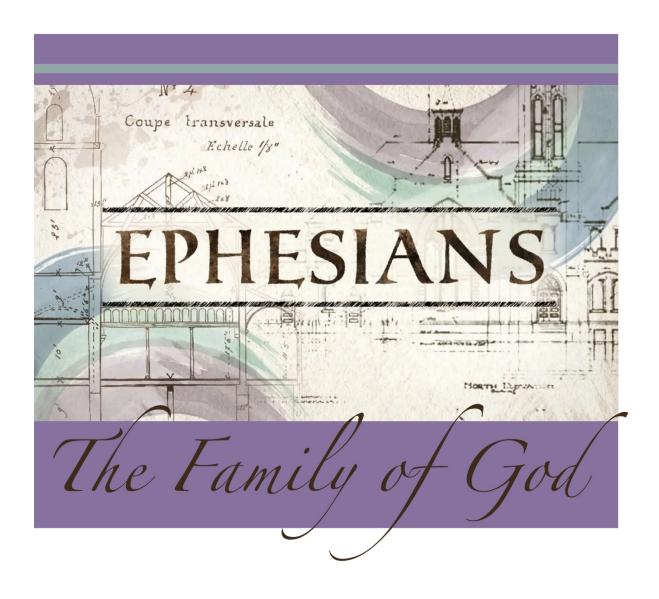


CORNERSTONE

Presbyterian Church



Service of Celebration and Gospel Renewal

Palm Sunday—Sixth Sunday of Lent

02 April 2023

Pastoral Notes

Dear Cornerstone Family,

Today is Palm Sunday. On this day, we remember the shouts of "Hosanna" as Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a humble donkey. We also remember that in the midst of this celebration, tears were streaming down Jesus's face. The juxtaposition of joy and tears has led centuries of Christians to ask, "Why was Jesus crying?"

Were these tears of joy at the receptance he was receiving? As men, women, and children rejoicing at his arrival, was he overcome with tears of joy? Or were these tears of fear? The hour of crucifixion was fast approaching. Was Jesus crying because he was unable to enter into the festivity for fear of the soon-in-coming cross?

Turns out, these were neither tears of joy nor fear. These were tears of grief. As Jesus entered the Kedron Valley, he glimpsed the Holy City in the distance. When he did, the Scripture tells us he broke down in tears, for the people did not know the time of visitation (Luke 19:41-44).

On the surface, it sure seems like people knew this was the time of visitation. They were singing and dancing in the streets. They were laying down their cloaks in the road and waving leafy branches in celebration. They were even quoting Scripture and applying it to Jesus Christ appropriately. What's the problem?

Suffice it to say, Jesus wasn't fooled by all the excitement. He knew the people had ideas about who he was. He knew they had expectations about what he would do. He knew that the texts of Scripture they quoted were tied to very particular and earthly expectations of fulfillment. He knew all this, and he knew they were wrong.

He wasn't coming, as they supposed, to reestablish the glories of David's kingdom as an earthly political ruler. He wasn't coming, as they surmised, to destroy Rome and free Jerusalem from Roman oppression. Instead, he came as a spiritual Savior, establishing a kingdom not of this world (John 18:36). He came to free his people from the oppression of sin and death, to secure for himself a people from every kindred, tribe, and nation (Romans 8:I-2; Revelation 7:9). His concern wasn't, as they assumed, for the earthly stones of Jerusalem's temple but, rather, the living stones of a new Jerusalem—a city whose builder and maker is God (I Peter 2:5; Hebrews II:I0). In a word, Jesus was the deliverer the people needed, but he wasn't the deliverer they were looking for.

As we enter Holy Week together, that haunts me a bit. I wonder how often I fall into a pattern of worshipping a Jesus of my own personal imaginings rather than *the* Jesus revealed in the Scripture. I wonder how much of the world's assumptions have filtered into and shaped my perceptions about Jesus and the Christian life. I wonder as Jesus Christ approaches us today by the Word and Spirit in worship, does he weep? Does he see us quoting Scripture, singing, and waving palm branches, and yet misunderstanding who he is and what it means to follow him?

