

CORNERSTONE Presbyterian Church

obow Ne The Gospel of Mark

Service of Celebration and Gospel Renewal The Sundays of Pentecost—Ordinary Time 24 October 2021

Pastoral Notes

Dear Cornerstone Family,

When God speaks of Israel in the Old Testament, He often employs the language of treasure (see Exodus 19:5, Psalm 135:4). Similarly, in the New Testament, the church is referred to as God's "holy people" and His "treasured possession" (I Peter 2:9; Titus 2:14). Astonishingly, when God considers you, His church, the word that comes to His mind is *treasure*.

That said, I'm in regular conversation with Christians that struggle to believe God treasures them. They are so deeply aware of the ugliness of their sin and deficiency of their character that they find it almost impossible to believe God treasures them. "It sounds too good to be true," they say.

To help them believe it's true, I'll often ask, "How do you know how much something is worth?" They respond, "By how much I'm willing to pay for it." Exactly! We reveal how much we *treasure* something by how much *treasure* we're willing to give up to acquire it! The same is true when it comes to God treasuring us.

The Scripture tells us that God loved us so much that He *bought us* (I Corinthians 7:23). And get this: we weren't cheap! He paid an incredibly high price to make us His own. He gave His only son for us (John 3:16). He purchased us with His blood (Galatians 3:13-15). We are to Him a treasure!

When the reality of this life-laying-down-love truly breaks in upon the heart of the Christian, we can't help but respond by treasuring God in return. One of the main ways this is expressed is by pursuing heavenly treasure over earthly treasure (Luke 12:21). That is, we're less tempted to waste our time, energy, and resources on the fleeting matters of temporal life, and we're more and more inclined to investing in what lasts-eternal matters. We know this is happening in our life when we learn to lovingly release our earthly treasure for eternal gain. When God is truly our one, true, and lasting treasure, we will easily trade our earthly wealth for heavenly dividends.

As we closed out the first quarter of our 2021-2022 budget year, it is clear to me that you, the faithful givers of Cornerstone, are investing in eternity. Through your generous giving, Cornerstone's fiscal health continues to strengthen while our ministry expands. Let's rejoice over God's provision for Cornerstone as together we continue to pursue heavenly treasure!

Cornerstone Presbyterian Church Ist Quarter Financial Report 2021-22

I	Ist	Quarter 2021/2	<u>2021-22 Full Year</u>			
	Actual	<u>Budget</u>	Difference	<u>Budget</u>		
Giving	\$313,992	\$242,350	\$71,642	\$1,053,000		
Expense	\$228,287	\$249,300	-\$21,013	\$1,053,000		
Deficit/Surplus	\$85,705	-\$6,950	\$92,655	\$O		

Your servant,

Sate

I

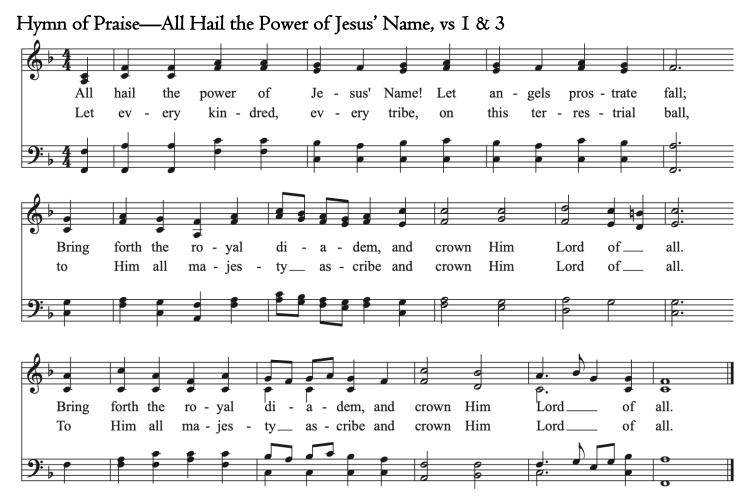
Worship is a response to the love of God that brings us out of darkness into his light. The rhythm and flow of the service reflects this present reality as God calls his people and reveals himself, forgives their sins, teaches them from his Word, the Bible, feeds them, and then sends them out to live 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: Edward Perronet, 1779; alt. St. 4 John Rippon, 1787; Music: CORONATION, Oliver Holden, 1793.

