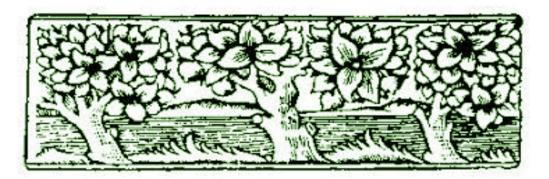


CORNERSTONE Presbyterian Church



TITUS

Growing the Church in Godliness



Service of Celebration and Gospel Renewal *Third Sunday of Epiphany 21 January 2024*

Pastoral Notes

Dear Cornerstone Family,

Congratulations! You survived the great Middle Tennessee snow dump of 2024. Well, truth be told, I bet you loved it.

I'm a sucker for snow. As a boy growing up in south Mississippi, I only remember one good snow. It was, interestingly, on March 12th—the first day of spring break and my sister's birthday. We received 6" overnight, which was record-breaking in our neck of the woods.

I remember waking up early and looking out the window at a winter wonderland. I'd never seen anything like it. I quickly bundled up and walked out underneath the pine trees, mesmerized by the holy hush of a gentle falling snow. Was this Narnia? Absolutely magical.

Still today, a good snow pulls out my inner child. As soon as it starts falling, I want to grab the sleds and make snow cream. As soon as the news casters tell me to get off the road and stay home, I want to jump in my car and drive and see the places I know and love—downtown, the church—blanketed in pristine white.

I told several of my friends from the north this week that you need to know three things about Southerners and snow days. First, snow days are southern holidays. Contrary to popular opinion, we do not close things down for safety reasons. I realize that's our stated reason, but it's not the real reason. The real reason we close everything down is to celebrate the arrival of snow. Let's face it—snow is as rare as Christmas and arguably more fun. A business or school in the south that stays open on a snow day is simply out of touch. Don't they know that snow is a sacred gift from heaven and should be treated with appropriate weather reverence?

Second, as beautiful and as wonderful as snow is, snow is scary to a southerner. When snow is forecasted, we go into apocalypse mode. We worry about freezing to death. We wonder if we'll be able to leave our house. "Will I be snowed in forever?" This is why we immediately run to the grocery store and purchase all the bread and milk. For all we know, this may be the last bread and milk we ever taste.

This leads to my third and final point. If you're a true southerner, you're glad to see the snow go. It's true. Snow is like out of town guests. It's good for a day or two; after that, it overstays its welcome. As much as I love the snow, it does my southern heart good to see to see the drops falling from my roof and the grass reappear. Like closing the attic door after putting the last box of Christmas decorations up, it feels good for things to be back to normal.

On that note, is it spring yet?

Your servant,

Sate

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.

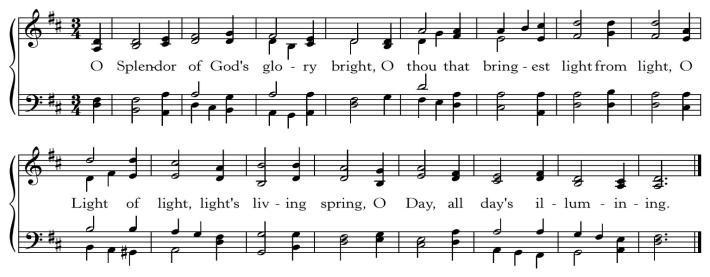
This is the pattern of his love in redeeming and saving his people.

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—O Splendor of God's Glory Bright, Vs I



Text: St. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; Music: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR, Michael Praetorious, 1571-1621.

Call to Worship—Psalm 138:1-2, 6-8

Pastor: I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise; I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness,

All: for you have exalted above all things your name and your word.

Pastor: For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly, but the haughty he knows from afar.

All: Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life; you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and your right hand delivers me.

Pastor: The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me;

All: Your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.

Hymn of Praise—Come, Thou Fount



Text: Robert Robinson, 1758; Music: NETTLETON, Asahel Nettleton, 1825.

Old Testament Reading—Deuteronomy 6:4-9, 20-25

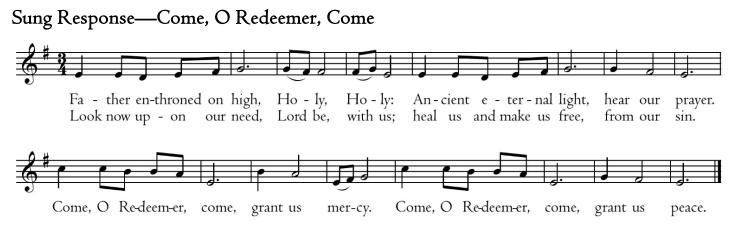
⁴ "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the Lord is one. ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

²⁰ "When your son asks you in time to come, 'What is the meaning of the testimonies and the statutes and the rules that the LORD our God has commanded you?' ²¹ then you shall say to your son, 'We were Pharaoh's slaves in Egypt. And the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand.²² And the LORD showed signs and wonders, great and grievous, against Egypt and against Pharaoh and all his household, before our eyes. ²³ And he brought us out from there, that he might bring us in and give us the land that he swore to give to our fathers. ²⁴ And the LORD commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as we are this day. ²⁵ And it will be righteousness for us, if we are careful to do all this commandment before the LORD our God, as he has commanded us.'

