

CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Service of Celebration and Gospel Renewal

The Sundays of Pentecost—Ordinary Time

03 October 2021

Pastoral Notes

Dear Cornerstone Family,

There's a Scripture verse that means more to me with every passing year: "The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps" (Proverbs 16:9). I witnessed recently how this verse applies not only to twists and turns of my personal life, which is how I usually apply it, but to the life of the church.

Several weeks ago, we announced the hire of our new Office Administrator, Laura Sessions. We were so excited to see Laura put her tremendous gifts and talents to work in the area of church administration. But as the Lord would have it, Laura never joined our team. A couple of days before her start date, Laura called me with news. Between the time she accepted our employment offer and her actual start date, a dizzying number of significant family matters arose, causing Laura and her husband, Richie, to rethink the timing of Laura's entrance into full time employment. As Laura put it to me, "As hard as it is to step away from this role, right now my family needs me more than I need this job."

As you can imagine, we were disappointed that Laura wouldn't be joining our team, but we completely understood. We reopened our search for an Office Administrator, and in fairly short order, the Lord directed our steps to Mrs. Robin Spychalski (pronounced Spy-houski). To help you get to know Robin, I asked her to pen a few lines and tell us about herself. Here's what she wrote:

I was born in Ohio, but spent most of my childhood years in west Tennessee. I completed a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from UT Memphis, Health Science Center in 1996, and I have practiced as an RN in Neonatal and Women's health for 25 years.

I have lived in the middle Tennessee area since 1999 with my husband, Allen. We have been married 24 years and have two wonderful teenaged sons, Ryan and Evan. Ryan is now a freshman at Western Kentucky University studying Business Economics, and Evan is a junior at Grace Christian Academy with a love for music, writing and reading. My family and I are active members of Thompson Station Church and are involved in various volunteer roles.



Over the last year or more, and out of a desire to learn something new professionally, I began praying to the Lord and asking him for a new opportunity. I believe the Lord has opened that door with the position of Office Administrator for Cornerstone Presbyterian Church. My hope is that my years of experience serving and assisting others will transition very well in serving Pastor Nate, the leadership team, and you, the body of Christ at Cornerstone. I love the Lord and am so grateful to be serving Him in a new capacity!

Yes! We are grateful to God for providing Robin to serve in this way and look forward to seeing how she will be used to help us fulfill our vision, "To glorify God in the gospel as disciples who make disciples."

Your servant,

Nate

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 62:5-8

Pastor: For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence,

All: for my hope is from him.

Pastor: He only is my rock and my salvation,

All: my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

Pastor: On God rests my salvation and my glory;

All: my mighty rock, my refuge is God.

Pastor: Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him;

All: God is a refuge for us.

Hymn of Praise—How Firm a Foundation



Text: Rippon's Selection of Hymns, 1787; Music: FOUNDATION, Traditional American Melody

Old Testament Reading—Lamentations 1:12-16

"Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow, which was brought upon me, which the LORD inflicted on the day of his fierce anger. 13 "From on high he sent fire; into my bones he made it descend; he spread a net for my feet; he turned me back; he has left me stunned, faint all the day long. 14 "My transgressions were bound into a yoke; by his hand they were fastened together; they were set upon my neck; he caused my strength to fail; the LORD gave me into the hands of those whom I cannot withstand. 15 "The LORD rejected all my mighty men in my midst; he summoned an assembly against me to crush my young men; the LORD has trodden as in a winepress the virgin daughter of Judah. 16 "For these things I weep; my eyes flow with tears; for a comforter is far from me, one to revive my spirit; my children are desolate, for the enemy has prevailed."

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 Psalm 6

Pastor: O Lord, rebuke me not in your anger, nor discipline me in your wrath.

All: Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am languishing; heal me, O Lord, for my bones are troubled.

Pastor: My soul also is greatly troubled. But you, O Lord—how long?

All: Turn, O Lord, deliver my life; save me for the sake of your steadfast love.

Pastor: For in death there is no remembrance of you; in Sheol who will give you praise?

All: I am weary with my moaning; every night I flood my bed with tears; I drench my couch with my weeping.

Pastor: My eye wastes away because of grief; it grows weak because of all my foes.

All: Depart from me, all you workers of evil, for the Lord has heard the sound of my weeping.

Pastor: The Lord has heard my plea; the Lord accepts my prayer.

All: All my enemies shall be ashamed and greatly troubled; they shall turn back and be put to shame in a moment.