As we walk through Holy Week together, may God strip away false notions and prune earthly assumptions about Jesus and his mission. And may the Lord restore in our day a robustly biblical vision of who Jesus Christ is and what his kingdom is all about—that together we might declare the praises of him who called us out of darkness into his wonderful light (I Peter 2:9-I0).

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.

Children's Choral Prelude—To the King Sing Hosanna Vs I, 2, 4

To the King, sing Hosanna
Children come, sing Hosanna
Bless Him who has come in the name of the Lord
Who is like Him? Who compares to His glory and grace?
The offspring of David, the ancient of days

To the King, sing Hosanna
Lift your voice, sing Hosanna
He comes to deliver our souls from the night
Heir of heaven, humble servant, He rides to the cross
'Till death has been conquered, live won for the lost

To the King, sing Hosanna All the earth sing Hosanna His people rejoice as Messiah returns Hear the trumpet call awaken, the gates open wide Come high King of Glory, forever glorified

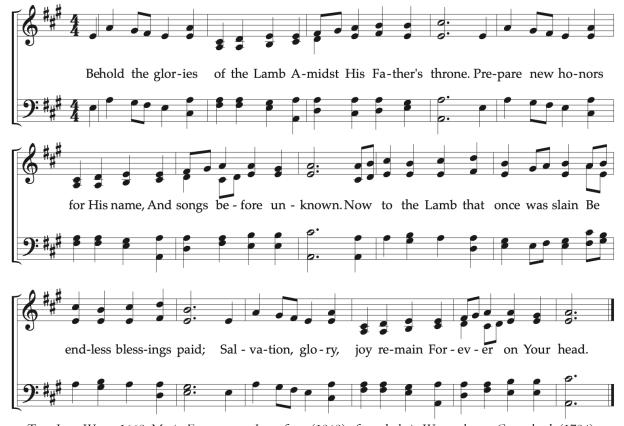
CCLI #11121087 Text and Music by Kristin and Keith Getty, ©2016

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—John 12:13, Zechariah 9:9-12

Pastor: Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!

All: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD, the King of Israel!

Pastor: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!

All: Behold, your king is coming to you. Pastor: He is righteous and bears salvation;

He is humble and mounted on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

All: Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!

Pastor: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD.

All: The Lord has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.

Hymn of Praise—All Glory, Laud, and Honor

The Children's Choir will sing verse I. We will respond by singing the rest of the hymn as a congregation.

Verse I (Children's Choir):

All glory, laud, and honor to thee, redeemer, King, to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!

Thou art the King of Israel, thou David's royal son, who in the Lord's name comest, the King and blessed One!



Text: Theodulph of Orleans, ca. 820, Tr. John Mason Neale, 1854; Music: ST. THEODULPH, Melchoir Teschner, ca. 1615.

New Testament Reading—Luke 2:28-40

²⁸ And when he had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹ When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰ saying, "Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here.³¹ If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say this: 'The Lord has need of it.'" ³² So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. ³³ And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?" ³⁴ And they said, "The Lord has need of it." ³⁵ And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶ And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. ³⁷ As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, ³⁸ saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" ³⁹ And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." ⁴⁰ He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out."

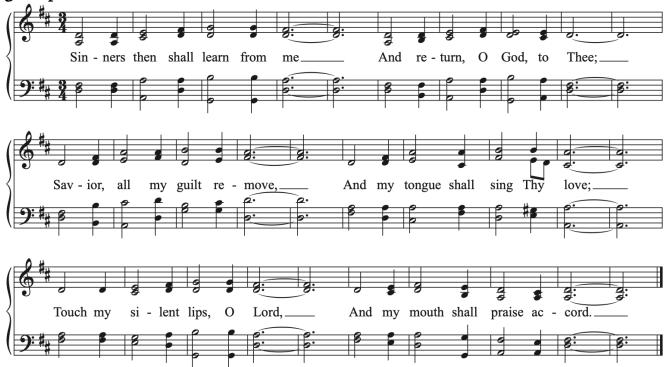
Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

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—God, Be Merciful to Me, Vs 6



Text: Psalm 51, The Psalter, 1912; Music: REDHEAD, Richard Redhead, 1853, Adapted 2007.