Call to Worship-from Psalm 31:1-3, 5b

Pastor: In you, O LORD, do we take refuge; let us never be put to shame;

All: In your righteousness deliver us!

Pastor: Incline your ear to us; rescue us speedily!

All: Be a rock of refuge for us, a strong fortress to save us!

Pastor: For you are our rock and our fortress; and for your name's sake you lead us and guide us;

All: You have redeemed us, O LORD, faithful God.

Hymn of Praise—O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus



Text: Samuel Trevor Francis, 1834-1925; Music: EBENEZER, Thomas John Williams, 1890.

New Testament Reading—Galatians 3:10-14

10 For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them." II Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for "The righteous shall live by faith." 12 But the law is not of faith, rather "The one who does them shall live by them." 13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"—14 so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

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



Congregational Prayer of Confession —from Isaiah 1:18, Hebrews 9:11-12, 22, I Peter 1:18-19, Ephesians 2:12-13

Leader: "Come now, let us reason together," says the Lord: "though your sins are like scarlet,

All: they shall be as white as snow;

Leader: though they are red like crimson,

All: they shall become like wool."

Leader: Under the law almost everything is purified with blood,

All: and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

- Leader: But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, he entered once for all into the holy places,
- All: not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.

Leader: Remember that you were separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

- All: But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.
- Leader: You were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold,
- All: but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon—Micah 7:18-19

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity

and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance?

He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love.

He will again have compassion on us;

he will tread our iniquities underfoot.

You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

Hymn of Praise—Adam, Our Father, and Our Head



Text: Isaac Watts, 1707; Music: CCLI #11121087 Keith Getty and Stuart Townend, © 2002 Thankyou Music.

And bow to

bove,

a -

Mission Report

thrones,

stoop from

—Rebecca Giles, Mission to the World

ious

love.

this mys-ter

The Reading of the Word—Mark 15:21-47

²¹ And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. ²² And they brought him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull).²³ And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. ²⁴ And they crucified him and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take. ²⁵ And it was the third hour when they crucified him. ²⁶ And the inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." ²⁷ And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁹ And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, ³⁰ save yourself, and come down from the cross!" ³¹ So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked him to one another, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. ³² Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also reviled him.

³³ And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. ⁴ And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ³⁵ And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "Behold, he is calling Elijah." ³⁶ And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." ³⁷ And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. ³⁸ And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹ And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

⁴⁰ There were also women looking on from a distance, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. ⁴¹ When he was in Galilee, they followed him and ministered to him, and there were also many other women who came up with him to Jerusalem.

⁴² And when evening had come, since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath, ⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.⁴⁴ Pilate was surprised to hear that he should have already died. And summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. ⁴⁵ And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the corpse to Joseph. ⁴⁶ And Joseph bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud and laid him in a tomb that had been cut out of the rock. And he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. ⁴⁷ Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where he was laid.

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 53 The Tearing of Heaven

-Tony Giles, Pastor



Sung Response—Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted, Vs 4

Text: Thomas Kelly, 1804; Music: O MEIN JESU, ICH MUSS STERBEN, Geistliche Volkslieder, Paderborn, 1850.

