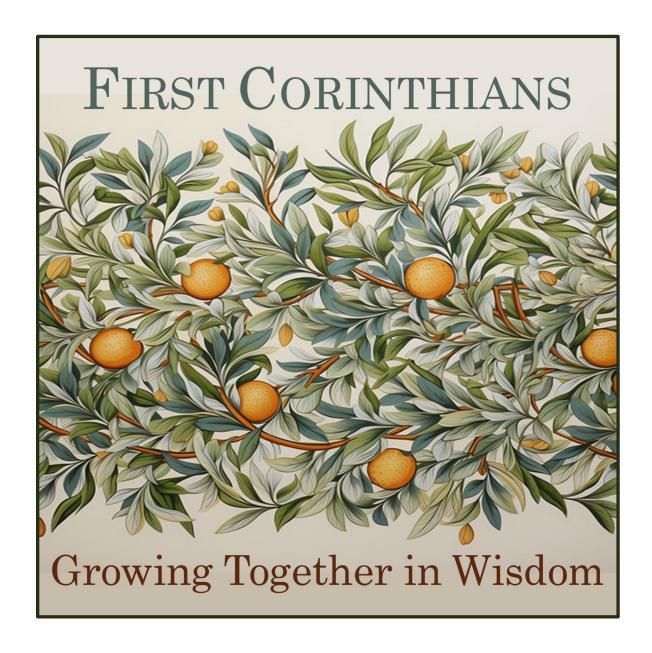


# CORNERSTONE

# Presbyterian Church



SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND GOSPEL RENEWAL

Fourth Sunday of Easter 21 April 2024

## Pastoral Notes

Dear Cornerstone Family,

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

After last week's message in our new sermon series in I Corinthians, *Growing Together in Wisdom*, I had several great conversations about spiritual growth. Two of the conversations were quite practical in nature. The questions were centered on *how* we grow more into who we are—namely, those who are "sanctified in Christ" (I Cor. I:2).

For starters, this happens by grace. As we saw back in January in our study of Titus, Paul writes, "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age" (Titus 2:II-I2). Notice, grace is carrying out the work of sanctification. Grace has the power to train you and me to say no to ungodliness and yes to a self-controlled, upright, and godly life.

At the same time, sanctification is going to require work—hard work, in fact. Though we are utterly reliant upon the power of God's grace and Spirit to sanctify us, we do not just sit back and relax and wait for sanctification to happen. Rather, we "work out our salvation with fear and trembling" (Phil. 2:12). The Spirit and the work of grace compel us to "strive...for holiness" (Heb. I2:14) and to "make every effort" (2 Peter I:2) to grow more like Christ.

In I Corinthians, Paul is going to urge the Corinthian Christians to *put grace to work in their lives*. One of the truths we're confronted with over the course of the letter is that *sanctification requires the wisdom of cultivating holy habits*. If we are truly committed to spiritual growth, we will learn the wisdom of a sacred routine—taking up practices and disciplines that will direct our attention and affection away from the world and onto God and His kingdom.

No surprise, this doesn't happen by osmosis. We must make intentional and specific commitments to not be conformed to the world (Rom. 12:I). For instance, it's not sinful to be on social media or watch the news, but true wisdom knows that such activities exert a powerful influence over us and over time can have the effect of bending our lives away from the Lord and toward the world. The wise man or woman knows, for the good of their souls and in honor to God, that they will need to curb, place limits, even fast from media, news, sports, entertainment, etc., in order to give themselves more fully to the disciplines and practices that will form Christ in them (Gal. 4:19).

We need to hear this! Please be reflecting on your habits as we move through this letter. Ask yourself the hard questions. How much time am I on social media? How much attention am I giving to the latest presidential election news alert? Are memes and Instagram reels more regularly woven into my day than Bible reading, meditation, and prayer? Am I treating sports with more reverence than the Lord's Day? Am I more committed to my couch and the new series on Netflix than my brothers and sisters in Christ and attending a Home Fellowship Group? These questions and others like them will help you identify where course correction is needed. As we embark on this study in I Corinthians, let's recommit to helping each other become who we are—sanctified in Christ (I Cor. I:2).

