

CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



TITUS

Growing the Church in Godliness



Service of Celebration and Gospel Renewal
Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

II February 2024

Pastoral Notes

Dear Cornerstone Family,

As we wrap up our series in Titus today, we turn next week to the Old Testament prophet Isaiah. For the five Sundays leading up to Palm Sunday and Holy Week, we will spend time in the four servant songs of Isaiah. These four songs provide a vivid glimpse into the ministry, character, and exaltation of the Messiah, the Servant of the Lord. By God's grace, this brief series will prepare us for the heart-rending and mending climax of the Christian year—the crucifixion and resurrection of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Servant Songs of Isaiah

- February 18 *The Gospel According to Isaiah* (Isaiah 6:I-13)
- February 25 The Servant of the Lord: Chosen by God and Filled with the Spirit (Isaiah 42:I-9)
- March 3 The Servant of the Lord: Redeemer and the Hope of the Nations (Isa 49:I-7)
- March I0 The Servant of the Lord: Obedient and Faithful to the End (Isa 50:4-II)
- March 17 The Servant of the Lord: Atoning Sacrifice and Peace Maker (Isaiah 52:13-53:12)
- March 24 The Servant of the Lord: The Humble King Fulfilling His Mission (Matthew 21:I-II)
- March 3I Easter Sunday

Speaking of the Christian year, the church refers to the forty days leading up to Easter as **Lent**. The word "lent" comes from the Anglo-Saxon term for *length*. Traditionally, the term denoted springtime—the time of year when the days begin to *lengthen*. At the beginning of the Lenten season (Ash Wednesday, February 14th), the days are shorter and colder. But by the end of Lent, the days are longer and warmer. At the beginning of Lent, everything is brown and dead. But by the end of Lent, the daffodils are poking through the ground and the bright greens of early spring are everywhere.

The change from winter to spring is the whole story of Lent. For Lent is the story of the world's long winter giving way to the springtime of a new world. Lent points to the fundamental change that the gospel brings—away from a world where death reigns into a new world where life never ends.

There's a curious story Luke tells about Jesus that starts like this, "When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to Jerusalem..." (Luke 9:51). You can hear the resolution: Jesus set his face. Jesus knows that if he goes to Jerusalem, he won't get out alive. Well, at least not without dying first. But in setting his face toward Jerusalem, Jesus focuses his attention on the purpose for which he was sent—to atone for sin and defeat the final enemy, death. In a word, Jesus set his gaze toward the dark winter of the cross because he knew the bright spring of the empty tomb was on the other side (see Hebrews 12:I-2).

In this Isaiah series, it's my prayer that we will set our face toward Jerusalem. That by entering afresh into the fulfillment of Christ's mission, we might be readied for participating in Christ's sufferings, and, in so doing, might attain the resurrection of the dead (Philippians 3:I0-II).

Your servant,

Nate

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.

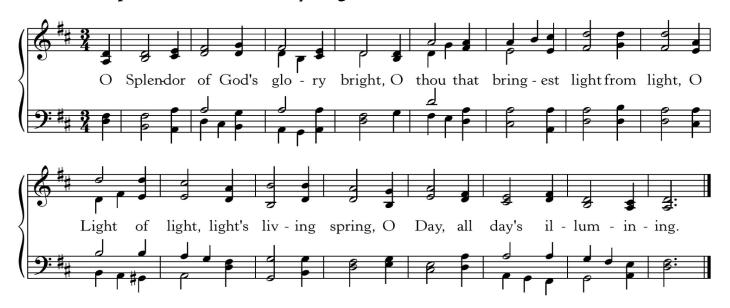
This is the pattern of his love in redeeming and saving his people.

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 34:I-3, 8, II-I4

Pastor: I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

All: My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.

Pastor: Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together!

All: Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

Pastor: Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

What man is there who desires life and loves many days, that he may see good?

All: Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit.

Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

Hymn of Praise—Praise to the Lord



Text: Psalm 103, Joachim Neander, 1680, Tr. by Catherine Winkworth, 1863; Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, *Stralsund Gesangbuch*, 1665, Arr, in *Praxis Pietatis Melica*, 1668.