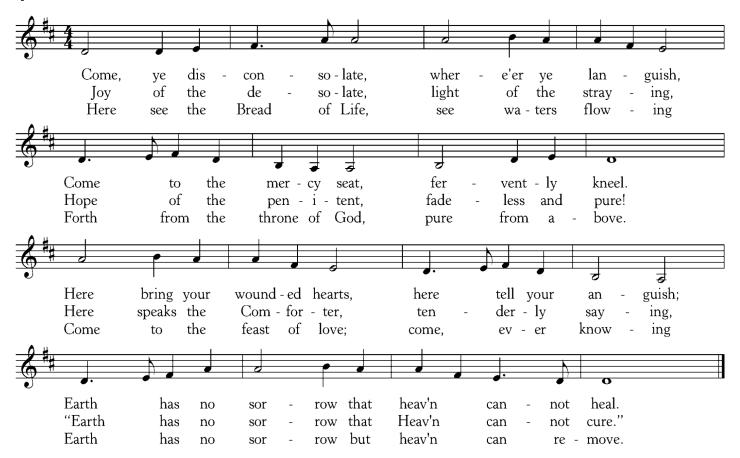
Pastor: Save me, O Lord, for your mercies' sake.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon—based on Colossians 2:13-14

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

Hymn of Promise—Come Ye Disconsolate



CCLI #11121087 Text: Thomas Moore, 1816; Music: DISCONSOLATE, Gregory D Wilbur, 2007.

The Reading of the Word—Mark 14:12-25

²⁶ And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. ²⁷ And Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away, for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' ²⁸ But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee." ²⁹ Peter said to him, "Even though they all fall away, I will not." ³⁰ And Jesus said to him, "Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times." ³¹ But he said emphatically, "If I must die with you, I will not deny you." And they all said the same.

³² And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." ³³ And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. ³⁴ And he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch." ³⁵ And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. ³⁶ And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." ³⁷ And he came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour? ³⁸ Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." ³⁹ And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. ⁴⁰ And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy, and they did not know what to answer him. ⁴¹ And he came the third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough; the hour has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴² Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand."

⁴³ And immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. ⁴⁴ Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man. Seize him and lead him away under guard." ⁴⁵ And when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" And he kissed him. ⁴⁶ And they laid hands on him and seized him. ⁴⁷ But one of those who stood by drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. ⁴⁸ And Jesus said to them, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? ⁴⁹ Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But let the Scriptures be fulfilled." ⁵⁰ And they all left him and fled.

⁵¹ And a young man followed him, with nothing but a linen cloth about his body. And they seized him, ⁵² but he left the linen cloth and ran away naked.

Leader: The grass withers, the flower fades;

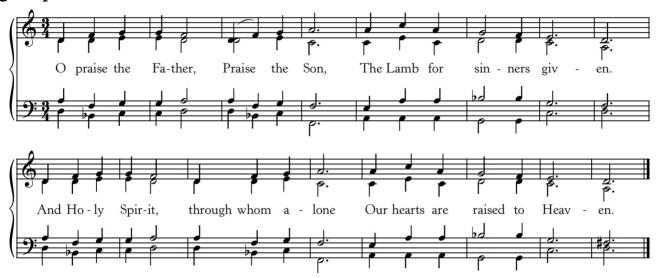
All: But the Word of our God will stand forever.

Sermon—Follow Me: The Gospel of Mark, pt 50

Passing the Test in the Garden

—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 102: Lord, Hear My Prayer



CCLI #11121087 ©2007 Greyfriars Press; Text: Paraphrase of Psalm 102; Music: Gregory WIlbur, 2007.

Hymn of Praise—God is My Strong Salvation: Psalm 27



Text: Psalm 27, James Montgomery, 1822; Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1864.

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

Hymn of Praise—He Will Hold Me Fast



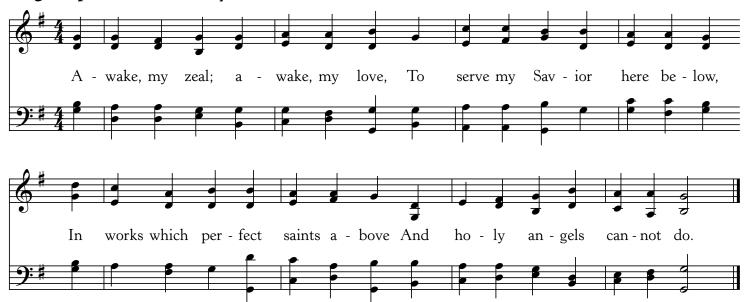
GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT TO BE LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

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—Jude 24-25

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

Sung Response—Awake My Zeal, Vs I



Text: Isaac Watts, 1707; Music: TALLIS CANON, Thomas Tallis, 1560.

Missions Prayer Focus—Rebecca Giles (daughter of our Tony and Marylynn Giles) helps facilitate theological education at the Chalmers Institute, a non-profit, parachurch learning community in St. Andrews, Scotland. She also helps disciple teen girls and the youth group. She also mentors university students at the University of St. Andrews who attend the church and coordinates ministry for missionary kids in Europe. She is planning to move back to the US and begin a new work. Details are below in the prayer points.

