

CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Service of Celebration and Gospel Renewal

The Sundays of Pentecost—Ordinary Time

19 September 2021

Pastoral Notes

Dear Cornerstone Family,

"At forty years old, the wheels started falling off." About ten years ago, I heard a good (older) friend make this statement. It sounded like an exaggeration at the time. I know better now.

At 40, I was in an airport standing next to someone who was reading a sign at the other end of the concourse. I thought to myself, "He can see that? He must have amazing eyes!" Turns out his eyes weren't amazing. He just had glasses. Apparently, I'll be joining the glasses wearing club before long.

I slightly twisted my ankle last week. It was no big deal. Except for the fact I'm still sore, and it's taken twice as long as it should to get better. I'm shocked at how easily (and often!) I hurt myself now, and how long it takes to heal up. When I mentioned this concern to a doctor friend, he responded, "Well, you are over forty." Sigh.

As I get older, I think about my body more. I am more cautious about what I do with it. I'm more attentive about what I put into it (well, some of the time). I'm more aware of its limits and the consequences for not respecting those limits. In short, I'm learning, albeit slowly, to respect my body for what it is and needs—ultimately, redemption.

Because of sin, our fearfully and wonderfully made bodies (Psalm 139:13-14) are plagued with infirmity and doomed to decay (Romans 8:20). Our bones break. Our joints ache. Our skin sags. Our mind slows. Our bodies fail. The older we get, the more we cry, "Who shall deliver me from this body of death?" (Romans 7:24).

Answer? The embodied Jesus Christ.

The body of Jesus Christ is essential to the salvation he came to bring. If he wasn't really a human being in every way, then he wouldn't be an adequate representative and substitute for real humans. Further, if he didn't come in a body, he couldn't save bodies. As Gregory of Nazianzus taught many centuries ago, "The unassumed is the unhealed." Meaning, if Jesus didn't take to himself a true body, he can't save our bodies. He only saves that which he is. Thankfully, the Scripture tells us clearly that Jesus was made like us in every way, "yet without sin" (see Hebrews 4:25), bearing "in his body on the tree" the penalty of our sins (I Peter 2:24), thus ensuring "the redemption of our bodies" (Romans 9:23).

Sam Allberry says it right: "The only hope for us is the body of Jesus, broken fully and finally for us. And by looking to his broken body we find true hope for our own. In Christ, our bodies are no longer identified by what we do *with* them, or by what others do *to* them, but by what Jesus has done *for* them."

That, my friends, is good news.

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, 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.

Hymn of Praise—All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name, vs I & 3



Text: Edward Perronet, 1779; alt. St. 4 John Rippon, 1787; Music: CORONATION, Oliver Holden, 1793.

Call to Worship—Psalm 72: 18, 12, 13, 14, 19

Pastor: Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,

who alone does wondrous things.

All: For he delivers the needy when he calls,

the poor and him who has no helper.

Pastor: He has pity on the weak and the needy,

and saves the lives of the needy.

All: From oppression and violence he redeems their life,

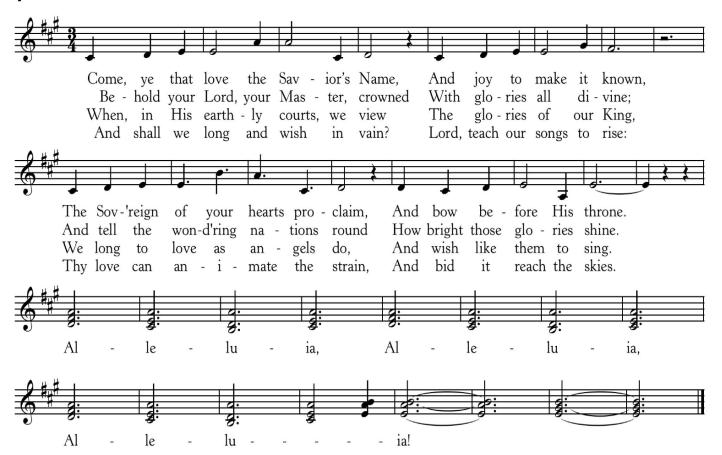
and precious is their blood in his sight.

