

CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Service of Celebration and Gospel Renewal

First Sunday of Lent

18 February 2024

Pastoral Notes

Dear Cornerstone Family,

Of all the Old Testament prophets, it's likely the prophet you know best is Isaiah. For every Christmas, we return to prophesies like...

"Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son and his name shall be called Immanuel." (Isaiah 7:I4)

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)

Then, a few months later on Good Friday, we return to Isaiah and read...

"Surely he has born our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed." (Isaiah 53:4-5)

Though ministering roughly 700 years before the incarnation, Isaiah writes with tremendous clarity and specificity about Jesus Christ. So much so, that some of the early church fathers refer to his prophesy as *the fifth gospel*. Meaning, if we did not have Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, we would know a fair amount about Jesus Christ simply by reading the prophecy of Isaiah.

It's true—just ask the Ethiopian eunuch. In Acts 8, Philip is instructed by an angel to go to Gaza. When he arrives, he meets an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, the queen of the Ethiopians. Having worshipped in Jerusalem, the eunuch is making his way home. But as Philip finds him, he's stopped on the side of the road seated in his chariot reading the Scriptures. Led by the Spirit, Philip approached him, "Do you understand what you're reading?" Humbly, the Eunuch responded, "How can I, unless someone guides me." At the invitation of the eunuch, Philip climbed into the chariot and looked over the text he was reading...

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth..." (Isaiah 53:7-8)

Puzzled, the Eunuch asked, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Taking a page out of Jesus's own approach to interpreting the Scripture (see Luke 24:27), Philip unfolded the Scripture and explained from Isaiah 53 the good news about Jesus Christ.

As we begin a five-week series in Isaiah's prophecy, focusing our attention of the four servant songs (Isaiah 42:I-9, 49:I-7, 50:4-9, 52:I3-53:I2), join me in praying that together we might be struck afresh with the good news about Jesus Christ and worship him accordingly.

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.

Worship Notes— As we look forward to Easter through this Lenten weeks of preparation, we shifted a few things in the service order. For the next six weeks we will use "Behold the Glories of the Lamb" as our Introit (from the Latin word for "entrance" and the entering into the worship service). This text by Isaac Watts from 1668 calls us to consider and praise the Lamb of God. Incidentally, this was the very first hymn that Watts wrote giving significance to the line of "prepare new honors" and "songs before unknown." The sermon series for Lent is from several passages from Isaiah—beginning with chapter six and the call of Isaiah confronted with the angels calling to one another, "Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts!" The Call to Worship from Psalm 99 and the opening hymn, "Holy, Holy, Holy," both highlight the holiness of God. The call of Isaiah to preach the Gospel is echoed in the New Testament reading from Romans 10.

The Lenten Devotional focuses on a different Psalm of Lament each week with the Congregational Confession of Sin using that same Psalm for worship on Sundays. This week is Psalm 143.

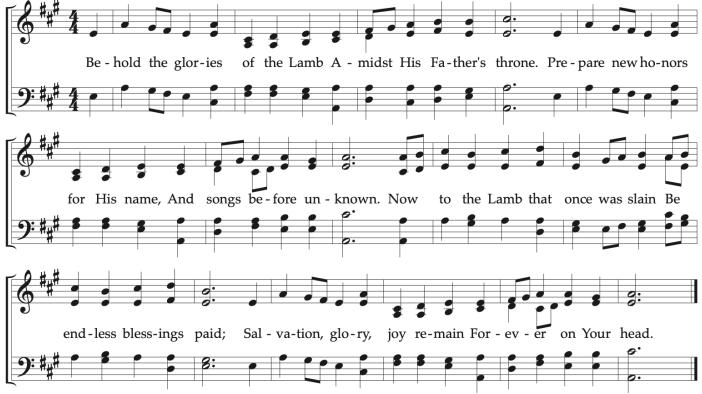
For these weeks leading to Easter, we will be using the Nicene Creed as our Profession of Faith. In 325 A.D. the Council of Nicaea convened to settle disputes about the nature of Christ and His relationship to the Father. The result of the council was the creation of the Nicene Creed as a crystallization of the biblical doctrine of the nature of Christ as the Son of God.