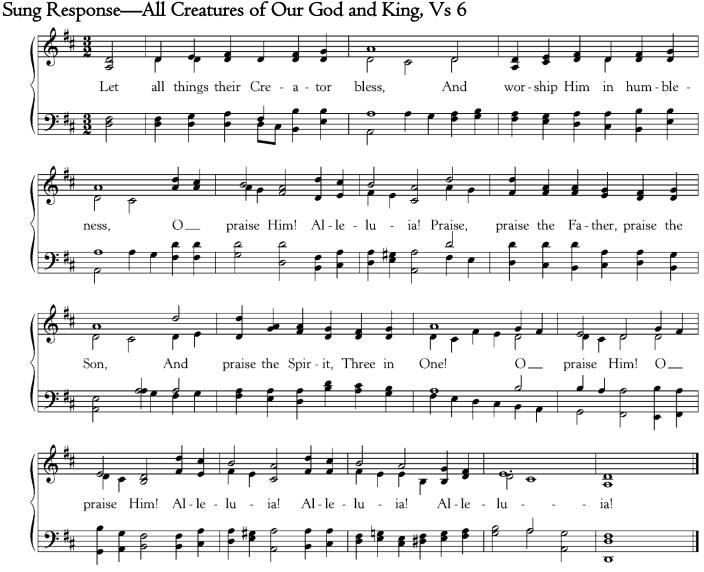
Profession of Faith-The Apostles' Creed

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



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

2	3	+ +										
Ø	4	0		• •					0	•		
J	Lord, My But The	hear heart Thou, Lord,	my pray is with Je - ho ex - alt	/	like	my cry the gra en - dur His thro	ss, e,	And Thy	read - I throne down	for - for -	ac - get ev - Heav'n	cess my er with
6		Theor	When		dia tuan		P These	P I	o for		hida	
	un - to dai - ly is the pity - ing	Thee; bread; same; eye	When In And To	lone - to	dis - tress ly griet all gen the low	f my - er -	Thee days a - cap		fly, pass sure moan	O And Shall And	hide sad be save	not my Thy His
\$	Thou thoughts great peo -	Thy up - me - ple	face on mor - doomed	from my ial to	me. bed. Name. die.		The t	,	Lord, - proac Zi Zi		my all shelp shall	de - the is de -
6	sire, O day, My near, Th clare His	y drinl e time	k is	-	swer my - ed with	when bread in one	I is Thy ac -	pray; grief, love; cord,		For For O When	grief in let kings	con - Thy Thy and
6	na -	I p cious a tions g	etrength bine hid gath -	like fir a - wa ap - pe er the	ar, Loo ere To	k Thou serve	as are in and	smoke like mer - wor -	ship	swift fad - from God	a - wa ing lea a - bo the Lc	if. ve.

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

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*

Congregational Hymn—O Sacred Head Now Wounded



Text: Bernard of Clairvaux (1091-1153); tr by Paul Gerhardt, 1656; James W. Alexander, 1830; Music: Hans Leo Hassler, 1601; Arr. By J.S. Bach, 1729

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—Here is Love



Text: William Reess, st 1-2, 1855; tr by William Edwards, 1915; st 3-4 attr William Williams, 1744; Music: Cymraeg, Robert Lowery, 1876

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—I Peter 5:10-11

May the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. *Amen*.



Sung Response—O Praise the Father

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

Missions Prayer Focus—Dan and Julie Meyers minister to U.S. Army personnel based at Ft. Campbell while living in Clarksville, TN. Dan leads two Bible studies during the week, one of those which meet in their home. Dan leads two Bible studies each week. Our Wednesday night meal and study is going really well. Right now, we regularly have 10-12 showing up. We are encouraged by what God is doing as we go through the book of John.

We have been encountering a number of soldiers dealing with life crises (ie second-time divorces, sexual orientation confusion, etc.) Please pray that we can reach them with the truth and hope of the gospel.

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

10 Year Anniversary Celebration

Be sure to be here throughout November as we celebrate ten years of God's faithfulness to Cornerstone. Our month of remembering will culminate on November 21 with a combined worship service at Liberty Hall in The Factory at 10:00 a.m., and dinner and a party in that same location in the evening beginning at 5:30 p.m. There are opportunities to volunteer and help all this come together as well. Register online through the app or website.

Midweek at Cornerstone

Find all the details about Midweek, including the schedule and dinner registration, on the church website and app. Registration for dinner is open until Monday at noon. Dinner for October 27 is Jason's Deli sliders, potato salad, and cookies. \$5/person, \$20/family maximum. Please make plans to spend midweek with your Cornerstone family!

Conversation with Jonathan Rogers & Carolyn Weber

Monday, October 25, 7:00 p.m. at Cornerstone

You are invited to a live taping of *The Habit* podcast in which author Jonathan Rogers will interview Carolyn Weber. Dr. Weber is a noted professor, speaker, and author of the award-winning memoir *Surprised by Oxford*, which is also currently being made into a feature film. She now teaches rhetoric, logic, and writing at New College Franklin.