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.

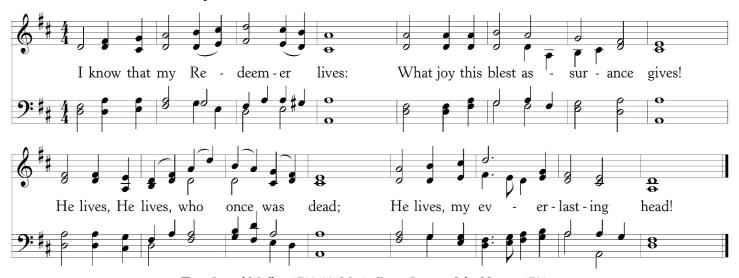
Worship Notes—Our sermon text for this week is I Corinthians I:4-9, in which Paul give thanks for God's faithful provision for all our needs, but especially particularly our need of the grace of God which comes only through fellowship with Christ. With that in mind, we use Psalm III as the Call to Worship professing that "the works of His hands are faithful" and "He sent redemption to His people." In the opening hymn, *O Worship the King,* we proclaim that God is a gracious Lord: "Your bountiful care, what tongue can recite?" The New Testament Reading from I Timothy reminds us that God's grace overflowed for us when Christ came to save sinners. The Prayer of Confession from Psalm I45 and Isaiah I then leads us to repent of forsaking our faithful Heavenly Father by forsaking His righteous ways and pursuing our own paths. The Assurance of Pardon and *O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus* then describe the love that God has for His children, by "how he watches o'er his loved ones, died to call them all his own." *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need,* a paraphrase of Psalm 23, is one of our hymns as we approach the Lord's supper, singing "The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days," and "Thy presence is my stay." We then depart with the final hymn *I Will Glory in My Redeemer*, where we look forward to that day when we will behold our living redeemer face to face "forever to behold."

#### 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—I Know that My Redeemer Lives, Vs I



Text: Samuel Medley, 1738-99; Music: DUKE STREET, John Hatton, 1793.

#### Call to Worship—from Psalm III:I-5, 7-9

Pastor: Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

All: Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.

Pastor: Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.

He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;

All: the LORD is gracious and merciful.

Pastor: He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever.

All: The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy;

Pastor: they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

All: He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever.

Pastor: Holy and awesome is his name!

#### Hymn of Praise—O Worship the King, Vs I-5



#### Prayer of Praise and Thanksgiving

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

#### New Testament Reading—I Timothy I:12-17

<sup>12</sup> I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, <sup>13</sup> though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, <sup>14</sup> and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. <sup>16</sup> But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. <sup>17</sup> To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

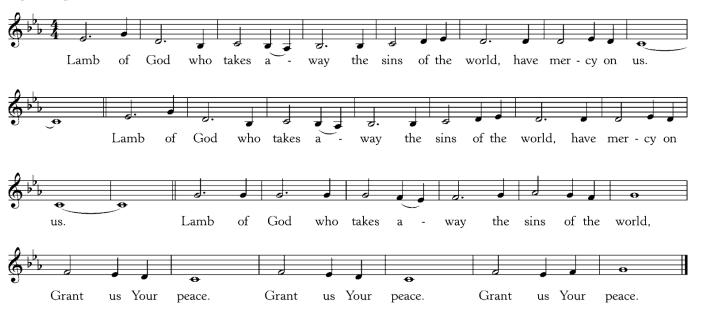
Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

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—Lamb of God



Text: John I:29; Music: Franklin Agnus Dei, Gregory D Wilbur, 2009. ©2009 Greyfriars Press.

#### Congregational Prayer of Confession—based on Isaiah I:4; Psalm I45:I3-2I

Leader: Lord, we confess that we are a sinful people, laden with iniquity.

All: We are sinners and the offspring of sinners.

We are evildoers, children who deal corruptly.

Leader: We have forsaken You, O Lord; we have despised You, O Holy One;

All: We have become altogether estranged.

Leader: But You O Lord are faithful in all Your words and kind in all Your works. You, O Lord, uphold all who fall and raise up all who are bowed down.

