



# CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



## TITUS

Growing the Church in Godliness



SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND GOSPEL RENEWAL

*Fourth Sunday of Epiphany*

*28 January 2024*

# *Pastoral Notes*

Dear Cornerstone Family,

I ran across an old peanuts cartoon strip the other day. Some of you will know it. Lucy says to Linus, “You could never be a doctor. You know why?” Linus doesn’t respond, but that doesn’t slow Lucy down. She continues, “Because you don’t love mankind. That’s why!” As Lucy walks away, Linus yells after her, “I love mankind! It’s people I can’t stand!”

It’s funny, and so we laugh—rightfully so. But don’t miss the important and very uncomfortable truth Linus tells. People are so much easier to love in theory. For instance, I have no problems with my hypothetical neighbor. I have no conflicts with my hypothetical boss. I’m at perfect peace with my hypothetical spouse. But my real-life, living, breathing neighbor, coworker, and spouse? Well, that’s an entirely different story.

Reflecting on this uncomfortable truth this week, I confessed to the Lord how holy I sometimes feel sipping my coffee, reading my Bible, and praying *alone*. “Ah, this is what living the Christian life is all about.” Now, I don’t believe that, and I’d never say that. But it’s easy—especially for some of us—to fall into the trap of thinking the Christian life is about a set of spiritual disciplines or building theological castles in the sky. But spiritual disciplines and theology are for *living and loving like Christ*. Believe it or not, your Bible reading plan and “flawless” theology aren’t the point. They are the means God is using to prepare you to live and love like him.

Beginning February 14, we will spend the six Wednesday nights leading up to Holy Week looking at a variety of “one another” commands in the New Testament. We will come to terms with the (humbling) fact that our grasp of Christ-like love is best seen in relationship to our whiny two-year-old, overbearing boss, and impossible mother-in-law. Then, we will consider, as Titus 2:11-14 teaches, how the grace of God *trains us* to put God’s love to work in relationship with one another.

## **The One Another Commands: Learning to Love Like Christ**

Feb. 14, *Have this Mind with One Another*

Feb. 21, *Welcome One Another*

Feb. 28, *Speak the Word with One Another*

March 6, *Have Fellowship with One Another*

March 13, *Serve One Another*

March 20, *Give Grace to One Another*

I can’t wait to take this journey with you.

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

The musical score is written for a piano and voice. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The piano accompaniment is in a bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics for the first system are: "O Splendor of God's glo - ry bright, O thou that bring - est light from light, O". The second system also has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line continues with the lyrics: "Light of light, light's liv - ing spring, O Day, all day's il - lum - in - ing." The piano accompaniment continues with the same key signature and time signature.

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

## Call to Worship—Psalm 95:I-3, 6-7

Pastor: Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;  
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

All: Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

Pastor: Let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

All: For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

Pastor: Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

All: For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

## Hymn of Praise—Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven

Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en, to his feet your trib - ute bring;  
Praise him for his grace and fa - vor, to our fa - thers in dis - tress;  
Fa - ther - like, he tends and spares us; well our fee - ble frame he knows;  
An - gels, help us to a - dore him; you be - hold him face to face;

ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, who, like me, his praise should sing?  
praise him, still the same for - ev - er, slow to chide and swift to bless;  
in his hands he gent - ly bears us, res - cues us from all our foes;  
sun and moon, bow down be - fore him, dwell - ers all in time and space,

Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, praise the ev - er - last - ing King.  
praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness.  
praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, wide - ly as his mer - cy goes.  
praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, praise with us the God of grace.

Text: From Psalm 103, Henry F. Lyte, 1834; Music: PRAISE MY SOUL, John Goss, 1869

*+++New Arrivals, please wait in the Narthex to be seated.  
Following the Confession of Sin, Ushers will assist you.+++*

## New Testament Reading—2 Peter 1:3-11

<sup>3</sup>His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,<sup>4</sup>by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. <sup>5</sup>For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, <sup>6</sup>and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, <sup>7</sup>and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. <sup>8</sup>For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. <sup>10</sup>Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. <sup>11</sup>For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

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—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 Re-deem-er, come, grant us mer-cy. Come, O Re-deem-er, come, grant us peace.

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

## Congregational Prayer of Confession—based on 2 Chronicles 6:14-16, 22, 36-39

Leader: Lord, we come before you in confession and prayer.

There is no God like You, in heaven or on earth, keeping covenant  
and showing steadfast love to your servants who walk before you with all their heart

**All: If we will pay close attention to our way,  
and walk in your law  
You have promised that we shall continue to stand before your presence**

Leader: But we have sinned against you and your law, acting perversely and wickedly.

