



CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND GOSPEL RENEWAL
The Sundays of Pentecost—Thanksgiving Sunday
22 November 2020

Pastoral Notes

Dear Cornerstone Family,

On November 20, 2011, Cornerstone was received as a particularized (member) church of the Presbyterian Church of America (PCA). Can you believe it? We are nine years old! To honor the occasion, I took time this week to reflect on those early days, revisiting a few of my journal entries from that year. As I thought and read, I fought back tears. It's so clear, friends; God has been so kind to us.

Someone asked me this week, "Was planting Cornerstone difficult?" The most honest way I know of answering that question is, "Yes and no." It was a lot of hard work, and there are many people—staff, elders, deacons, and volunteers—that spent themselves for the establishment of Cornerstone. Since those early days, many more people have thrown their lot in with us, spending untold time, energy, and resources to sustain and grow the ministry of Cornerstone. All of them certainly deserve our appreciation.

Even with that, one thing is clear—God was doing the heavy lifting. God's sovereign grace was the one constant underneath all these efforts. He is the "secret ingredient" of Cornerstone's life and impact. Yes, God is pleased to use us, but human beings don't build the church—only God does that (Matthew 16:18). So, as we gather together in worship, celebrating God's faithfulness, let's give credit where it's due. Let's thank God for Cornerstone by declaring with one voice, "*Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!*" (Psalm 115:1)

As we pause today and reflect on God's kindness to us as a church, we're laying foundations for the season of Advent which begins next Sunday, Nov. 29th. For where is the kindness of God seen more clearly than in the giving of his beloved Son (John 3:16)?

Please be sure to pick up our Advent Devotional, "Christ, Our Certain Hope," this morning. You'll find copies in the pew racks and at the entrances to the building. The daily services, readings, and quotes in the devotional have been carefully selected to help you keep pace with the emphases of our Advent sermon series and prepare you for the coming of Christ.

Speaking of the sermon series, this year's Advent emphasis will focus on the first *and* second comings of Christ. For the first two weeks, we'll consider the Old Testament's anticipation of the Messiah and the fulfillment of Christ's first coming. In week three and four, we'll focus on the call to be patient and faithful in waiting for Christ's second coming and the assurance that God will ready us for that great day. Over the course of the four weeks, we will come to know Jesus Christ as our rock of redemption and a reason for hope.

Christ, Our Certain Hope

- Nov. 29 – Jeremiah 33:14-18, "Days are Coming"
- Dec. 6 – Romans 15:8-13, "Abound in Hope"
- Dec. 13 – James 5:7-11, "Establish Your Hearts"
- Dec. 20 – I Thessalonians 5:23-24, "Kept for the Coming of the Lord"

Your servant,



Worship is a response to the love of God that brings us out of darkness into his light. The rhythm and flow of the service reflects this present reality as God calls his people and reveals himself, forgives their sins, teaches them from his Word, the Bible, feeds them, and then sends them out to live what they have learned.

This is the pattern of his love in redeeming and saving his people.

Prelude, Announcements, and Preparation

GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE AND REVEALS HIMSELF

God calls His people to worship and come before Him. The Creator of all things reveals Himself through His Word and calls us into His presence.

Introit—Psalm 100: All Earth With Joy

All earth, with joy, to the LORD come with loud voices ring -
 En - ter His gates with thank - giv - ing, to His courts come prais -
 ing. With glad - ness serve the LORD; come to Him joy - ful - ly
 ing. To Him be thank - ful, and bless His name, your voices
 sing - ing. The LORD is God, Know that He made us His
 rais - ing. The LORD is good; His lov - ing - kind - ness en -
 own. We are the sheep of His pas - ture.
 dures, His faith - ful - ness lasts for - ev - er.

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

Call to Worship—from Psalm III:1-5, 7-9

Pastor: Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

All: Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them.

Pastor: Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.
He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;

All: the Lord is gracious and merciful.

Pastor: He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever.

All: The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy;

Pastor: they are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

All: He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever.

Pastor: Holy and awesome is his name!

Hymn of Praise—For the Beauty of the Earth

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are as follows:

For the beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,
For the beau - ty of each hour of the day and of the night,
For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
For each per - fect gift of thine to our race so free - ly giv'n,

for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies,
hill and vale, and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light,
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight,
friends on earth and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild,
grac - es hu - man and di - vine, flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n,

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

Text: Follitt S. Pierpoint, 1864; Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1838, Arr by William H. Monk, 1861.