- I. Pray for the work that continues in Scotland at Chalmers Institute at the start of the Learning Community which is able to meet in person for the first time in a year and a half. The courses are 'Public Theology' and 'Spiritual Formation' and believers across Scotland are able to participate with the intention that their faith would be strengthened as they go and share with others.
- 2. Cornerstone Church in St Andrews has a number of new staff this year. Pray for them to be unified in vision and leadership. Praise God for our new youth leader, Matthew Graham who will be leading teens through a study on the Psalms this semester. Cornerstone also found a building for Sunday morning worship in the town's Bowling Club, and what a joy it has been to gather together on Sunday mornings as a larger congregation.
- 3. Pray for Rebecca as she travels and speaks at various churches throughout the autumn, for the practical provision of a car and for rest and renewal during debriefing in Colorado in early December. Pray that she will leave her position at MTW well. Pray also for her new work with Serge starting Jan I, 2022 as the Associate Team Leader for Member Care. Pray for her as she looks for a place to live, most likely in Philadelphia near the Home Office.

Focus on Church Ministry

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 a catered dinner available on the back patio at Biscuit Love at 5:30 p.m. with programming for all ages beginning at 6:00 p.m. Dinner for this week is from Chick-Fil-A. Registration for dinner is open through the website or app until tomorrow at noon. \$5/person, \$20/family maximum. Please make plans to spend midweek with your Cornerstone family beginning Wednesday, October 6.

Choir for Fall and Advent—Wednesdays at 7:15pm

Following Vespers and Youth, come join with others as we prepare choral music for our annual Lessons and Carols service as well as other opportunities during the holiday season. Please contact Greg for more information: greg@cstonepres.org

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: greg@cstonepres.org

Giving

There are boxes for tithes and alms available at both entrances to the Chapel, or you can give safely and securely online through the church website.

The Bookshelf

The new Blessings of the Faith book series is finally in print! These brief primers aim at introducing and celebrating the richness of Reformed doctrine and practice. Only \$5 apiece!

- Persistent Prayer by Guy Richard
- Covenantal Baptism by Jason Helopoulos
- Expository Preaching by David Strain

Overflow Rooms

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

Men's Fall Fellowship

Brothers, cooler temps are here! Let's enjoy this weather together! Saturday, October 23rd, from 4-7 p.m., we are going to gather around the fire pit at Randy Allen's house (2490 McLemore Cir) and enjoy some barbecue and brotherly fellowship. Make plans now to join us!

Sunday School

Adults: choose from The Cornerstone School of Discipleship offerings (listed below)

Youth: Merridee's

Babies/Toddlers: Room 102

3 years - Kindergarten: Room 103

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

3rd – 4th grade: Room 101

5th – 6th grade: Room 30I

The Cornerstone School of Discipleship

Core Class: The Mystery of the Holy Spirit led by Tony Giles (Room 303)

In this six week course, your understanding of the Holy Spirit's person and work will deepen as you explore the indispensable ministry of this mysterious and often underappreciated member of the Trinity. R.C. Sproul's *The Mystery of the Holy Spirit* is a supplemental resource. Available on The Bookshelf for \$10.

Elective Class: Pursuing the Joy of a Clear Conscience led by various teachers (Chapel)

In this six week course, you will come to appreciate why the Bible emphasizes the importance of a clear conscience, gaining practical instruction in how to train a conscience, how to free a guilty conscience, and how to peaceably work through matters of conscience with those in whom you disagree.

Young Moms' Encouragement Group

If you have young children, this is for you! This new group will meet three times before Christmas for a night out with a purpose. The first meeting is October 2I (location TBD). Please let us know you're interested in participating by filling out a form through the midweek email or on the Women's Ministry page of the church website. Questions? women@cstonepres.org

Today's message, "Passing the Test in the Garden," is taken from Mark 14:22-52. Please take time to discuss the questions below with your family, friends, or Home Fellowship Group.

- It's been said that, "Pride goes before a fall" (Prov. 16:18) is an apt description of the disciples in this passage. Why is knowing our vulnerabilities critical to being able to resist temptation in times of trial?
- In contrast to the disciples' actions, what do Jesus's actions teach us about how to face fears and vulnerabilities?
- What parallels do you see between the battle at the beginning of time in the Garden of Eden, and the battle from today's passage in the Garden of Gethsemane? What differences do you see?
- How did your understanding of Jesus Christ deepen from today's message?
- What from today's message can you immediately apply to your life?

CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Presbyterian Church in America

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Assistant Pastor: Ben Griffith (601-606-2687) at ben@cstonepres.org
Assistant Pastor: Tony Giles (615-430-8801) or tony@cstonepres.org
Worship and Chief Musician: Greg Wilbur (615-512-4156) or greg@cstonepres.org
Office Administrator: Robin Spychalski (615-618-4707) or office@cstonepres.org

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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