Pastor: Blessed be his glorious name forever;

may the whole earth be filled with his glory!

All: Amen and Amen!

Hymn of Praise—Come Ye that Love the Savior's Name



CCLI #11121087 ©2008 Andrea Tisher, Text: Anne Steele, 1769; Music: Andrea Tisher, 2008.

New Testament Reading—I John 4:7-12

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

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—Lamb of God



Text: John I:29; Music: FRANKLIN AGNUS DEI, Gregory D Wilbur, 2009. ©2009 Greyfriars Press.

Congregational Prayer of Confession—based on 2 John I:4-II

Leader: Lord, we come confessing.

You have commanded us to love one another.

All: And we know that this is love—that we walk according to Your commandments.

Leader: We confess that we do not love Your law, Your precepts, and Your priorities as we ought.

All: We are deceived by things in the world that demand our attention, our resources, our time, and our affections.

Leader: Cause us to remember the reality of the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh— Love incarnate.

All: Give us grace to watch ourselves—to be able to discern what we truly believe and what we truly love.

May we demonstrate our love through our actions.

Leader: May we abide in Your Word so that our love may be trained to recognize deceit and walk in truth.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon—I John 4:9-10

9 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. IO In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Hymn of Praise—Jesus, I am Resting, Resting



CCLI #11121087 © 1998 New Spring Music; Text: Jean S. Pigott, 1876; Music: David Hampton, 1998.

The Reading of the Word—Mark 14:I-II

It was now two days before the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to arrest him by stealth and kill him, ² for they said, "Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar from the people."

³ And while he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he was reclining at table, a woman came with an alabaster flask of ointment of pure nard, very costly, and she broke the flask and poured it over his head. ⁴ There were some who said to themselves indignantly, "Why was the ointment wasted like that? ⁵ For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor." And they scolded her. ⁶ But Jesus said, "Leave her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. ⁷ For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you want, you can do good for them. But you will not always have me. ⁸ She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for burial. ⁹ And truly, I say to you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her."

¹⁰ Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. ¹¹ And when they heard it, they were glad and promised to give him money. And he sought an opportunity to betray him.

Leader: The grass withers, the flower fades;

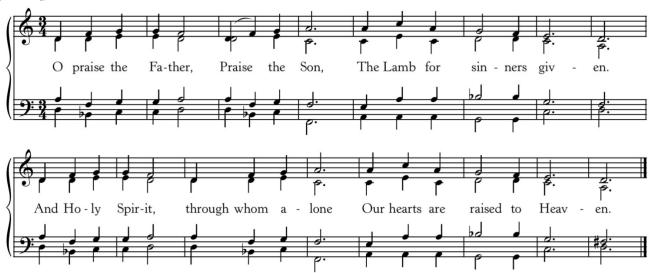
All: But the Word of our God will stand forever.

Sermon—Follow Me: The Gospel of Mark, pt 48

Extravagant Grace, Extravagant Devotion

—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—All Creatures of Our God and King, Vs 6



Text: Francis of Assisi, c. 1225, Tr William Draper, 1919; Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, Cologne, 1623.

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

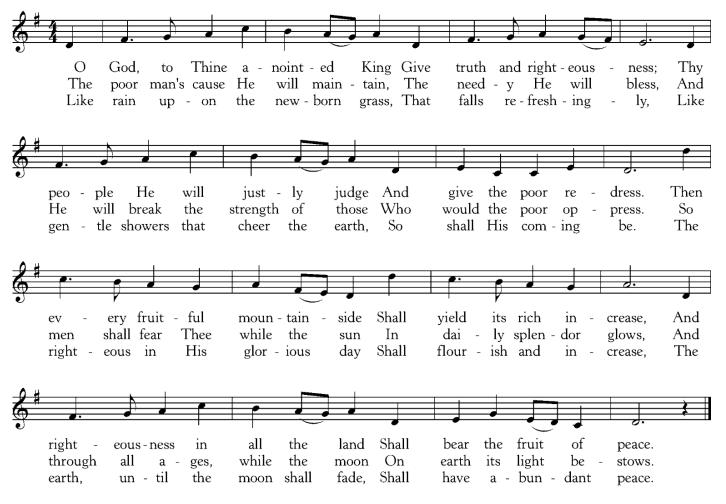
If you are not able to partake in the Lord's Supper today, please use this time to meditate on one of the following prayers.