**All: We have wandered away from you,  
trespassed your law,  
and sinned against our neighbors.**

Leader: If we sin against you—and there is no one who does not sin—  
and if we repent with all our heart and with all our soul in the land of our captivity

**All: Then you will hear our prayer and our pleas from heaven, your dwelling place,  
and maintain our cause and forgive your people  
who have sinned against you.**

## 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.

*+++New Arrivals are Welcome to be Seated+++*

Psalm of Praise—Psalm 119:1-8 Blessed Are All (Only in Jesus)

Bless-ed are all whose path is blame-less, All those who walk in the law of God.  
 Bless-ed are those who do no e - vil, All those who walk in the way of peace.  
 Make all my ways be ev - er faith - ful, Stead - fast to keep eve - ry word de - clared.  
 Prais-ing in him, with heart made right-eous, Learn - ing to step in your per - fect paths.

Bless - ed are all who heed his stat - utes, All who pur - sue with a heart un - bound.  
 Your Word has thun - dered forth your pre - cepts, That we might keep them in word and deed.  
 Nev - er a - shamed, and ev - er grate - ful, Fix all my sight on your work pre - pared.  
 Spir - it, now keep me in your stat - utes Nev - er for - sak - ing, hold me fast.

All who pur - sue with a heart un - bound. On - ly in Je - sus Way, truth, and  
 That we might keep them in word and deed.  
 Fix all my sight on your work pre - pared.  
 Nev - er for - sak - ing, hold me fast.

life; On - ly in Je - sus All of the law he has sat-is-fied. All of the law he has sat-is - fied.

CCLI #11121087 Text and Music: Zac Hicks, 2019 ©2019 Unbudding Fig Music (ASCAP)

**The Reading of the Word—Titus 2:11-15**

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people,<sup>12</sup> training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, <sup>13</sup>waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup>who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

<sup>15</sup>Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

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 3**

*Grace for Godly Living*

—Nate Shurden, *Pastor*



### Sung Response—O Praise the Father

O praise the Fa-ther, Praise the Son, The Lamb for sin - ners giv - en.

And Ho - ly Spir-it, through whom a - lone Our hearts are raised to Heav - en.

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 first system is for the first line of text, and the second system is for the second line. The music is in 3/4 time and features a simple, hymn-like melody with a piano accompaniment of chords and moving lines.

Text: John Mason, 1683; Music: Gregory Wilbur, 2011.

## 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*)

Christ be with me, Christ with-in me, Christ be-hind me, Christ be-fore me, Christ be-side me, Christ to  
win me, Christ to com-fort and re-store me, Christ be-neath me, Christ a-bove me, Christ in qui-et, Christ in  
dan-ger, Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stran-ger.

The musical score is written for piano accompaniment in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The melody is primarily in the treble staff, with the bass staff providing harmonic support. The lyrics are placed below the treble staff of each system.

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

# THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

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

## Words of Institution and the Lord's Table

### Guidelines for the Lord's Supper

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

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

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

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

It is good to sing Your prais-es And to thank You, O Most High,  
You have filled my heart with glad-ness Through the works Your hands have wrought;  
But the good shall live be - fore You, Plant - ed in Your dwell-ing - place,  
Show - ing forth Your lov - ing-kind-ness When the morn - ing lights the sky. It is  
You have made my life vic - to - rious, Great Your works and deep Your thought. You, O  
Fruit - ful trees and ev - er ver - dant, Nour-ished by Your bound-less grace. In His  
good whennight is fall - ing Of Your faith - ful - ness to tell, While with  
Lord, on high ex - alt - ed, Reign - est ev - er - more in might; All Your  
good - ness to the right - eous God His right - eous-ness dis - plays; God my  
sweet, me - lo - dious prais-es Songs of ad - o - ra - tion swell.  
en - e - mies shall per - ish, Sin be ban - ished from Your sight.  
rock, my strength and ref - uge, Just and true are all His ways.

Last Time

It is good to sing Your prais-es And to thank You, O Most High,  
Show-ing forth Your lov - ing-kind-ness When the morn-ing lights the sky.

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

## Hymn of Communion—Come, All Ye Pining, Hungry Poor



Lord, we a - dore thy bound - less grace,      The heights and depths un - known,  
O won - d'rous gift of love di - vine,      Dear source of ev - 'ry good!  
Here shall your num - rous wants re - ceive      A free, a full sup - ply:



Of par-don, life, and joy, and peace,      In thy be - lov - ed Son.  
Je - sus, in thee what glo - ries shine!      How rich thy flow - ing blood!  
He has un - meas - ured bliss to give,      And joys that nev - er die.



Come, all ye pin - ing, hun - gry poor,      The Sav - ior's boun - ty taste;



Behold a ne - ver - fail - ing store,      For ev - 'ry will - ing guest.

CCLI #11121087 ©Red Mountain Hymns Text: Anne Steel, 1716-1778; Music: Brian T. Murphy.