All: Our eyes look to You, and You give us our sustenance in due season.
You open Your hand; You satisfy the desire of every living thing.
You, O Lord, are righteous in all Your ways and kind in all Your works.

Leader: You, O Lord, are near to all who call upon You, to all who call on You in truth.

All: You fulfill the desire of those who fear You; You also hear their cry and save them.

Leader: You, O Lord, preserve all who love You, and You bring justice to the wicked.

All: We will speak the praise of You, dear Lord, and let all flesh bless Your holy Name forever and ever.

## Silent Prayers of Confession

#### Assurance of Pardon—I John 3:I-2, 16

Behold what manner of love the Father has given unto us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when He appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is. By this we know love, that He laid down His life for us.

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

#### Hymn of Praise—O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus



Text: Samuel Trevor Francis, 1834-1925; Music: EBENEZER, Thomas John Williams, 1890.

## The Reading of the Word—I Corinthians I:4-9

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup> that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—<sup>6</sup> even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—<sup>7</sup> so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>8</sup> who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Leader: The grass withers, the flower fades;

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

#### Sermon—I Corinthians: Growing Together in Wisdom, part 2

Give Thanks to God For You

—Nate Shurden, *Pastor* 

#### Sung Response—He is Risen! Vs 4



Text: Eric Schumacher, 2004; Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, Cologne, 1623.

## 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.

<sup>\* &</sup>quot;Catholic" refers to the universal church of God's people throughout all time and from all places

#### Sung Response—Sanctus



CCLI #11121087 Text: Is 6:3, Rev 4:8, Mt 21:9; Music: Franklin Sanctus, Gregory D Wilbur, 2009. ©2009 Greyfriars Press.

high - est.

men.

san-na in the

#### Pascha Nostrum—I Corinthians 5:7-8, Romans 6:9-11

Pastor: Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us;

high - est, Ho

All: therefore let us keep the feast.

san-nah in the

Pastor: We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again;

All: death no longer has dominion over him.

Pastor: For the death he died he died to sin, once for all,

All: but the life he lives he lives to God.

Pastor: So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin

All: and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

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

And

And

My

from

sin

my

ners

bonds

learn

holds

re - leased

make

hea

to

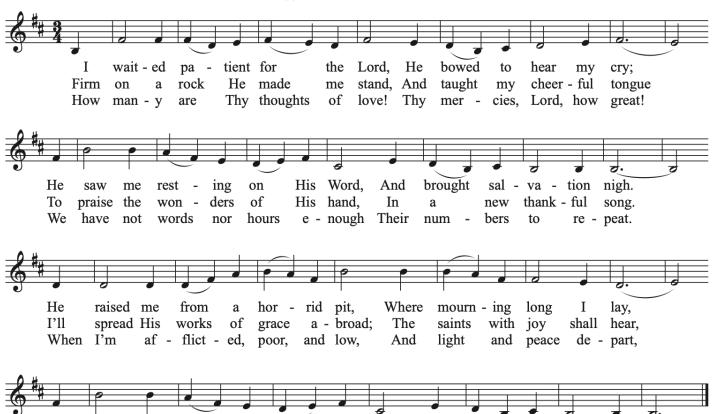
my

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 to the second for wine/juice.

#### Psalm of the Month—Psalm 40: I Waited Patient For The Lord



Text: Based on Psalm 40; Music: FINGALL Traditional Irish Melody, adapt. Gregory Wilbur & Jeremiah Small, 2008.

my

my

vy

feet,

God

woe,

Deep

Their

And

bonds

on

bears

of

ly

me

mir

hope

on

y

and

His

clay.

fear.

heart.

#### 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

## Psalm of Communion—Psalm 23: My Shepherd Will Supply My Need



Text: Psalm 23, Isaac Watts, 1719; Music: RESIGNATION, Southern Harmony, 1835, Arr. Gregory D. Wilbur

## 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—I Will Glory in My Redeemer



CCLI #11121087 ©2001 Sovereign Grace Worship (ASCAP). Text and Music: Steve and Vikki Cook, 2001.

