



CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND GOSPEL RENEWAL

First Sunday of Advent—Hope

29 November 2020

Pastoral Notes

I asked Pastor Ben Griffith to provide an opportunity for members of the congregation to share why they value the Home Fellowship Group ministry at Cornerstone. Here is what Ben, and several folks from the congregation, had to say:

For the past few weeks, you've hopefully been hearing and seeing our invitations to join a Home Fellowship Group (HFG) next year. There is still time to sign up. HFGs provide a small group context for us to share life together, pray for one another, and process God's word together. Of all the things we've learned in 2020, I'm sure we could all say we have a renewed appreciation for the value of community. Our HFG ministry is simply a way to encourage and foster meaningful, spiritual, intentional community within our body—and we would love for you to participate.

I asked a few Cornerstone members to share about their experience in a Home Fellowship Group. If you are still on the fence about joining one next year, perhaps one of your brothers or sisters can give you a nudge:

“Our fellowship group has been a fantastic source of fellowship and friendship over the past several years. By opening up our homes (or meeting at a nearby park), we've also been able to open up about life's challenges, provide encouragement, and pray for one another. It's genuinely one of the highlights of my week to meet with these brothers and sisters!” ~Matt Suits

“Participating in an HFG group has meant, for Cindi and I, the development of friendships—the significant kind of friendships that help keep us centered in Christ, who is our life. We have eaten, studied, and prayed together, worked, celebrated and mourned together, and even vacationed together. Loving one another in the context of a small group is, I believe, doing life God's way, and pays huge dividends! I do hope your lives are similarly rich and blessed.” ~Bob Wolk

“Our HFG has made us feel at home at Cornerstone by loving us - taking on our needs through prayer, hospitality, and service. It is one of the best ways to get connected, build friendships, and learn how to love people as they grow in Christ. It's the tangible arm of community at Cornerstone and one of our favorite ministries at the church.” ~Taylor Thompson

“Home Fellowship Groups are the place to get connected and get to know the church family in the body of Christ. It's the place to partner for prayer, dig into the Word, support, encourage, provide accountability, food and fun. Each have their own flavor, check them out until you find a good fit. God has amazing saints in each group that want to connect, grow, and experience life together.” ~Sherry Cebada

“It can take time to get connected at church. We are thankful for HFGs which have given us a “family group” within this body to know and be known, pray and grow, enjoy fellowship and fun. Each group is unique; jump in and find where you fit! One of the benefits of being a Christian is not walking life alone. HFGs are a way to experience the benefits of the body of Christ in an intimate and continuous way.” ~Steve Cebada

You can sign up online on the Cornerstone website, on our church app, or through the link on the weekly newsletter. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out! hfg@cstonepres.org

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.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath—Angels from the Realms of Glory, Vs 4

Saints, be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in hope and fear;

Sud - den - ly the Lord, descend - ing, In His tem - ple shall ap - pear.

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Text: James Montgomery, 1816, 1825; Music REGENT SQUARE, Henry Smart, 1867.

Call to Worship—Psalm 33:1, 18-22

Pastor: Shout for joy in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright.

All: Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him,
on those who hope in his steadfast love,

Men: *He will deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine.*

Women: *Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.*

Pastor: For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name.

All: Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

Hymn of Praise—O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Em - man - - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
O come, thou Branch of Jes - - se! Draw the quar - ry from the
O come, thou Key of Da - - vid come, And o - pen wide our
O come, O come, thou Day - spring bright! Pour on our souls thy

Is - - - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - - - ile
li - - - on's claw; From the dread cav - erns of the
heav'n - - - ly home; Safe - guard for us the heav'n - ward
heal - - - ing light; Dis - pel the long night's ling - 'ring

here, un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
grave, From neth - er hell, thy peo - - - ple save. Re -
road, And bar the way to death's a - bode.
gloom, And pierce the sha - dows of the tomb.

joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Text: Latin Antiphons, 12th century, Tr. John Mason Neale, 1851
Music: VENI EMMANUEL, Plainsong, 13th century, Arr. Thomas Helmore, 1856

Old Testament Reading—Zechariah 9:9-12

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation is he,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰ I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall speak peace to the nations;
his rule shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹² Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

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

Congregational Prayer of Confession

Pastor: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
“The LORD is my portion,” says my soul,
“therefore I will hope in him.” (Lamentations 3:22-24)

