



CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Follow Me!



The Gospel of Mark

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND GOSPEL RENEWAL
Reformation Sunday & All Saints'
31 October 2021

Pastoral Notes

Dear Cornerstone Family:

Today we reach the end of the gospel of Mark, or do we? If you have your Bible with you (and I hope you do), take a quick look at Mark 16. Are you there? Good. Now, depending on your Bible, you likely see a bracketed comment after v. 8 that says something to the effect, “Some of the earliest manuscripts do not include 16:9-20.” Then, if you look at vs. 9-20, you’ll probably see a double bracket around them or maybe the whole section will be italicized to indicate it may not be (probably isn’t) a part of the original gospel.

If you were to do a survey of scholarship—conservative or liberal—in the last hundred and fifty years or so, you’d be hard pressed to find one commentator argue that Mark 16:9-20 is original. I actually tried to find one this week and struck out. Clearly, it’s become almost universally accepted that the longer ending was a later addition and not present in Mark’s manuscript.

Even a quick read of Mark 16:9-20 will raise eyebrows. There is an unusual focus on supernatural signs including handling snakes and drinking poison that simply do not ring true with the aim and theological emphases of Mark’s gospel. Further, when you read some of the roiling theological debates in the early church around signs and the supernatural, it’s possible that one side’s emphases were written in at the end of Mark as a means of adding authority to a certain position. But we can’t say for sure.

One of the more plausible theories suggests that the abrupt ending to the gospel in v. 8 leaves the reader in tension. The tomb is empty, and the angel shares the good news that Jesus is risen, but the person of Jesus is nowhere to be found. We’re told he’s going to meet the disciples in v. 7, but we’re not given a report about that meeting. Could it be that the longer ending was added to relieve this tension? Again, we can’t say for sure.

Now, this raises a host of important questions. Questions like how the Bible came to be, how were the books of the Bible determined to be Scripture, and can we trust that everything in the Bible is God’s Word. As you might imagine, I do not have space or time to address all these big questions, but I’m grateful to say there are strong, solid answers to every one of them. In due time, I look forward to tackling them with you. For now, I’d encourage you to gain comfort from the conclusion Dr. Elijah Hixson draws about this matter.

“Uncertainty here makes us uncomfortable, but we lose nothing of our faith if Mark ends at 16:8, and God often calls us to trust him in the face of uncertainty. Without faith it’s impossible to please him, after all. Since faith is the assurance of things hoped for (Hebrews 11:1) and seen hope is not real hope (Romans 8:24), it wouldn’t be walking by faith if God answered all of our questions. That would be walking by sight. With or without Mark 16:9-20, the tomb is empty, Jesus has purchased our pardon, and we can be certain of that.”

Your servant,



October 31, 1517 was the day an Augustinian monk by the name of Martin Luther fastened his now famous 95 Theses (or grievances) to the cathedral door in Wittenberg, Germany. In God's good providence, that simple act of principled courage—standing for the truth of the gospel—led to one of the greatest church reform movements the world has ever seen.

The next day, November 1st, was the annual observance of All Saints' Day—a day set apart to remember those who died in Christ and await His return. It has been suggested that Martin Luther chose to nail his 95 Theses on the night before All Saints Day, because his protest was calling the church to return to “the faith once delivered to the saints” (Jude 1:3).

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—I Know that My Redeemer Lives, Vs I

I know that my Re - deem - er lives: What joy this blest as - sur - ance gives!

He lives, He lives, who once was dead; He lives, my ev - er - last - ing head!

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738-99; Music: DUKE STREET, John Hatton, 1793.

Call to Worship—Psalm 27:I-4, 6

Pastor: The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

All: **The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**

Pastor: When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh,
my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.

All: **Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;
though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.**

Pastor: One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,

All: **to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire⁶³ in his temple.**

Pastor: And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;

All: **I will sing and make melody to the LORD.**

Hymn of Praise—A Mighty Fortress

A might - y fort - ress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er fail - ing; Our
 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be los - ing; Were
 And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un - do us, We
 That Word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a - bid - eth; The

help - er He, a - mid the flood of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing: For
 not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choos - ing: Dost
 will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to tri - umph through us: The
 Spir - it and the gifts are ours through Him Who with us sid - eth: Let

still our an - cient foe doth seek to work us woe; His craft and power are
 ask who that may be? Christ Je - sus, it is He; Lord Sa - ba - oth, His
 Prince of Dark - ness grim, we trem - ble not for him; His rage we can en -
 goods and kin - dred go, this mor - tal life al - so; The bod - y they may

great, and, armed with cru - el hate, On earth is not his e - qual.
 Name, from age to age the same, And He must win the bat - tle.
 dure, for lo, his doom is sure, One lit - tle word shall fell him.
 kill: God's truth a - bid - eth still, His king - dom is for - ev - er.

Text: Psalm 46, Martin Luther, 1529, trans Frederick H. Hedge, 1853; Music: EIN'FESTE BURG, Martin Luther, 1529.