Congregational Prayer of Confession—Ephesians 2:2-7

Leader: Lord, hear our prayers of confession. Your Word speaks to us and says of us:

All: You were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked,

following the course of this world,

following the prince of the power of the air,

the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—

Leader: among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh,

carrying out the desires of the body and the mind,

and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

All: But God, being rich in mercy,

because of the great love with which he loved us,

Leader: even when we were dead in our trespasses,

made us alive together with Christ—

All: by grace you have been saved—

Leader: and raised us up with him and seated us with him

in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

All: so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace

in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon—Ephesians 2:8-10

Leader: For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing;

All: it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Leader: For we are his workmanship,

All: created in Christ Jesus for good works,

Leader: which God prepared beforehand,

All: that we should walk in them.

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

Psalm of Praise—Psalm 24: The Earth with All That Dwells



Text: The Psalter, 1912, Psalm 24; Music: KINGSFOLD, Old English Folk Song

The Reading of the Word—Ephesians 2:1-7

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Leader: The grass withers, the flower fades;

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

Sermon—The Family of God: A Study in Ephesians, part 6

From Death unto Life

—Nate Shurden, Pastor

Sung Response—Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah



Text: Psalm 146, The Psalter, 1912; Music: RIPLEY, Gregorian Chant, Arr. By Lowell Mason, 1839.

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—Let Glory Be to God



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

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.

Hymn of Communion—Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed



Text: Isaac Watts, 1707; Music: © 2006 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.

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

Psalm for Communion—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.

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—Lift Up Your Heads



Text: Psalm 24, Georg Weissel, 1642, Tr by Catherine Winkworth, 1855; Music: TRURO, Psalmodia Evangelica, 1789.

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—Revelation 7:9-12

Pastor: "I looked, and behold, there was a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages. They were standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes. And they all had palm branches in their hands."

All: They cried out with a loud voice,

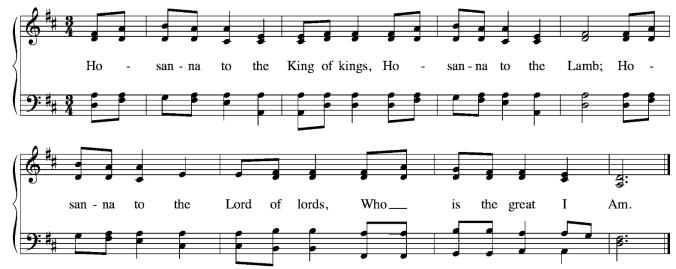
"Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

Pastor: And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God.

All: They said,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Sung Response—We Will Glorify



CCLI #11121087 ©1982 New Spring; Text and Music: Twila Paris, 1982

Welcome to Cornerstone! If you are visiting with us today, we are glad you're here and would love the opportunity to welcome you personally. We invite you to fill out the visitor card available in the pew in front of you.

Please drop it in the offering boxes at either chapel entrance as you leave.

Focus on Church Ministry

Vacation Bible School – "The Wind and the Waves"

Mark your calendars for May 30 - June 2 for VBS! We will gather in the evenings at Jim Warren Park and need all of our Cornerstone family to help before, during, and after VBS. Go to the church website or app now to view all the ways you can serve, from praying to dropping off snacks to leading a group of our covenant kids that week. Please check it out and choose a way to be involved. Registration for children coming soon!

Deeper Together: in Friendship

All Cornerstone Women, 7th grade and up, are invited to come to Cornerstone on Tuesday, April 25 at 6:00 p.m. for an evening of food and fellowship. Please let us know you're coming by registering through the website or app.