All: Behold, Your hand is not shortened, that it cannot save,
or Your ear dull, that it cannot hear;
But our iniquities have made a separation between us and You, our God,
and our sins have hidden Your face from us.
Therefore, justice is far from us,
and righteousness does not overtake us;
We hope for light, and behold, we get darkness.
We hope for brightness, but we walk in gloom.
We grope for the wall like the blind;
we grope like those who have no eyes;
we stumble at noon as in the twilight,
among those in full vigor we are like dead men.
We hope for justice, but there is none;
for salvation, but it is far from us.
For our transgressions are multiplied before You,
and our sins testify against us;
For our transgressions are with us,
and we know our iniquities:
We have sinned, and denied the Lord,
and turned back from following our God.

(from Isaiah 59)

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon—from Lamentations 3:25-26, 31-33

Pastor: The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.

All: It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

Pastor: For the LORD will not cast off forever, but, though he cause grief,

All: he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love;

Pastor: for he does not afflict from his heart or grieve the children of men.

Hymn of Expectation—Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus



Come, Thou long ex - pect-ed Je - sus Born to set Thy peo - ple free;
Born Thy peo - ple to de - li - ver, Born a child and yet a King,



From our fears and sins re - lease us, Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring,



Is - rael's strength and Con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art;
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear De - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
By Thine all suf - fi - cient mer - it, Raise us to Thy glor - ious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1745; Music: American Melody.

GOD TEACHES US THROUGH HIS WORD

The Reading of the Word—Jeremiah 33:14-22

¹⁴ “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’

¹⁷ “For thus says the LORD: David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel, ¹⁸ and the Levitical priests shall never lack a man in my presence to offer burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings, and to make sacrifices forever.”

¹⁹ The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: ²⁰ “Thus says the LORD: If you can break my covenant with the day and my covenant with the night, so that day and night will not come at their appointed time, ²¹ then also my covenant with David my servant may be broken, so that he shall not have a son to reign on his throne, and my covenant with the Levitical priests my ministers. ²² As the host of heaven cannot be numbered and the sands of the sea cannot be measured, so I will multiply the offspring of David my servant, and the Levitical priests who minister to me.”

Leader: The grass withers, the flower fades;

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

Sermon—Christ, Our Certain Hope, pt I
Days are Coming

—Nate Shurden, *Pastor*

Sung Response—From Heaven Came the Angels Bright

The image shows a musical score for a sung response. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are: "All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, Whose ad - vent has— our free - dom won, Whom with the Fa - ther we a - dore, And Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

Text: Martin Luther; Music: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR, Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621.

Profession of Faith—from Philippians 2:5-11

We believe, that though Christ Jesus was in the form of God,
He did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,
but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant,
being born in the likeness of men.
And being found in human form,
He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.
Therefore God has highly exalted Him
and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Sung Response—Gloria

WOMEN



Glo-ry to God in the high - est! Peace to His peo-ple on earth.

MEN



Glo-ry to God in the high - est! Peace to His peo-ple on earth. We praise earth. Glo-ry to God in the high - est! Peace on earth. We praise You! We bless You! We a - dore You! We glo - ri - fy! We give You thanks for Your glo - ry. We give You thanks for Your glo - ry.

We give You thanks for Your glo - ry. We give You thanks.

CCLI #11121087 Text: Luke 2:14; Music: FRANKLIN GLORIA, Gregory D Wilbur, 2012 ©2012 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—Glory in the Darkest Place



Out of the depths of si-lent night Im-man - u - el, come hear our cry.
Out of the depths of si-lent night A Sav - ior born, a moth-er's sigh.



Our grief is strong, our bur-dens great. The night is long and hope is faint.
The dark-ness trem - bled at this star. A beam of hope for troub-led hearts.



You came to set the cap-tives free, A Morn-ing Star of joy and peace.
You came to make Your bless-ings known. And bear our curse of death a - lone.



Why does this dark-ness feel so deep? Lord, help our wear - y spir - its see.
You came to share our suf-fer - ing So in our sor - row we could sing:



Glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry in the dark - est place.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry, let Your mer - cy reign.

