



# CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND GOSPEL RENEWAL

*Second Sunday of Advent—Peace*

*06 December 2020*

# Pastoral Notes

Dear Cornerstone Family,

As I nearly froze to death tossing the football with the boys on Tuesday afternoon, as the dark of night descended at 4:45pm (Shew, it's going to be long winter for me), I gave myself permission to reminisce about longer, warmer days... like the time my Dad first tried his hand at gardening. He'd long expressed a desire to return to "mankind's original vocation," to get his hands dirty and grow his own food—to be a man of the earth. It was a desire that, to be honest, bewildered the rest of the family.

Dad was an accountant. Need I say more? He spent his days with numbers, pushing pencils, and keying calculators. It was difficult envisioning him with boots on his feet and a tiller in his grip. That said, he was a farmer *by name*. My Dad's name is George. George is a combination of two Greek words meaning earth and work. Etymologically, he was destined to be a worker of the soil. In every other way...well, not so much.

Nevertheless, with help from neighbors who were real farmers, and the slave labor of his son (ahem), Dad eventually fulfilled his gardening dream. And though the dream only lasted a few years (turns out gardening is a lot of work), some of my fondest summer memories include walking the rows to see how the squash and zucchini were coming along, and if the tomatoes were starting to redden, and if the deer had gotten the best of the snap beans. (They always got the best of the snap beans.)

Call me nostalgic if you want, but there's something magical about a garden. Soil, seed, water, sun and a little attention (okay, a lot of attention) and before you know it, you're smelling fried okra cooking on the stove—the perfect late summer delicacy. (Is winter over yet?)

There's a lot of lessons to be learned in gardening, but chief among them is the need for patience. My Mom used to say, "A watched pot never boils." Meaning, time moves ever so slowly when you're eagerly waiting for something to occur. Gardening can be a "watched pot." The farmer plants in faith, trusting that in due time, by God's grace, he will enjoy the fruit of his labors.

Not surprisingly, in describing the work of the kingdom, Jesus turns to agricultural metaphors time and again. Our hearts are like various soils (Matthew 13:1-9), faith is like a mustard seed (Matthew 17:20), and if we'd just lift up our eyes, we'd see the world is white with harvest and needy of laborers (John 4:34). As we tend the field before us, growth may be imperceptible, but we press on like farmers who, "...wait for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it until it receives the early and the late rains" (James 5:7).

Like gardening, kingdom work can't be hurried along. We must guard against weariness, knowing that in due time we will reap (Galatians 6:9). That's a promise. Let's just be faithful to do our part, and then watch the Lord of the harvest (Matthew 9:38) give the growth (I Corinthians 3:7).

Grace & Peace,

*Steve*

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—Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus, Vs 2

Born Thy peo-ple to de - li - ver, Born a child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us for - ev - er, \_Now Thy gra-cious king-dom bring,  
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;  
By Thine all suf - fi - cient mer - it, Raise us to Thy glor - ious throne.

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

## Call to Worship—from Psalm 29:I-4, I0-II

Pastor: Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.  
Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;

All: Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.

Pastor: The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders,  
the LORD, over many waters.

Men: *The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.*

Women: *The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.*

Pastor: May the LORD give strength to his people!

All: May the LORD bless his people with peace!

## Hymn of Praise—O Come, All Ye Faithful



O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - u - phant, O come ye, O come ye to  
God of God, Light of Light; lo, he ab - hors not the  
Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, sing, all ye cit - i - zens of  
Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je - sus, to thee be all



Beth - le - hem; come and be - hold him born the King of an - gels;  
Vir - gin's womb: ver - y God, be - got - ten, not cre - a - ted; O come, let us a -  
heav'n a - bove; glo - ry to God in the high - est;  
glo - ry giv'n; Word of the Fa - ther, late in flesh ap - pear - ing;



dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

Text: Latin Hymn, Tr. By Frederick Oakeley, 1841; Music: *Cantus Diversi*, 1751.

## Old Testament Reading—Isaiah 52:7-10

7 How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news,  
who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,  
who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”

8 The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice;  
together they sing for joy;  
for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion.

9 Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem,  
for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem.

10 The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,  
and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

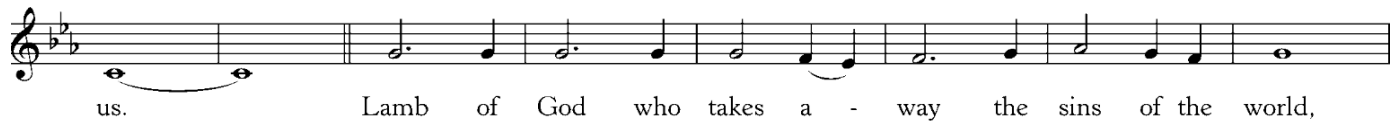
Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

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: For in Christ all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,  
and through him to reconcile to himself all things,  
whether on earth or in heaven,  
making peace by the blood of his cross. (Colossians 1:19-20)

All: Most merciful God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
In your mercy forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be;  
that we may do justly, love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

*(Book of Common Prayer)*

## Silent Prayers of Confession

### Assurance of Pardon—I Thessalonians 5:23-24

Pastor: Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely,

All: and may our whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless  
at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastor: He who calls you is faithful;

All: he will surely do it.