Old Testament Reading—Isaiah 12

You will say in that day:

“I will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were angry with me,
your anger turned away, that you might comfort me.

²“Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid;
for the LORD God is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.”

³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴And you will say in that day:

“Give thanks to the LORD, call upon his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted.

⁵“Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth.

⁶Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”

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 Preparation—Come, O Redeemer, Come



Fa - ther en-throned on high, Ho - ly, Ho - ly: An - cient e - ter - nal light, hear our prayer.
Look now up - on our need, Lord be, with us; heal us and make us free, from our sin.



Come, O Redeem-er, come, grant us mer-cy. Come, O Redeem-er, come, grant us peace.

CCLI #11121087 ©1996 Metro One, Inc. Text and Music: Fernando Ortega, 1996.

Congregational Prayer of Confession

Pastor: “Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.” (Isaiah 55:6-7)

All: Lord, as your chosen ones,
we have not always put on compassionate hearts, kindness or humility.
You have called us holy and beloved,
but yet we fail to be meek and patient,
nor do we bear with one another.
As You have forgiven us, so we also must forgive.
We neglect to put on love
which should bind everything together in perfect harmony.
Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts—
for this we have been called as one body.
Help us shift the gaze from our own lives,
and be thankful.
May Your Word dwell in us richly
that we may teach and admonish one another in all wisdom
as we sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs.
Let these melodies fill us with thankfulness in our hearts to You.

(Colossians 3:12-17)

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon—from Colossians 1:16-17, 19-20

Pastor: By Christ, all things were created in heaven and on earth—

All: all things were created through Him and for Him.

Pastor: And He is before all things,

All: and in Him all things hold together.

Pastor: For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,

All: and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things,

Pastor: whether on earth or in heaven,

All: making peace by the blood of His cross.

Psalm of Praise—Psalm 138: With Grateful Heart



With grate - ful heart my thanks I bring, Be - fore the great Thy
 I cried to Thee and Thou didst save, Thy Word of grace new
 O Lord, en - throned in glor - y bright, Thou reign - est in the
 Thou wilt stretch forth Thy might - y arm To save me when my



praise I sing; I wor - ship in Thy ho - ly place And
 cour - age gave; The kings of earth shall thank Thee, Lord, For
 heaven - ly height; The proud in vain Thy fav - or seek, But
 foes a - larm; The work Thou hast for me be - gun Shall



praise Thee for Thy truth and grace; For truth and grace to - geth - er
 they have heard Thy wond - rous Word; Yea, they shall come with songs of
 Thou hast mer - cy for the meek; Through trou - ble though my path - way
 by Thy grace be ful - ly done; For - ev - er mer - cy dwells with



shine In Thy most ho - ly Word di - vine.
 praise, For great and glor - ious are Thy ways.
 be, Thou wilt re - trieve and strengthen me.
 Thee; O Lord, my Mak - er, think on me.

Text: Psalm 138, *The Psalter*, 1912; Music: SUSSEX CAROL, Traditional English Tune.

Testimony of Thanksgiving

GOD TEACHES US THROUGH HIS WORD

The Reading of the Word—I Corinthians II:23-26

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁵ In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Leader: The grass withers, the flower fades;

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

Sermon—*Saying Grace*

—Nate Shurden *Pastor*

Sung Response—Psalm 138: I Will Give You Thanks and Praise You, Vs I

I will give You thanks and praise You, God of gods, with all my heart.

I will bow be - fore Your tem - ple, Grate - ful praise to You im - part.

For Your Name and for Your glo - ry, You have mag - ni - fied Your Word!

Text: Psalm 138, *The Ailbe Psalter*, 2006; Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry Smart, 1867.

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—Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord. Ho - ly, ho - ly, God of pow'r and might,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord. Ho - ly, ho - ly, God of pow'r and might, -

Heav'n and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Heav'n and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
Bless - ed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho

high - est, Ho san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est. A - men.
san - nah in the high - est, Ho san - na in the high - est. A - men.

CCLI #11121087 Text: Is 6:3, Rev 4:8, Mt 21:9; Music: FRANKLIN SANCTUS, Gregory D Wilbur, 2009. ©2009 Greyfriars Press.