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—Psalm 72: O God, To Thine Anointed King



Text: Psalm 72, The Psalter, 1912; Music: Gregory Wilbur, 2009. Used by Permission

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—Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness



Text: JSB Monsell, 1863; Music: SLANE, Irish Melody.

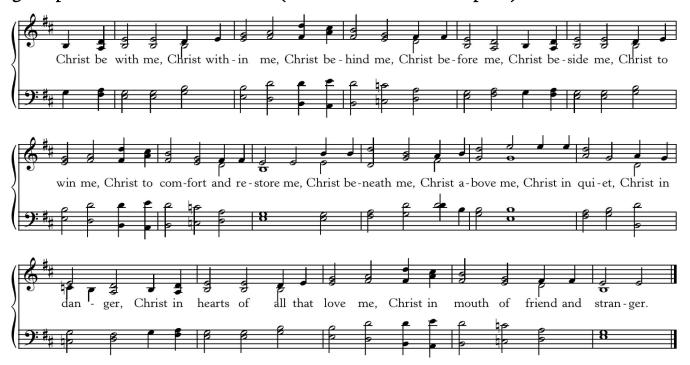
GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT TO BE LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

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—from 2 John 1:3

Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father's Son, in truth and love. *Amen.*

Sung Response—Christ Be With Me (from St. Patrick's Breastplate)



Text: Atomriug indui niurt tren, St. Patrick, 372-466, Trans by Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-95; Music: ST. PATRICK CLONMACNOISE, Traditional Irish Hymn Melody.

Missions Prayer Focus—David Carrera serves as the senior pastor at the Beth Sar Shalom Reformed Christian Church in Shelbyville, Tennessee. Prayer Focus:

- We are thankful for God's blessings we receive daily. We are thankful for our beloved brothers and sisters in Christ at Cornerstone for their prayers and support for our ministry.
- May God permit us to continue sharing his Word faithfully.
- May God be glorified in everything we do as a ministry.
- May God protect us during this pandemic.
- Through our online radio ministry, Belén la Radio, may we continue to share Sound Doctrine around the world.
- May God continue to provide for our ministry in material and economic needs.
- That God will keep my family's health good during this time.

Focus on Church Ministry

Music, Video and Sound Teams

We are looking for folks to help serve in the video and sound ministry on a rotation basis for video and when needed for sound. Training is available! In addition, we would love to include more players and singers for Sunday morning worship. For more information please contact Greg Wilbur: gwilbur@cstonepres.org

Sunday School

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.* We are meeting on Tuesdays at 6:45 a.m. at Biscuit Love. There's still time to join in! Please register through the website or app.

Overflow Rooms

Masks are required in the overflow rooms during the I0:45 a.m. service.

Cornerstone Youth

Youth Group is at the church on Wednesdays from 6:00-7:30 p.m. All $7^{th}-12^{th}$ graders are encouraged to attend. We provide dinner!

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

There are two weeks remaining in this class focusing on 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.

Midweek at Cornerstone

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, Youth Group, and Kids Club. 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 out more and register for this event at www.SeminaryOnSaturdays.com.

Today's message, "Extravagant Grace, Extravagant Devotion," is taken from Mark 14:1-11. Please take time to discuss the questions below with your family, friends, or Home Fellowship Group.

- Slow down and pay close attention to the woman's actions in the text. How do her actions reveal that she's been transformed by the grace of the gospel?
- Though some disagreed, in Jesus's estimation, it was right that this woman spent her ointment on him rather than give it to the poor. Why does Jesus see it that way?
- Sit with this question, "What is your devotion to Christ costing you?" If you cannot easily identify anything, ask yourself, "If I were as transformed by God's grace as this woman, what would I lay down at the feet of Jesus?"
- Jesus indicates this woman's action is bound up with the proclamation of the gospel throughout the world (see. v. 9). What does that mean? What implications might we draw from that statement?

CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Presbyterian Church in America

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Prayer Requests: prayer@cstonepres.org

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All Scripture quotations from the English Standard Version