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—Behold the Glories of the Lamb



Text: Isaac Watts, 1668; Music: ELLACOMBE, Later form (1868) of a melody in Wüttemberger Gesangbuch (1784).

Call to Worship—from Psalm 99:I-5

Pastor: The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble!

He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

All: The LORD is great in Zion; He is exalted over all the peoples.

Pastor: Let them praise your great and awesome name!

All: Holy is He!

Pastor: The King in His might loves justice. Exalt the LORD our God; worship at His footstool!

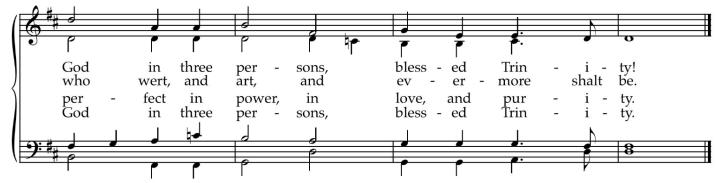
All: Holy is He!

Pastor: Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy mountain.

All: For the LORD our God is holy!

Hymn of Praise—Holy, Holy, Holy





Text: Reginald Heber, 1783-1826; Music: NICAEA, John B. Dykes, 1861.

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

New Testament Reading—Romans 10:13-17

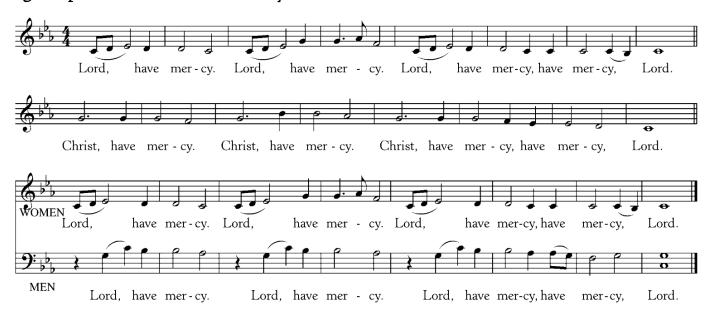
¹³ For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." ¹⁴ How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵ And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" ¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" ¹⁷ So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of 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—Lord, Have Mercy



Text: Luke 18:13; Music: Franklin Kyrie, Gregory D Wilbur, 2009. ©2009 Greyfriars Press.

Congregational Confession of Sin—from Psalm 143:1-10

Leader: Lord, we come to you in prayer and confession. Forgive us, for we have sinned. Hear our prayers, O Lord; give ear to our pleas for mercy!

All: In your faithfulness answer us, in your righteousness!

Leader: Enter not into judgment with your servants,

All: for no one living is righteous before you.

Leader: For the enemy has pursued my soul; he has crushed my life to the ground; he has made me sit in darkness like those long dead.

All: Therefore my spirit faints within me; my heart within me is appalled.

Leader: I stretch out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.

All: Answer me quickly, O Lord! My spirit fails!

Leader: Hide not your face from me, lest I be like those who go down to the pit. Let me hear in the morning of your steadfast love, for in you trust.

All: Make me know the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.

Leader: Deliver me, O Lord! I have fled to you for refuge. Teach me to do your will, for you are my God!

All: Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon—based on I Peter 2:24-25

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

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

Hymn of Praise—Sing Ye Saints



Text: John Ryland, 1775, alt. 2022, 1861; Music: Gregory Wilbur 2022

The Reading of the Word—Isaiah 6:I-I3

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the LORD sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"

⁴ And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. ⁵ And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

⁶Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for."

⁸ And I heard the voice of the LORD saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me." ⁹ And he said, "Go, and say to this people:

"Keep on hearing, but do not understand;

keep on seeing, but do not perceive.'