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.



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

Congregational Prayer of Confession-based on I Thessalonians 4:1-8

Leader: Lord, we come to you in prayer and confession. We know how we ought to walk and how to please you, but we delay doing so more and more.

All: Lord Jesus, we know your instructions. And we know that your will is our sanctification.

Leader: You call us to abstain from immorality.

All: But we do not control our own bodies with holiness and honor.

Leader: We allow passions to control us like those who do not know you.

All: We are controlled by our eyes, our ears, our tongue, and our flesh.

Leader: You call us to be careful not to transgress or wrong others because you are an avenger in all these things.

All: But too often our sinful desires are stronger than the love for others.

Leader: You have not called us for impurity, but in holiness.

All: If we disregard this call, we disregard you, O Lord, who gives us your Holy Spirit.

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—Speak O Lord



CCLI #11121087 ©2005 Thankyou Music, Text and Music: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend, 2005.

The Reading of the Word—Titus 2:1-10

But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. ²Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. ³Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, ⁴ and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, ⁵ to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled. ⁶Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled. ⁷Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, ⁸ and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us. ⁹Bondservants are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, ¹⁰ not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.

Leader: The grass withers, the flower fades; All: But the Word of our God will stand forever.

Sermon—Titus: Growing the Church in Godliness, Part 2

Commands for Godly Living

—Nate Shurden, Pastor





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.

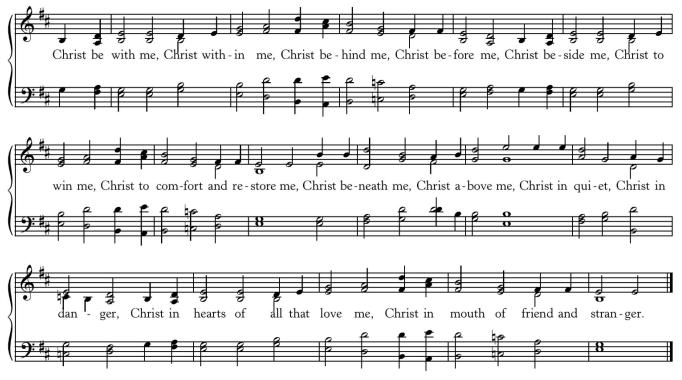
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* church,

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—Christ Be with Me (from St. Patrick's Breastplate)



Text: *Atomriug indui niurt tren,* St. Patrick, 372-466, Trans by Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-95; Music: ST. PATRICK CLONMACNOISE, Traditional Irish Hymn Melody.

God offers to His people the gift of communion with Him through the grace of the sacrament and we respond in thanksgiving.

Words of Institution and the Lord's Table

Guidelines for the Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is the family meal for Christians. We invite all baptized Christians who are members of a congregation that proclaims the gospel, and who are at peace with God and with their neighbor, and who seek strength to live more faithfully for Christ to join us.

If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer. You can find some sample prayers on the next page. We hope that this time is helpful to you as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ and with His people, the church.

At Cornerstone, we come forward to receive communion. Proceed to the first table for the bread, and then on the second for wine/juice.

Psalm of the Month-Psalm 92: It is Good to Sing Your Praises



Text: Psalm 92, The Psalter, 1912; Music: Greyfriars Press, 2023

Hymn of Praise—Come Ye Souls, By Sin Afflicted flict ed, Bowed with Come, souls - by sin af fruit - less ye --Take His yoke and wear it: Love will make ea sy 0 -Bless -Blest the ed are_ the eyes that see Him, ears that Sweet home to pil - grims wear - y, Light to new - lv as By ed, down; the bro ken law vict row con sor bed _ ience sweet: Christ will give you strength to bear it,___ hear His voice: Bless - ed are the souls that trust Him, 0 pened eyes, Or full springs in des erts drear -V____ Through the cross be hold___ the crown: Look to While His wis Safe dom guides your feet _ to And in Him_ joice; His а lone___ re com --Is the the sup plies; All who rest____ cross_ Je mer flows_ through Him lone. sus; cy а glor where His somed cap - tives meet. у, ran _ mand ments then be come_ their hap py choice. taste_ it shall to rest_ im mor tal rise. _