Servant Group International – Walk and Talk

Walk and Talk is a ministry of SGI that exists to connect American women with at least one refugee friend. It's a short program, so the commitment is very doable, and includes a training meeting (April II) and two Saturday morning strolls (May 6 & 13) in a Nashville park. You find more information register can and Robin Dillard: www.servantgroup.org. Contact robin(a) servantgroup.org

Loving Franklin's Elderly

Please come and join with a group from Cornerstone, along with one of your leaders, at Morning Pointe of Franklin today from 1:30 - 2:15 p.m. for a brief worship service. You simply need to show up, sing along with the hymns, and offer friendship to the residents. Contact Ethan Vroom: ethanvroom99@gmail.com

Mission Trip to Belize

Oaks of Righteousness is hosting an informational call on Monday, April IO at 8:00 p.m. for anyone who is interested in joining their annual mission trip to Belize on January 24-30, 2024. To learn more or register for the call, contact Lindsey Elliot at lindsey@oaksofhope.org or scan the QR code.



Officer Election

The elders of Cornerstone unanimously approved the recommendation of Mr. Mark Mitchell for election to the office of deacon. Mr. Mitchell was nominated for office during our 2022 nomination cycle. He has been examined in the areas of Christian character, the Bible, the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms, the Book of Church Order, and the qualifications for church office. An election will be held on Sunday, April 16 at 9:45 a.m. in The Chapel. All communing members are eligible to vote and are strongly encouraged to participate in the election. Next week, we will provide more information about Mr. Mitchell so you can get to know him better over the next month as you prepare to vote your conscience on Sunday, April 16.

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday—April 6, 6:30 p.m.

Centering on the events of Passover and the first Lord's Supper, this communion service guides us through the institution of the new covenant and the command of Christ to love one another.

Good Friday Service—April 7, 6:30 p.m.

Using Scripture, songs, and choral music, this service guides us through the sufferings of Christ through his incarnation, earthly ministry, and crucifixion, and the necessity of the shedding of blood for there to be forgiveness from sin.

Easter Sunday—April 9

For Easter Sunday, we will have **three worship services** at 7:30, 9:00, & 10:45 a.m. as well as enjoy a time of fellowship outside in the churchyard from 8:45-10:45 a.m. (No Sunday School on Easter). Please bring a breakfast item to share. We have much to celebrate!

Evenings of Encouragement for Moms of Young Children

Mark plans to join us on April 4 from 6:45 - 8:30 p.m. at Suzann Allen's for an encouraging evening with other moms who are in your stage of life and also some a little further along the parenting path. Contact Martha Brooks for more info. women@cstonepres.org

Today's message, "From Death unto Life," is taken from Ephesians 2:I-7. Please take time to discuss the questions below with your family, friends, or Home Fellowship Group (HFG).

- Paul says the whole human race is united in spiritual death. What does that mean?
- What does the doctrine of total depravity teach?
- We are saved by grace. In your own words, what does that mean?
- According to Paul, our life is bound up in Jesus's resurrection and ascension. How does that work?
- What was your big takeaway from today's message?

CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Presbyterian Church in America

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Worship and Chief Musician: Greg Wilbur (615-512-4156) or greg@cstonepres.org
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Teacher in Residence: Nathan Johnson (423 285-9099) or njohnson@newcollegefranklin.edu
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Men's Ministry: men@cstonepres.org

Young Adult Ministry: Taylor Thompson (717-371-0848) or youngadults@cstonepres.org
Acting Youth Director: Preston Brooks (615-838-0359) or youth@cstonepres.org
Children's Director: Meredith Suits (865-250-3579) or elementary@cstonepres.org
Nursery Coordinator: Christy Shurden or nursery@cstonepres.org
Prayer Requests: prayer@cstonepres.org

Ruling Elders

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Chuck Emerson: Emeritus (615-943-8443)	John Millard (423-443-8852)	Jim Smith (615-347-4188)
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Dan Fiedler (615-812-4032)	Jim Robinson (615-587-0442)	Larry Thompson (901-734-1520)
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*On Sabbatical

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All Scripture quotations from the English Standard Version