#### 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—Jude 24-25

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. *Amen.* 

## Sung Response—O Thou In Whose Presence, Vs II







Text: Joseph Swain, Redemption, a Poem in Five Books, 1791; Music: DAVIS, Freeman Lewis, 1813.

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

#### Golf Tournament Fundraiser: May 13

Sign up now for a Golf Tournament at the Franklin Bridge Golf Club on Monday, May 13, starting at 1:00 p.m. to support our youth mission team heading to Belize. Scan this QR code to play, sponsor a hole, or simply donate



(to donate without registering to play, enter an amount in the first question of the form and leave all other fields blank). Thank you for helping our youth get to Belize!

#### Children's Ministry Summer Volunteer Needs

We need teachers and assistants for the summer Sunday School session! This is a six-week commitment (June 9-July 14), and it's a great way to serve the kids of Cornerstone. Don't let summer travel stop you from signing up to serve! We always have volunteers willing to sub for teachers who are out of town. Contact: meredithsuits@gmail.com

#### Young Adults at Nashville SC

The Cornerstone Young Adults are heading to a soccer game! Join us Saturday, April 27 at GEODIS Park at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$37. To claim your tickets or get more information, contact youngadults@cstonepres.org.

#### Adult Sunday School: April 14-May 19

Gospel-Centered Parenting

Parenting is one of life's great challenges. Join us for this six-week series in the Fellowship Hall as we explore foundational principles centered on the gospel of Jesus Christ, our most reliable parenting guide.

#### Classics of Personal Devotion

In this six-week course in the Chapel, we will be introduced to a selection of the greatest devotional literature in Christian history and encouraged to experience a deeper communion with Christ through the devotional classics.

#### Book Discussion: May 6

This May we will gather to discuss All the Beauty in the World by Patrick Bringley. This memoir shows the beauty of slowing down, looking around, and seeing the people and world that God has made. Copies are available on the Bookshelf for a special Cornerstone price. Join us at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 6, at The Corner House.

Upcoming discussions:

June 3, The Ballad of the White Horse by G.K. Chesterton July I, The Princess & the Goblin by George MacDonald

#### **Exploring Cornerstone**

Want to learn about the history, beliefs, vision, and ministries of Cornerstone, as well as meet key ministry leaders? Interested in becoming a member? Exploring Cornerstone is the class for you. We will meet on Friday, May 31, from 6:00-8:30 p.m. and Saturday, June I, from 8:00 a.m.-noon. Childcare will be provided. Please visit the website to register.

#### Vacation Bible School—Torchbearers

Mark your calendars for May 28-31 for VBS! We will gather in the evenings (5:30-7:30 p.m.) at Jim Warren Park. And we need all our Cornerstone family to help before, during, and after VBS! Scan the QR code or visit

the church website to register your children (rising K-rising 6th grade) and view all the ways you can serve, from praying to dropping off snacks to leading a group of our covenant kids that week.



#### Giving

There are boxes for tithes and alms at both entrances to the Chapel, or you may give safely and securely online through the website and app.

Today's message, "Giving Thanks to God for You," is taken from I Corinthians I:4-9. Please take time to discuss the questions below with your family, friends, or Home Fellowship Group.

- Paul opens almost all his letters with the thanksgiving formula, "I thank God for you." Why is the vertical and horizontal pattern of thanksgiving a model worth following?
- Given all the trouble in Corinth, we might rightly wonder how Paul can be thankful. Where does Paul choose to focus his expression of thanksgiving (see vs. 4-6)? How is this instructive to us?
- Why does Paul draw the Corinthian Christian's attention to the return of Christ at the beginning of this letter (vs. 7-8)?
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer writes, "The more thankfully we daily receive what is given to us, the more surely and steadily will fellowship increase and grow from day to day as God pleases." How could a greater emphasis on thanksgiving strengthen your relationships in the body of Christ (see v. 9)?
- How did the Lord encourage and assure your heart today? What from today's message can you put into practice this
  week?

## 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

Church Life Coordinator: Dan Fiedler (615-812-4032) or dan@cstonepres.org Interim Office Administrator: Whitney Ruff (615-618-4707) or admin@cstonepres.org

**Bookkeeper:** Tammy McCoy bookkeeper@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