New Testament Reading—Jude 17-23

¹⁷ But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ They said to you, "In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions." ¹⁹ It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. ²⁰ But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹ keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. ²² And have mercy on those who doubt; ²³ save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.

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.



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Corporate Confession of Sin—based on Ephesians 4:1-4, 14-16

Leader: Lord, we come to you in confession and prayer;

You have made us to be one body, in one Spirit, called to one hope.

But our pride and impatience have spawned only dissension and division.

All: We have not been strong in the strength of your might and have not readied ourselves for the daily work of reconciliation.

Leader: We have neglected the grace given to us by Christ's gift and have failed to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

All: Forgive us for being tossed to and fro by selfish whims, for building our own kingdoms rather than living in submission to Christ's Kingdom.

Leader: Help us to speak the truth in love, and walk in it.

Rescue us and fill us with the Spirit,
that Christ may be formed with us.

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+++

Hymn of Praise—Though the World and Many Idols



Text:; Gin Tuck, 2010; Music: Sherdonna Denholm, 2010

GOD TEACHES US THROUGH HIS WORD

The Reading of the Word—Titus 3:9-15

⁹ But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless. ¹⁰ As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, ¹¹ knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.

¹² When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. ¹³ Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. ¹⁴ And let our people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful.

¹⁵ All who are with me send greetings to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all.

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 5

Discipline unto Godliness in the Church

—Nate Shurden, Pastor

Sung Response—O Praise the Father



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.

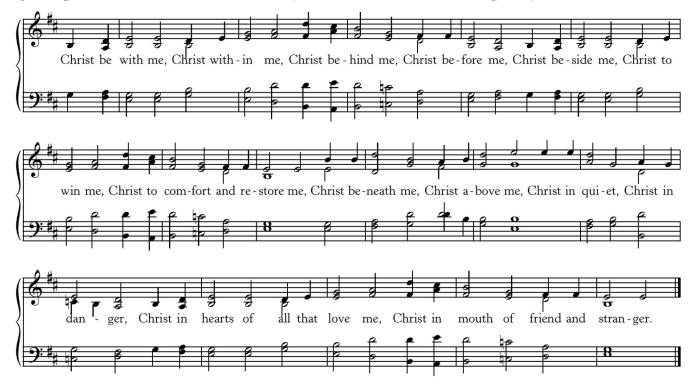
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* church,

The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

The resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

^{* &}quot;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.

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 120: In My Distress I Cried to God



St. 1 © 2017 Bill Lovegrove; St. 2-4 © 2017 Mount Calvary Baptist Church; refrain © 2016 Tina Nguyen. Music © 2017 Tina Nguyen.

Hymn of Praise—Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken



CCLI #11121087 © 2005 ReformedPraise.org Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1833: Music: Jeff Bourque, 2005.

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—Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



Text: Charles Wesley, 1747; Music: HYFRYDOL, R.H. Prichard, 1831.

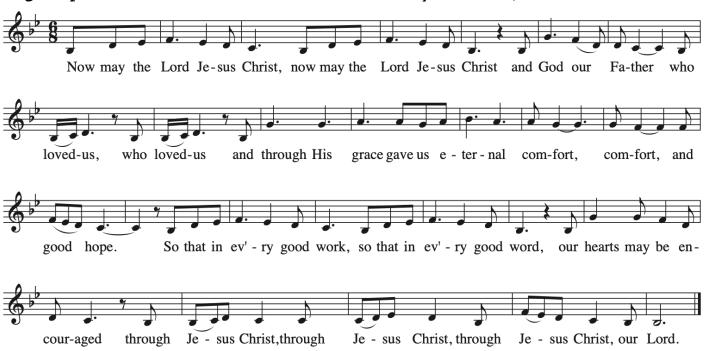
GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT TO BE LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

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—from II Thessalonians I:II-I2

May our God make us worthy of His calling and may He fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by His power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in us, and us in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Sung Response—II Thessalonians 2:16-17 Now May the Lord Jesus Christ



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Missions Prayer—Ryan and Kelly Akers have been working with university students since 2008 and have been working with students in Edinburgh, Scotland since 2023. The Akers seek to come alongside the local church to evangelize university students, disciple students to become mature followers of Jesus Christ, and mobilize students from the campus to the world. They do this by building personal relationships, seeking to reach students on their own turf. They have three children, Rowen, Hudson, and Hannah Ryan, the youngest of which is with them in Edinburgh.