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. We have options for wine and grape juice. The bread and wine or juice are stacked together.

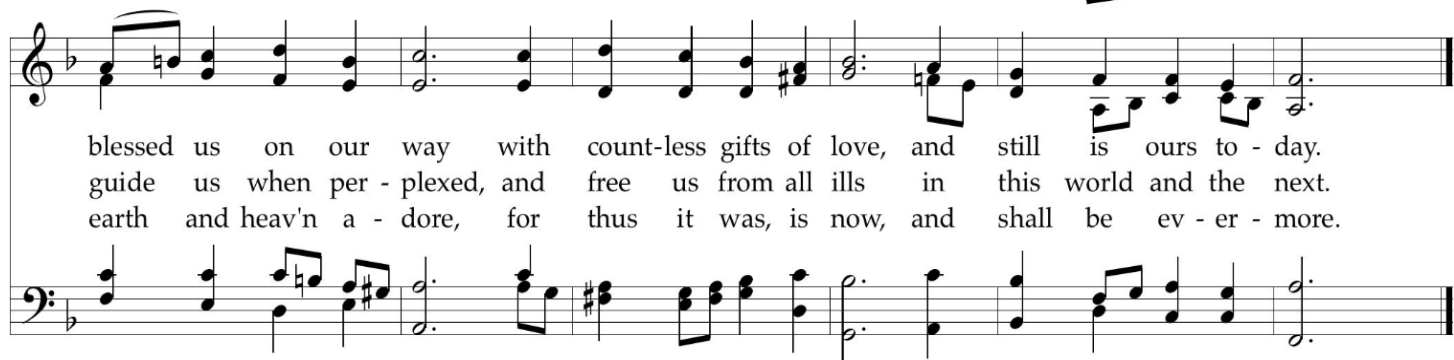
Hymn of Communion—Now Thank We All Our God



Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voic - es, who won-drous things hath
O may this boun - teous God through all our life be near us, with ev - er - joy - ful
All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be giv - en, the Son, and him who



done, in whom his world re - joic - es; who from our moth - ers' arms, hath
hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us; and keep us in his grace, and
reigns with them in high - est heav - en; the one e - ter - nal God, whom



blessed us on our way with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
guide us when per - plexed, and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
earth and heav'n a - dore, for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

Text: Martin Rinkart, 1636, Tr by Catherin Winkworth, 1858; Music: Nun Danket, Johann Crüger, 1647.

Communion Hymn—Christ is Our Cornerstone

Christ is our cor - ner - stone, On Him a - lone we build; With
O then with hymns of praise These hal - lowed courts shall ring; Our
Here may we gain from Heav'n, The grace which we im - plore; And

His true saints a - lone The courts of Heav'n are filled; On His great love
voic - es we will raise The Three in One to sing; And thus pro - claim
may that grace, once giv'n, Be with us ev - er - more; Un - til that day

our hopes we place Of pre - sent grace and joys a - bove.
in joy - ful song Both loud and long, that glor - ious name.
when all the blest To end - less rest are called a - way.

Text: Unknown author, 6th or 7th Century (Angularis fundamentum lapis); translated from Latin to English by John Chandler, 1837.
Music: Gregory D Wilbur, 2011 ©2011 Greyfriars Press, Used by Permission

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*

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—We Gather Together

We gath - er to - geth - er to ask the Lord's bless - ing; he
Be - side us to guide us, our God with us join - ing, or -
We all do ex - tol thee, thou lead - er tri - um - phant, and

chas - tens and has - tens his will - to make known; the
dain - ing, main - tain - ing his king - dom di - vine; so
pray that thou still our de - fend - er wilt be. Let

wick - ed op - press - ing now cease from dis - tress - ing; sing
from the be - gin - ning the fight we were win - ning; thou,
thy con - gre - ga - tion en - dure thro' trib - u - la - tion: thy

prais - es to his name; he for - gets not his own.
Lord, wast at our side: he all glo - ry be thine!
name be ev - er praised! O Lord, make us free!

Text: Netherlands Folk Hymn, Tr Theodore Baker, 1917;
Music: KREMSLER, Adrianus Valerius's *Nederlandsch Gedenckclank*, 1626, Arr. by Edward Kremser, 1877.