New Testament Reading—Romans 8:1-II

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.²For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh,⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.⁶For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.⁷For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.⁸Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.¹⁰But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

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

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are: "Lamb of God who takes a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy on us." The first two systems are identical. The third system begins with "Lamb of God who takes a - way the sins of the world," and the fourth system repeats "Grant us Your peace." three times.

Text: John 1:29; Music: FRANKLIN AGNUS DEI, Gregory D Wilbur, 2009. ©2009 Greyfriars Press.

Congregational Prayer of Confession—based on Ephesians 2:1-7 & Romans 6:12

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. We once walked in the path of this world
following the pattern of it and the spirit of the age.

All: And we were dead in trespasses and sins.

Pastor: We all once lived in the passions of our flesh,
carrying out the desires of the body and the desires of the mind.

All: We were by nature children of wrath like the rest of mankind.

Pastor: But You, being rich in mercy,
because of the great love with which You loved us,
even when we were dead in our trespasses,

All: You made us alive together with Christ.

Pastor: By grace You saved us and raised us up with Christ
and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Him.

**All: In the coming ages You will show the immeasurable riches of Your grace
in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus.**

Pastor: Give us the grace and faith to not let sin reign in our mortal bodies,
to not obey its passions.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon—Titus 3:4-7

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Hymn of Praise—Glory to God! The Morn Appointed Breaks

Glo - ry to God! The morn ap - poin - ted breaks, And
 Glo - ry to God! The cross, with all its shame, Now
 Glo - ry to God! Sing, ran - somed souls a - - gain, And
 Dark - ness and night, fare - well! The morn is here; Wel -
 Great Son of God, im - mor - tal and re - nowned! Brigh -

earth a - - - wakes from all the woe - ful past; For,
 sheds its glo - - ry o'er a ran - somed world; For
 let your songs our glor - ious vic - tor laud, Who
 come! the light that ush - ers in the day; Vi -
 ter than morn the glo - ry on Thy brow; Crowns

with the morn, the Lord of life - - - wakes, And
 He who bore the bur - den of our blame, With
 by His might hath snapped the ty - rant's chain, And
 sions of joy be - fore our sight ap - - - pear, And,
 must be won, and Thou are no - bly crowned, For

sin and death in - to the grave are cast.
 pier - cèd hands the foe to hell hath hurled.
 set us free to rise with Him to God.
 like the clouds, our sor - rows melt a - - - way.
 death is dead, and sin is van - - - quished now.

Text: John Brownlie, *Hymns of the Early Church*, 1913; Music: Greyfriars, 2016

The Reading of the Word—Mark 16:1-9

When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³And they were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?” ⁴And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. ⁵And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. ⁶And he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.” ⁸And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

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 54

Making Sense of the Empty Tomb

—Nate Shurden, *Pastor*

Sung Response—Christ Is Risen! Hallelujah!

Christ is ris - en! Hal - le - lu - jah! Ris - en our vic - tor - ious Head!

Sing His prais - es! Hal - le - lu - jah! Christ is ris - en from the dead!

Grate - ful - ly our hearts a - dore Him, As His light once more ap - pears,

Bow - ing down in joy be - fore Him, Ris - ing up from grief and tears,

Sing His prais - es! Hal - le - lu - jah! Christ is ris - en from the dead!

The musical score consists of five systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The music is in 3/4 time and G major. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

Text: James S.B. Monsell, 1863; Music: FOUNT OF GLORY, R.W. Thompson, 1864, Adapted GDW. ©2010 Greyfriars Press

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—All Creatures of Our God and King, Vs 6

Let all things their Cre - a - tor bless, And wor - ship Him in hum - ble -
ness, O__ praise Him! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise, praise the Fa - ther, praise the
Son, And praise the Spir - it, Three in One! O__ praise Him! O__
praise Him! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - - - ia!

The image shows a four-system musical score for a sung response. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system ends with a double bar line. The second system ends with a double bar line. The third system ends with a double bar line. The fourth system ends with a double bar line and a final chord symbol 'C'.

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.

Hymn of Promise—What Wondrous Love is This

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing, to God and to the Lamb I will sing;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and when from death I'm free I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joy-ful be, and through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing on!

Text: American Folk Hymn; Music: WONDROUS LOVE, *Southern Harmony*, 1835.

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—Creator God, Our Sovereign Lord

Cre - a - tor God, our Sov - 'reign Lord, The heav - ens
 In Truth your Word re - veals my guilt, My lost, un -
 Be - fore you made the world you chose, In love, to
 O Christ, Re - deem - er, Sav - ior, King, Sub - dued by
 O glor - ious God, who reigns on high, With heart in

tell, the stars have shown, Your splen - dor, might, and De - i -
 wor - thy self makes known, But now made new I'm just - i -
 send your on - ly Son To ran - som me and make me
 grace, I am your own; En - thrall my soul and make me
 hand, be - fore your throne, We hymn your glo - ry 'round the

ty, But Truth lies in your Word a - lone. My heart to
 fied And live and move by Faith a - lone. My heart to
 one With Christ, my Lord, by Grace a - lone. My heart to
 free, Re - formed, re - deemed by Christ a - lone. My heart to
 world With psalms a - dor - ing you a - lone. My heart to

you, O God, I give, And by your Word I live.
 you, O God, I give, And now by Faith I live.
 you, O God, I give, And now by Grace I live.
 you, O God, I give, And now in Christ I live.
 you, O God, I give, And for your glo - - - ry live.