## Hymn of Praise—What Child is This

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing? Whom  
Why lies he in such mean es - tate, where ox and ass are feed - ing? Good  
So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him; the

an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
King of kings sal - va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing:  
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you:  
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by:

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y.  
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y.  
joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y.

Text: William Chatterton Dix, 1865; Music: GREENSLEEVES, 16<sup>th</sup> Century English

## GOD TEACHES US THROUGH HIS WORD

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### The Reading of the Word—Romans 15:8-13

<sup>8</sup> For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup> and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles,  
and sing to your name.”

<sup>10</sup> And again it is said,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.”

<sup>11</sup> And again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples extol him.”

<sup>12</sup> And again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse will come,  
even he who arises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him will the Gentiles hope.”

<sup>13</sup> 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.

Leader: The grass withers, the flower fades;

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

### Sermon—Christ, Our Certain Hope, pt 2

*Abound in Hope*

—Nate Shurden, *Pastor*



## Sung Response—From Heaven Came the Angels Bright

The musical score is written for a piano accompaniment. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, Whose ad - vent has— our free - dom". The second system continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: "won, Whom with the Fa - ther we a - dore, And Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more." The music ends with a double bar line.

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.

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—Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming

Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath  
 I - sai - ah 'twas fore - told it, The Rose I have in  
 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the

sprung, of Jes - se's lin - age com - ing, as  
 mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The  
 air, dis - - - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the

men of old have sung. It came, a flow'r - et bright, a -  
 Vir - gin Mo - ther kind: To show God's love a - right She  
 dark-ness ev - r' - where, True man, yet ver - y God; from

mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.  
 bore to us a Sav - iour When half - spent was the night.  
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - r'y load.

Text: 15<sup>th</sup> century German Carol, Trans. Theodore Baker, 1894; Music: ES IST EIN ROS, harm. Michael Praetorius, 1609.

# Hymn of Communion—Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

Lo! He comes with clouds de - scend - ing, Once for  
 Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold Him Robed in  
 Now re - demp - tion, long ex - pect - ed, See in  
 Yea, A - men! let all a - dore Thee, High on

our sal - va - tion slain; Thou - sand thou - sand  
 dread - ful ma - jes - ty; Those who set at  
 sol - emn pomp ap - pear; All His saints, by  
 Thine e - ter - nal throne; Sav - ior, take the

saints at - tend - ing, Swell the tri - umph of His  
 naught and sold Him, Pierced and nailed Him to the  
 man re - ject - ed, Now shall meet Him in the  
 power and glo - ry, Claim the king - dom for Thine

train: Al - - le - lu - ia! Al - - le - lu - ia!  
 tree, Deep - - ly wail - ing, deep - - ly wail - ing,  
 air: Al - - le - lu - ia! Al - - le - lu - ia!  
 own; O come quick - ly! O come quick - ly!

Al - le - lu - ia! God ap - pears on earth to reign.  
 deep - ly wail - ing, Shall the true Mes - si - ah see.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! See the day of God ap - pear!  
 O come quick - ly! Al - le - lu - ia! Come, Lord, come!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88) and John Cennick, 1718-55; Music: HELMSLEY, 18<sup>th</sup> century English Melody.

# 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—Hark the Herald

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King; peace on earth, and  
Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ the ev - er - last - ing Lord! Late in time be -  
Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right-teous-ness! Light and life to

mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!" Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise,  
hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the God-head see;  
all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings. Mild he lays his glo - ry by,

join the tri - umph of the skies; with th'an - gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in  
hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty, pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em -  
born that man no more may die, born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them

Beth - le - hem!"  
man - u - el. Hark! the he - rald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King."  
sec - ond birth.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1739, 1753; Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1840, Arr. William H. Cummings, 1856.

# 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 John 1:3

Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father's Son, in truth and love. *Amen.*

## Sung Response—To Us a Child of Hope is Born, Vs 2

His pow'r, in - creas - ing, still shall spread, His reign no end shall know, Jus -  
tice shall guard His throne a - bove, And peace a - bound be - low. To  
us a Child of hope is born, To us a Son is giv'n, The  
Won - der - ful, the Coun - se - lor, The might - y Lord of Heav'n.

The image shows a musical score for a four-part setting of the hymn 'To Us a Child of Hope is Born, Vs 2'. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines. The music is in a simple, folk-like style with a clear melody and accompaniment.

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](mailto: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](mailto:elementary@cstonepres.org)

## 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](mailto:martha@cstonepres.org).

## 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](mailto:prayer@cstonepres.org) to submit prayer requests or join the team.

## 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.

## 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)



Today's message, "Abound in Hope" is taken from Romans 15:8-13. Please take time to discuss the questions below with your family, friends, or Home Fellowship Group (HFG).

- Why does Paul focus on Christ as servant to the Jews according to truthfulness (see Gal. 4:4-5) while serving the Gentiles according to mercy? What point is he making (vs. 8-9)?
- Why is unity between believers so important in the New Testament? How does unity serve the church's primary calling of worship?
- How does the emphasis on hope in v. 13 pull together the emphasis of this section of Scripture?
- What are you carrying with you from today's message?

## CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### Presbyterian Church in America

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**Prayer Requests:** [prayer@cstonepres.org](mailto:prayer@cstonepres.org)

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*All Scripture quotations from the English Standard Version*