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—2 Peter 3:18

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

Sung Response—To You, O God, We Render Thanks, Vs 4

The image shows a musical score for a sung response. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The music is in 4/4 time and features a simple, hymn-like melody. The lyrics are written below the notes.

To You, O God, we ren - der thanks, To You give thanks sin - cere, Be -
cause Your won - drous works de - clare That You are ev - er near.

Text: Psalm 75; Music: ST, ANNE, William Croft, 1678-1727.

Welcome to Cornerstone! We're glad you're visiting with us today and would love the opportunity to welcome you personally. We invite you to fill out our visitor card by following this link.

<https://cornerstonepresbyterianchurch.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/40/responses/new>



Focus on Church Ministry

Sign up for Home Fellowship Groups

New groups are forming for the spring of 2021! HFGs are the small group ministry of Cornerstone that serve to connect God's people together in community for fellowship, prayer, and service. If you are not currently in a group, please consider joining one. Anyone interested in joining a Home Fellowship Group may visit our website or app to sign up. Questions? Want more info? HFG@cstonepres.org or contact Pastor Ben Griffith

Children's Ministry

The Children's Ministry is in need of a PreK teacher beginning in January, 2021. We also need folks who are willing to step into classrooms and sub when regular teachers and assistants have to miss. If you would like to be a part of the important work the Children's Ministry is doing in laying a foundation for our covenant children, go to the app or website to fill out an interest form, or contact Meredith Suits. elementary@cstonepres.org

Deck the (Cornerstone) Halls!

Please come and help decorate our church for our celebration of Advent on Saturday, November 28, from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. It is a joyous and festive time of fellowship—we will enjoy cookies, spiced cider, and coffee, too!

Women's Ministry

Seasons of Life... for the Christmas Season

Join together with women from Cornerstone for a time of fellowship and hearing from one of our own dear sisters about a particularly memorable Christmas season. December 1, 6:30, 2940 McLemore Lane. Bring an appetizer and/or dessert to share! Let us know you're coming by signing up on the app or website.

Advent Choir

Join us as we prepare music for the annual Lessons and Carols Service! We will rehearse Wednesdays through December 9, from 7:15 – 8:30 p.m. at Cornerstone.

Advent Devotionals

Advent Devotionals are available at both chapel entrances today. If you are not yet returning to corporate worship and would like a devotional mailed to you, please contact Martha Brooks martha@cstonepres.org.

On the Bookshelf

Consider picking up one (or both!) of these new books to prepare your heart as we celebrate the Advent season. The Bookshelf is at the top of the stairs outside the church office. Payment is on your honor, on the top shelf.

The Christmas We Didn't Expect, David Mathis (\$8)

Repeat the Sounding Joy, Christopher Ash (\$9)

Prayer

We have a Cornerstone Prayer Team that meets every Tuesday, either in person on the third floor or via Zoom. We would be honored to pray for you, and would love to have you join the team. Contact prayer@cstonepres.org to submit prayer requests or join the team.

Let us thank the Lord:

A Time for Gratitude

Join together with the church body at Cornerstone today during the Sunday School hour for an open time of sharing what the Lord has been doing in your life in 2020. Let us together express gratitude for the providence of the Lord.

Let them thank the name of the Lord

for His steadfast love,

for His wondrous works to the children of man!

Let them extol Him in the congregation

of the people,

And praise Him in the assembly of the elders.

Psalm 107:21-32

Today's message, "Saying Grace" is taken from I Corinthians II:23-26. Please take time to discuss the questions below with your family, friends, or Home Fellowship Group (HFG)

- With the story of the Bible in mind, what is the relationship of grace and gratitude?
- Paul Tournier writes, "...no gift can bring joy to the one who has a right to everything." How does a feeling of entitlement undermine an attitude of gratitude?
- What must we believe to experience the life-giving wonder and joy that attends a spirit of thanksgiving? Practically speaking, what can we do to cultivate this?
- Reflecting on the message, how have you seen painful or difficult circumstances produce the profoundest of thanksgivings? How does that supply hope to you right now?
- What from today's message do you hope sticks with you going forward?

CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Presbyterian Church in America

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Nursery Coordinator: Christy Shurden or nursery@cstonepres.org

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Terry Cheney (615-579-7089)

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All Scripture quotations from the English Standard Version