### 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—There is a Fountain Filled with Blood

There is a fountain filled with blood drawn from Em - man - uel's  
The dy - ing thief re - joiced to see that fountain in his  
E'er since, by faith, I saw the stream Thy flow - ing wounds sup -  
Dear dy - ing Lamb, Thy pre - cious blood shall nev - er lose its

veins; And sin - ners plunged be - neath that flood lose all their guilt - y  
day; And there have I, though vile as he, washed all my sins a -  
ply, Re - deem - ing love has been my theme, and shall be till I  
power, Till all the ran - somed church of God be saved, to sin no

stains. Lose all their guilt - y stains, lose all their guilt - y stains; And  
way. Washed all my sins a - way, washed all my sins a - way; And  
die. And shall be till I die, and shall be till I die; Re -  
more. Be saved, to sin no more, be saved, to sin no more; Till

sin - ners plunged be - neath that flood lose all their guilt - y stains.  
there have I, though vile as he, washed all my sins a - way.  
deem - ing love has been my theme, and shall be till I die.  
all the ran - somed church of God be saved, to sin no more.

Text: William Cowper, 1771; Music: FOUNTAIN, Lowell Mason, 1830.

# 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 5:23-24

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it. *Amen.*

## Sung Response—Unto Christ Who Loved Us

Un - to Christ, who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,  
and has made us kings and priests un - to God and His Fa - ther: un - to Him be  
glo - ry and do - min - ion for - ev - er and ev - er. A - - - men.

CCLI #11121087 ©1936 Oxford University Press. Text: Revelation 1:5-6 Music: UNTO HIM WHO LOVED US, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1936.

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

### 2023 Giving Statements

An email recently went out to church members with a link to access and print your 2023 Giving Statement for your personal records. As a reminder, you will need to log into CCB to run your giving statement. From the email you received, hit the green button “Get Statement” and follow these instructions: for Type indicate “family” (if applicable); under Quick Date Range simply select “Last Year,” and under Tax Deductible select “Deductible Only.” Click “Run Report” and you may print from there. If you have never logged in before or need help, contact Robin Spychalski at [office@cstonepres.org](mailto:office@cstonepres.org). Thank you for assisting the Cornerstone Office in utilizing the CCB software for your Giving Statements. Please note: if you are not a member of Cornerstone, a hard copy of your Giving Statement has been mailed to you.

### Loving Franklin’s Elderly

On the first Sunday of each month, a group from Cornerstone leads a brief worship service at Morning Pointe of Franklin. We’d love to have you offer friendship to the residents and lend your voice to the singing of hymns. Please join us after the service next week, February 4, from 1:30- 2:15 p.m. Contact: [ethan@cstonepres.org](mailto:ethan@cstonepres.org)

### Childcare for SGI in Nashville

Colleen McGarry needs help for childcare that runs during the Women’s English program at Servant Group International. The commitment is two hours once a week on Wednesday mornings from 10:15-12:15. To learn more, contact Colleen at [colleen@servantgroup.org](mailto:colleen@servantgroup.org).

### Tabletalk Magazine

There are free copies of the last issue of *Tabletalk* available at either entrance to the chapel. Please take advantage of this wonderful resource.

### Midweek at Cornerstone—Save the Date

Starting February 14 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 Youth Group, Kid’s Club, Choir, and Vespers, where we will dive into the “One Another” Commands.

### Evenings of Encouragement for Moms

This group meets the first Tuesday of every month at the home of Suzann Allen (2940 McLemore Circle). Join us Tuesday, February 6, 6:45-8:30 p.m., as we discuss Sara Wallace’s book, *For the Love of Discipline*.

### 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 7<sup>th</sup> grade and up are encouraged to join. We will enjoy a time of fellowship together and learn about cultivating beauty through flower arranging in a simple way that honors the Lord. The cost for this evening is \$20. Space is limited for this event. Register online.

### Cornerstone Youth—Middle School Caving Trip

All Cornerstone 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> 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. 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.

### Book Discussion: Monday, February 26

Join us from 7:00-8:30pm at The Corner House to discuss the award-winning autobiographical novel *Everything Sad is Untrue* by Daniel Nayeri. A refugee from Iran, Nayeri immigrated to Oklahoma at the age of 8. As we enter the season of Lent, this story presents a beautiful picture of what it means to take up your cross and follow Christ. Copies are available on the Bookshelf. Contact: [greg@cstonepres.org](mailto:greg@cstonepres.org)

### 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](mailto: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.

## Taking the Message Home

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Today's message, "Grace for Godly Living," is taken from Titus 2:11-15. Please take time to discuss the questions below with your family, friends, or Home Fellowship Group (HFG).

- We often think of sanctification as coming after salvation, but, for Paul, sanctification is a part of salvation. Why is that important?
- What does it mean for grace to train or discipline us? Can you explain how that works? Use an illustration if possible.
- How can we know if grace is training or disciplining us? According to Paul, what are the evidences or results?
- Last week in the sermon, you were asked to do a character inventory. Take one of the areas where you need growth and consider how grace would train you. Ask yourself, "What do I need to renounce? What do I need to embrace? To what do I need to be looking to for hope?"
- What from today or from the series on Titus have you most needed to hear?

## CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### Presbyterian Church in America

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\*On Sabbatical

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*All Scripture quotations from the English Standard Version*