Seeing the Gospel in Stories

Monday, November I, 7:00 p.m.

Using the Grimm's Fairy Tales "Snow White" and "Hansel and Gretel," we will talk about how to read for symbols in a story, how that helps us to understand Scripture, and how these stories intentionally tell the story of the Gospel and redemption. There are free copies available on The Bookshelf, or look for the downloadable pdf on the 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

Youth Group Bonfire and Hayride - Tonight!

All 7th-12th graders are invited to the Brookses' (1020 Lumsden Lane) for a bonfire and hayride tonight, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Questions? youth@cstonepres.org

Sunday School

Adults: choose from The Cornerstone School of Discipleship offerings:

<u>Core Class</u>: The Mystery of the Holy Spirit led by Tony Giles (Room 303) <u>Elective Class</u>: Pursuing the Joy of a Clear Conscience led by various teachers (Chapel) Youth: Merridee's Babies/Toddlers: Room 102 3 years - Kindergarten: Room 103 Ist - 2nd grade: Room 104 3rd - 4th grade: Room 101 5th - 6th grade: Room 301

Thursday Morning Men's Study Returns

Steve Barnes is leading a study through Sinclair Ferguson's *Union with Christ* that meets at 7:00 a.m. at the Franklin Mercantile. Books are provided. Contact Steve Barnes: gilchrist.steve@gmail.com.

Jam Session: Sunday, November 7 at 5:00pm

For players, singers, musicians, and interested bystanders! Bring your instrument, and we will have an evening of playing and singing hymns, worship songs, new songs, old songs, etc. All levels of expertise welcome. If you have some suggested songs, contact greg@cstonepres.org ahead of time. Today's message "The Tearing of Heaven" is taken from Mark 15:21-47. Please take time to discuss the questions below with your family, friends or Home Fellowship Group.

- What are the clues in chapter 15 that Mark intends the trial and crucifixion as an enthronement of Jesus as the Messiah?
- In the exodus from Egypt the plague of darkness had been God's last word to Pharoah before the angel of death visited the land. (See Exodus 10:21-23). How might that inform our understanding of the strange darkness at Jesus's death? (v 33)
- According to Hebrews 10:19-25, what is the basis of our confidence to enter the presence of a holy God? How does the writer of Hebrews "apply" the text to our lives (Hint: "Let us ... ")
- What circumstances or events have caused you to feel abandoned by God? How does the fact that Jesus was forsaken by the Father (v. 34) assure you that you will never be forsaken?
- What did you most need to hear from today's message?

CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Presbyterian Church in America

Pastor: Nate Shurden (615-618-4707 Office) or nate@cstonepres.org 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 Administrative Assistant for Discipleship: Martha Brooks martha@cstonepres.org Home Fellowship Information: HFG@cstonepres.org Women's Ministry Director: Martha Brooks (615-591-1683) or women@cstonepres.org Men's Ministry: Ron Moffat or men@cstonepres.org Acting Youth Director: Taylor Thompson (717-371-0848) or youth@cstonepres.org Nursery Coordinator: Christy Shurden or nursery@cstonepres.org Prayer Requests: prayer@cstonepres.org

Randy Allen (615-260-1884) Chuck Emerson: *Emeritus* (615-943-8443) Joe Haworth (615-289-7543)

Ruling Elders 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)

Deacons

*Mark Elliott (615-477-1041) Matt Faulk (714-801-7596) Dan Fiedler (615-812-4032) Kevin McClung (615-243-9228) Mike Payne (615-579-6453) Wes Pittman (615-393-0365) Brent Roberts (615-394-0662) *Jim Robinson (615-587-0442) Todd Russell (615-319-4803)

Matt Suits (706-218-2823) Casey Taggart (662-813-3563) Larry Thompson (901-734-1520) Bob Vermilye (615-943-8139)



*On Sabbatical

Post Office Box 407 Franklin, Tennessee 37065 www.cornerstonepresfranklin.org (615) 618-4707

All Scripture quotations from the English Standard Version