Text: Douglas Bond, 2004; Music: Greyfriars Press, 2014

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—For All the Saints



For all the saints, who from their labors rest, Who
Thou wast their Rock, their For - tress and their Might; Thou,
But lo! there breaks a yet more glor - ious day; The
From earth's wide bounds, from o - cean's fath - est coast, Through



Thee by faith be - fore the world con - fessed, Thy
Lord, their Cap - tain in the well fought fight;
saints tri - um - phant rise in bright ar - ray; The
gates of pearl streams in the count - less host, And



Name, O Je - sus, be for - ev - er blessed. Al -
Thou, in the dark - ness dread, their one true Light. Al -
King of glo - ry pass - es on His way. Al -
sing - ing to Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost: Al -



le - lu - ia, Al - - - le - lu - ia!
le - lu - ia, Al - - - le - lu - ia!
le - lu - ia, Al - - - le - lu - ia!
le - lu - ia, Al - - - le - lu - ia!

Text: William W. How, 1864; Music: SINE NOMINE, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906.

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—Ephesians 3:20-21

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Sung Response—Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word, Vs 2

The image shows a musical score for a sung response. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Lord Je sus Christ, Your pow'r make known, For You are Lord of lords a - lone; De - fend Your Ho - ly Church that we May ev - er - more sing praise to Thee." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line with chords in the right hand.

Text: Martin, Luther, 1541, Trans Catherine Winkworth, 1863, Alt. 2007;
Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, *Genevan Psalter*, 1551.

Mission Prayer Focus—New College Franklin is dedicated to mentoring students in all spheres of life to be a faithful presence in the world by loving and serving neighbors. New College Franklin is a four-year, Christian liberal arts college employing a discipleship model of education to enable students to excel academically and be formed spiritually. New College students are grateful for the church's encouragement of the college and are actively engaged in the life of the church by regularly serving in nursery, elementary SS, youth, adult Bible studies, music ministry and as interns. Prayer concerns:

- Praise for the recent preview weekend and for interested families from all over the US. Pray for the Lord's leading in applications for next fall.
- Pray that the faculty and staff can effectively shepherd students intellectually, vocationally, and spiritually.
- Pray for current fundraising efforts and for the Board as they work on long-range planning.

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 beginning at 5:30 p.m. Register and volunteer to help with these events 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 November 3 is barbecue and sides. \$5/person, \$20/family maximum.

Seeing the Gospel in Stories

On Monday, November 1, 7:00 p.m. we will use the Grimm's Fairy Tales "Snow White" and "Hansel and Gretel" to talk about how to read for symbols in a story, how that helps us 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.

Giving

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

Men's Study

Steve Barnes is leading a study through Sinclair Ferguson's *Union with Christ*. This group meets Thursdays at 7:00 a.m., at the Franklin Mercantile. Books are provided. All men are welcome!

Overflow Rooms

Masks are no longer required in the overflow rooms.

Cornerstone Young Adults

The Young Adults are having a Thanksgiving Potluck on Friday, November 11 at the Allens' home! R.S.V.P. details will be coming out in this week's Life at Cornerstone email. Make plans now to join in the fun!

The Bookshelf

We have added two new books to The Bookshelf this week! Payment is on your honor, on the top shelf.

Risen Motherhood, \$15: Emily Jensen and Laura Wifler help you understand and apply the gospel to common issues moms face so you can connect your Sunday morning faith to the Monday morning tantrum.

Aging With Grace: Flourishing in an Anti-aging Culture, \$10: Sharon Betters and Susan Hunt offer present-day and biblical examples of women who rediscovered gospel-rooted joy later in their lives.

Sunday School

Adults: choose from The Cornerstone School of Discipleship offerings:

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

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

Youth: Merridee's

Babies/Toddlers: Room 102

3 years - Kindergarten: Room 103

1st - 2nd grade: Room 104

3rd - 4th grade: Room 101

5th - 6th grade: Room 301

Jam Session

For players, singers, musicians, and interested bystanders! Bring your instrument on Sunday, November 7 at 5:00 p.m., and join in 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.

Taking the Message Home

Today's message, "Making Sense of the Empty Tomb," is taken from Mark 16:1-8. Please take time to discuss the questions below with your family, friends, or Home Fellowship Group.

- How does Mark indicate that the resurrection is the beginning of the new creation?
- How did the pattern of redemptive event (resurrection), revelatory word (the angel's words), and missional charge (tell the disciples) mirror our own call as witness bearers in the world (see Matthew 28:16-20)?
- The Apostle Paul says we (Christians) are "raised up with Christ" spiritually now (Ephesians 2:4). What does this mean? And what difference does/can this make in our daily lives?
- Richard Hays argues that when we hold the reality of the cross and resurrection together, we are kept from the poles of despair and triumphalism. Explore this idea with those around you, making cultural and personal application where you can.
- In what way did the importance of the resurrection come home to you today?

CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Presbyterian Church in America

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All Scripture quotations from the English Standard Version