Text: Joseph Swain, 1792; Music: Gregory Wilbur, 2005. © 2005 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*

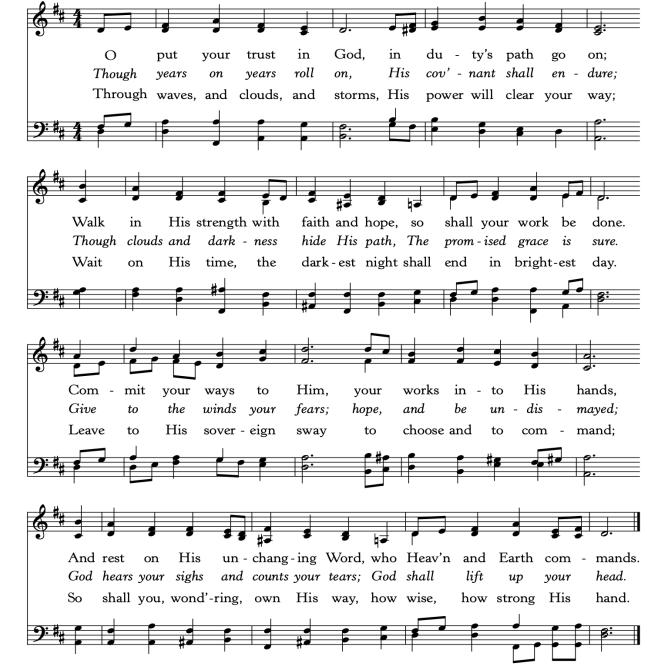
Prayer of Commitment. Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship through membership in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. *Amen*

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—O Put Your Trust In God



Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1656; Music: TERRA BEATA, Franklin L. Sheppard, 1915.

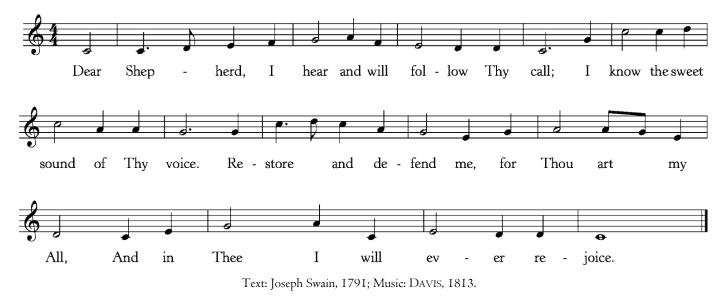
GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT TO BE LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

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 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word. *Amen.*

Sung Response—O Thou In Whose Presence, Vs II



Missions Prayer Focus—Ryan Angel is the Campus Ministry Associate for Reformed University Fellowship at Tennessee Tech. Along with his intern, Corinne Parsons, Ryan seeks to share the Gospel with the students of Tennessee Tech and disciple them by meeting one on one, leading small groups and a student ministry team, and he also preaches at the weekly Large Group meeting.

Please Pray:

- That the Lord would continue to gather and grow students as we begin this Spring semester
- For our upcoming Spring Break Missions Trip to San Salvador, El Salvador
- That the Lord would work in and through our Student Ministry Team as they seek to participate in God's work on campus

Welcome to Cornerstone! If you are visiting with us today, we are glad you're here! We invite you to fill out a visitor form by scanning this QR code so that we may welcome you personally. Alternatively, visitor cards are available at either entrance to the chapel and can be placed in one of the offering boxes as you leave.



Focus on Church Ministry

Exploring Cornerstone

Want to learn about the history, beliefs, vision, and ministries of Cornerstone, as well as meet key ministry leaders? Interested in becoming a member? Exploring Cornerstone is the class for you. We will meet on Friday, February 2, from 6:00-8:30 p.m. and Saturday, February 3, from 8:00 a.m.-noon. Childcare will be provided. Please visit the website to register.

Childcare for SGI in Nashville

Colleen McGarry is in need of additional help for the childcare program that runs during the Women's English program at Servant Group International. Helping with childcare usually looks like playing hide and seek, doing puzzles, and lots of coloring and blocks! The commitment is two hours once a week on either Monday or Wednesday morning from 10:15-12:15. To learn more, contact Colleen at colleen@servantgroup.org.

Gathered In to Cultivate Beauty

Please join with other Cornerstone women on Wednesday, February 7, at 6:30 p.m. for desserts, coffee, and a very special make-and-take evening! All girls 7th grade and up are encouraged to join. We will enjoy a time of fellowship together and learn about cultivating beauty in a simple way that honors the Lord. The cost for this evening is \$20. Space is limited for this event. Registration is open online.