CCLI #11121087 © 2016 Sovereign Grace Music; Music; Text and Music: Bethany Kauflin, 2016

Hymn of Communion—Of the Father's Love Begotten, Vs I-5



Of the Fath - er's love be - got - ten. Ere the worlds be - gan to be,
 O that birth for - ev - er bless - ed! When the Vir - gin full of grace,
 He as - sumed this mor - tal bo - dy, Frail and fee - ble, doomed to die,
 This is He whom once the si - byls With u - ni - ted voice fore - told,
 Christ, to Thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly Ghost, to Thee,



He is Al - pha and O - me - ga, He the Source, the End - ing He.
 By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, Bore the Sav - ior of our race,
 That the race from dust cre - a - ted Might not per - ish ut - ter - ly,
 Whom the Scrip - tures of the pro - phets Pro - mised in their faith - ful word.
 Hymn and chant with high thanks - giv - ing, and un - wear - ied prais - es be:



Of the things that are, that have been, And that fu - ture years shall see,
 And the babe, the world's Re - deem - er, First re - vealed His sac - red face,
 Which the dread - ful Law had sen - tenced In the depths of Hell to lie,
 Let the world u - nite to praise Him, Long de - sired, fore - seen of old,
 Hon - or, glor - y, and do - min - ion, And e - ter - nal vic - to - ry,



Ev - er more and ev - er - more.

Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413; Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, 12th century Plainsong

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 Promise—Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each dark mis - deed;
For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert far and near,
Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, Make the rough - er plac - es plain:

Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing 'neath their sor - row's load;
All that well de - served His an - ger He will no more see nor heed.
Bid - ding all men to re - pen - tance, Since the king - dom now is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be - fits His ho - ly reign,

Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem Of the peace that waits for them;
She has suf - fered many a day, Now her griefs have passed a - way,
O that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way!
For the glo - ry of the Lord Now o'er earth is shed a - broad,

Tell her that her sins I cov - er, And her war - fare now is o - ver.
God will change her pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er spring - ing glad - ness.
Let the val - leys rise to meet Him, And the hills bow down to greet Him.
And all flesh shall see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johannes G. Olearius, 1671, Trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1863; Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Genevan Psalter*, 1551.

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 Thessalonians 5:16-18

The root of Jesse will come, even He who arises to rule the Gentiles;
in Him will the Gentiles hope.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. *Amen.*

Sung Response—To Us a Child of Hope is Born, Vs I

To us a Child of hope is born, To us a Son is giv'n, Him
shall the tribes of earth o - bey, Him all the hosts of Heav'n. His
Name shall be the Prince of Peace, For - ev - er - more a - dored, The
Won - der - ful, the Coun - se - lor, The great and might - y Lord.

Text: John Morrison, 1781; Music: KINGSFOLD, English Folk Tune.

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

Giving

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

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 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.

Today's message, "Days are Coming" is taken from Jeremiah 33:14-22. Please take time to discuss the questions below with your family, friends, or Home Fellowship Group (HFG)

- How can Jeremiah say, "David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne..." (v. 17) and "...Levitical priests shall never lack a man in my presence" (v. 18) when we know historically that the reign of David and the Levitical priesthood was interrupted by the exile?
- How can Jeremiah say that Jerusalem and Judah will be called, "The Lord is our righteousness" when the present exile is a result of sin?
- Historically, why has the church turned to this text during the season of advent?
- Practically, how can we prepare ourselves for the return of Jesus Christ?

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: Susan Bumpus (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: Martha Brooks and Julie Kesler at women@cstonepres.org

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

Ruling Elders

Randy Allen (615-260-1884)

Joe Haworth (615-289-7543)

Ron Moffat (629-215-5135)

Terry Cheney (615-579-7089)

Will Kesler (423-313-7493)

Jim Payne (615-497-0613)

Chuck Emerson: *Emeritus* (615-943-8443)

John Millard (423-443-8852)

Jim Smith (615-347-4188)

Deacons

*Mark Elliott (615-477-1041)

Wes Pittman (615-393-0365)

Matt Suits (706-218-2823)

Matt Faulk (714-801-7596)

Brent Roberts (615-394-0662)

Casey Taggart (662-813-3563)

Dan Fiedler (615-812-4032)

*Jim Robinson (615-587-0442)

Larry Thompson (901-734-1520)

Kevin McClung (615-243-9228)

Todd Russell (615-319-4803)

Bob Vermilye (615-943-8139)

Mike Payne (615-579-6453)

David Steffens (615-557-5316)

*On Sabbatical

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

All Scripture quotations from the English Standard Version