¹⁰ Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and blind their eyes;

lest they see with their eyes,

and hear with their ears,

and understand with their hearts,

and turn and be healed."

¹¹ Then I said, "How long, O LORD?"

And he said:

"Until cities lie waste without inhabitant,

and houses without people, and the land is a desolate waste,

¹² and the LORD removes people far away,

and the forsaken places are many in the midst of the land.

¹³ And though a tenth remain in it, it will be burned again,

like a terebinth or an oak, whose stump remains when it is felled."

The holy seed is its stump.

Leader: The grass withers, the flower fades;

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

Sermon—The Servant Songs of Isaiah, Pt I

The Gospel According to Isaiah

—Nate Shurden, Pastor

Sung Response—Let Glory Be to God on High



CCLI #11121087 Text: From the Liturgy of St. James & an 8th Century manuscript (Gloria in excelsis Deo); Music: Gregory D. Wilbur, 2018.

Profession of Faith—The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God the Father Almighty,

Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,

begotten of the Father before all worlds,

God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made,

being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made;

who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven,

and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary,

and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered, died, and was buried.

On the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven, and now sits on the right hand of the Father.

And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,

who spoke by the prophets.

And we believe in one holy and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins.

And we look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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 38: Rebuke Me Not in Anger, LORD



CCLI #11121087 Text: Psalm 38 Psalter Hymnal; Music: BOURBON, Columbian Harmony. ©1987 Helen Otte and CRC Publications.

Hymn of Communion—Come Ye Sinners



Text: Joseph Hart, 1712-1768; Music: Southern Harmony, 1835.

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—Amazing Grace



Text: John Newton, 1779; Music: NEW BRITAIN, Traditional American Melody. Harm. Dan Kreider

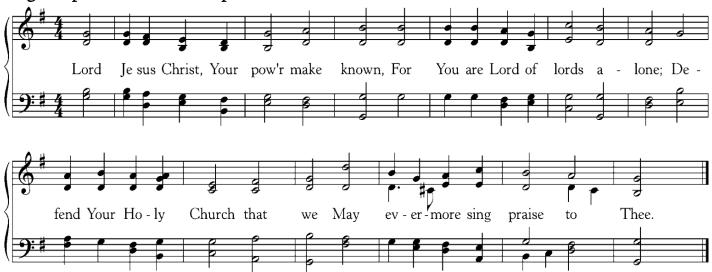
GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT TO BE LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

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—Hebrews 13:20-21

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. *Amen*.

Sung Response—Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word, Vs 2



Text: Martin, Luther, 1541, Trans Catherine Winkworth, 1863, Alt. 2007; Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Genevan Psalter, 1551.

Missions Prayer—Oaks of Righteousness is an organization founded by Cornerstone members Mark and Lindsey Elliot. It supports children in Belize through a sponsorship program. This allows the children to receive an education, the necessary school supplies, uniforms, nutrition and to learn about the love and grace of God.

Please Pray:

- That the children (and their families) in our sponsorship program would know they are loved and cherished by their Heavenly Father.
- For Oaks to have the wisdom and clarity to set processes and systems in place to create sustainability for the program.
- For donors, both individuals and businesses, to choose to partner with Oaks financially as our needs grow.
- That our focus would remain on God and His plans and purposes for our organization.

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

Lent Devotional: Learning to Love like Christ

Our new devotional booklet walks through the weeks of Lent with daily liturgies and brief reflections on Psalms of lament from many of your fellow Cornerstone members. Copies are available at either entrance to the Chapel.

A New Wilbur Music Release!