Please Pray:

- For our family as we continue to get adjusted to life in a new place.
- That we would continue to learn the culture of Scotland.
- That the Lord would continue to give us clear avenues to build relationships with university students.
- For the arrival of our team in summer 2024 and the kicking off of ministry in the fall.

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

Cornerstone Family Meeting

Calling all Cornerstone members! On Sunday, February 18 we will have a family meeting in the Chapel during the Sunday School hour to give a few updates on the life of the church. Please make plans to join.

A New Wilbur Music Release!

Our very own Greg Wilbur releases his brand new album, Securely I Will Dwell, on February 13. To celebrate the release and to learn about this project, we will have a special adult Sunday School class on February 25. Pastor Nate will lead a Q&A with Greg on his own musical development, the making of this project, worship music in general, and much more.

Cornerstone Youth—Spring Retreat

Registration is now open for our youth Spring Retreat at Deer Run from April 26-28! Using the Westminster Shorter Catechism and the Lord's Prayer, we will learn what prayer is, what to pray, and how to pray. We will practice how to pray for one another, ourselves, the church, and the world. Join us for a weekend of fun, food, fellowship, campfires, and games, all while drawing near to one another and our good and gracious God!

Please note a schedule change for Youth Group beginning this Wednesday. With the start of Midweek at Cornerstone, the youth will adjust their weekly schedule to begin at 5:15 p.m. for dinner with the rest of the church and will finish at 7:15 p.m.

Book Discussion: Monday, February 26

Join us from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at The Corner House two weeks from tomorrow 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. Register online to let us know you're coming! Contact: greg@cstonepres.org

Midweek at Cornerstone

Starting this Wednesday (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" of Scripture.

February 14 – Have this Mind with One Another February 21 – Welcome One Another February 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

Home Fellowship Groups

We are always eager to know what the needs and interests might be for our next Home Fellowship Group. Anyone interested in a Brentwood area HFG please email HFG@cstonepres.org.

Golf Tournament Fundraiser

Join us for a Golf Tournament at the Franklin Bridge Golf Club on Monday, May 13, to support our youth mission team heading to Belize. In partnership with Oaks of Righteousness, the youth team will spend a week this summer supporting the work of the church in Belize through community outreach, providing materially for children and families, and sharing the good news about Jesus Christ. They will visit homes, run field days, and lead Bible camps in the communities in and around Belize City.



Your donation will help our youth get there! Mark your calendars and **sign up online** to sponsor a hole or play in the tournament. Scan this QR code to register or donate now. Today's message, "Discipline unto Godliness in the Church," is taken from Titus 3:9-15. Please take time to discuss the questions below with your family, friends, or Home Fellowship Group (HFG).

- If you had focused only on what was spiritually fruitful/profitable and avoided what is worthless/unfruitful (see Titus 3:8-II, I4), how different would your week have been? Specifically, what would you cut out? What would you add in?
- Can you name a few matters of debate or speculation in our day that fall under the label "foolish controversies" that are "unprofitable and worthless" (Titus 3:9)? Are you getting caught up in these debates?
- Take a moment to identify characteristics of a divisive person. As you do, evaluate yourself. Are you a divisive person?
- Paul indicates that after two warnings we are to have nothing to do with divisive people. Some believe this is a reference to church discipline (see also I Tim. I:20). What's the purpose of church discipline? (see Matthew 18:15-21)
- As we finish our study in Titus, consider how God has used this series in your life. Close this time giving thanks to the Lord for Titus.

CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Presbyterian Church in America

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All Scripture quotations from the English Standard Version

