of all the lessons, which one ministered to you the most?
- Did any of the confusing parts of Mark 13 come clear for you today? If so, what?
- What was your single biggest takeaway from today's message?

CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Presbyterian Church in America

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*On Sabbatical



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All Scripture quotations from the English Standard Version