Our very own Greg Wilbur released his new album, Securely I Will Dwell, this past week. To celebrate the release and to learn about this project, we will have a special adult Sunday School class next week (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. 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! Contact: drew@cstonepres.org

Book Discussion: Monday, February 26

Join us from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at The Corner House next Monday to discuss the award-winning autobiographical novel *Everything Sad is Untrue* by Daniel Nayeri. Copies are available on the Bookshelf. Register online to let us know you're coming! Contact: greg@cstonepres.org

Midweek at Cornerstone

Every Wednesday leading up to Holy Week we'll gather for Midweek. Join us for a fellowship dinner (starting at 5:15 p.m.) and stay for Youth Group, Kid's Club, Choir, and Vespers, where we are exploring the "One Another Commands" of Scripture.

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.

Cornerstone Family Meeting Today

Calling all Cornerstone members! Please join us for a family meeting in the Chapel during today's Sunday School hour to give a few updates on the life of the church.

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 church in Belize through community outreach, providing materially for children and families, and sharing the good news about Jesus Christ.



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.

Upcoming Adult Sunday School Classes

Exploring the Mystery: The Person and Work of Jesus Christ

Have you ever been puzzled by the idea that Jesus is both God and man? How can that be? Or, how about Jesus being tempted as we are? How does that work if he's God? In preparation for Good Friday and Easter, Pastors Nate and Tony as well as Nathan Johnson will lead this fourweek course exploring the rich theological truths surrounding Christ's person and work. Come and be freshly astonished at the beautiful mystery of Jesus. This class will begin on March 3 in the Chapel.

For Glory and for Beauty

Despite the fact that art, music, architecture, textile arts, sculpture, and more are central in the redemptive story, we often do not know how to think about such things biblically. In this four-week class, Greg Wilbur will provide a biblically grounded understanding of and purpose for the arts as one the ways we "adorn sound doctrine" for the glory of God in the world. Come explore how we can enjoy art for God's sake and let the arts inform our understanding of the gospel. Class begins on March 3 on the Third Floor.

Taking the Message Home

Today's message, "The Gospel According to Isaiah," is taken from Isaiah 6:I-13. Please take time to discuss the questions below with your family, friends, or Home Fellowship Group (HFG).

- What is the historical context of Isaiah's prophesy? In your own words, summarize the message of Isaiah's prophesy?
- The vision of the Lord's holiness and glory leads Isaiah to say, "Woe is me!" What does this teach us about the power of true knowledge of God and the condition of men?
- How does the coal from the altar touching Isaiah's lips and removing his guilt draw us into the wonder and beauty of the gospel?
- Reflecting on Isaiah's message (vs. 8-10) and the ministry of the preached Word (see 2 Cor. 2:15-16), discuss this
 quote from Ray Ortlund, "Every time you hear the Word of God preached, you come away from that exposure to
 his truth either a little closer to God or a little further away from God..."
- How does the image of felled trees and burnt stumps get picked up later in Isaiah? How is this picture of judgment also a picture of hope?

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

Ruling Elders

Randy Allen (615-260-1884) Chuck Emerson: *Emeritus* (615-943-8443) Ron Moffat (629-215-5135)

Preston Brooks (615-838-0359) Joe Haworth (615-289-7543) Jim Payne (615-497-0613)

Terry Cheney (615-579-7089) Will Kesler (423-313-7493) Jim Smith (615-347-4188)

John Millard (423-443-8852)

Deacons

 Mark Elliott (615-477-1041)
 Mike Payne (615-579-6453)
 Matt Suits (706-218-2823)

 Matt Faulk (714-801-7596)
 Wes Pittman (615-406-6209)
 Casey Taggart (662-813-3563)

 Dan Fiedler (615-812-4032)
 Brent Roberts (615-394-0662)
 Larry Thompson (901-734-1520)

 Mark Mitchell (630-835-7754)
 Jim Robinson (615-587-0442)
 Bob Vermilye (615-943-8139)

 *Todd Russell (615-319-4803)

*On Sabbatical

136 Third Ave S, Franklin, Tennessee 37064 www.cornerstonepresfranklin.org (615) 618-4707

All Scripture quotations from the English Standard Version