Epiphany Devotional

Pick up the new devotional at either entrance to the chapel to read and memorize Scripture along with your Cornerstone family during our new series in Titus.

Midweek at Cornerstone—Save the Date

Starting February I4 (Ash Wednesday) and continuing each week leading up to Holy Week, we'll gather on Wednesday evenings for Midweek. Join us for a fellowship dinner and then stay for Vespers, Youth Group, Kid's Club, and Choir. Make sure you're subscribed to our emails so you don't miss details or registration for dinners! You can sign up on the homepage of the church website.

Music Opportunities at Cornerstone

If you are a singer or instrumentalist interested in participating in the music of Cornerstone, please reach out to Greg Wilbur (greg@cstonepres.org). Official rehearsals for choir leading up to Holy Week begin on February 14, but choir members and musicians will be gathering soon to begin preparations for this season.

Let's Study Acts!

Brothers, starting this week on Tuesday (January 23) or Thursday (January 25) at 6:45 a.m. at the Corner House, the Cornerstone men will study *Acts: On Mission with Jesus Christ in the World.* You can register for either Tuesday or Thursday morning's study by going to the Cornerstone website or app.

Cornerstone Youth—Middle School Caving Trip

All Cornerstone 7th-8th graders are invited to join us on Saturday, February 17, for a day trip to Cumberland Caverns. We will do an adventure tour of a cave—hiking, crawling, and climbing together through this unique part of creation. We'll leave Franklin in the morning and return in the early evening. The cost is \$65 per person. Registration is open on the website!

Save the Date: The Cornerstone Youth are heading to Deer Run for a spring retreat April 26-28.

Sew for Hope

Due to weather, our women's morning at SGI has been postponed to this Wednesday morning from 9:30-12:00. Come join us this week to help the Sew for Hope ministry prepare sewing kits for their spring classes. SGI will provide a Kurdish breakfast for us, then we will spend the remainder of our time cutting fabric and fellowshipping. Please register on the website to join us on Wednesday!

The Bookshelf

If you haven't been by the Cornerstone Bookshelf in a while, stop by this morning. You'll find it in the kitchen on the second floor. There are several new titles, including one of Nate's "favorite reads" of 2023: *Remaking the World* by Andrew Wilson. You won't find better prices anywhere!

Taking the Message Home

Today's message, "Commands for Godly Living," is taken from Titus 2:1-10. Please take time to discuss the questions below with your family, friends, or Home Fellowship Group (HFG).

- Charles Spurgeon once wrote, "Discernment is not the ability to tell the difference between right and wrong; rather, it's telling the difference between right and almost right." Take a few minutes to give examples of "almost right" teachings in our day that sound true but do not accord with sound doctrine.
- As Titus labors to put what remains into order (1:5), why does Paul tell him to focus on the family? Why is our home and family relationships critical to Christian growth and witness?
- There are six categories of people in Titus 2:2-10—older men, older women, younger women, younger men, Titus himself, and slaves. Which category are you in? How do you need to hear and apply what Paul is saying to you?
- In Titus 2:2-10, every group in the body of Christ should be discipled by someone and be discipling someone. Who is discipling you? Who are you discipling? If your answer is no one, what step can you make this week to changing that?
- How is all the instruction in this text gospel instruction—rooted in "the teaching about God our Savior" (v. 10)?

CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Presbyterian Church in America

Pastor: Nate Shurden (615-618-4707 Office) or nate@cstonepres.org Assistant Pastor: Tony Giles (615-430-8801) or tony@cstonepres.org Worship and Chief Musician: Greg Wilbur (615-512-4156) or greg@cstonepres.org Office Administrator: Robin Spychalski (615-618-4707) or office@cstonepres.org Church Life Coordinator: Dan Fiedler (615-812-4032) or dan@cstonepres.org Women's Ministry Director: Martha Brooks (615-591-1683) or women@cstonepres.org Men's Ministry: men@cstonepres.org Young Adult Ministry: Taylor Thompson (717-371-0848) or youngadults@cstonepres.org Director of Youth and Families: Drew Abercrombie (407-489-1724) or drew@cstonepres.org

Children's Director: Meredith Suits (865-250-3579) or elementary@cstonepres.org Nursery Coordinator: Christy Shurden or nursery@cstonepres.org Administrative Assistant for Discipleship: Kelley Shell (662-231-9814) or kelley@cstonepres.org Home Fellowship Information: HFG@cstonepres.org

Prayer Requests: prayer@cstonepres.org

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Ron Moffat (629-215-5135) Jim Payne (615-497-0613) Jim Smith (615-347-4188)

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

*On Sabbatical

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All Scripture quotations from the English Standard Version