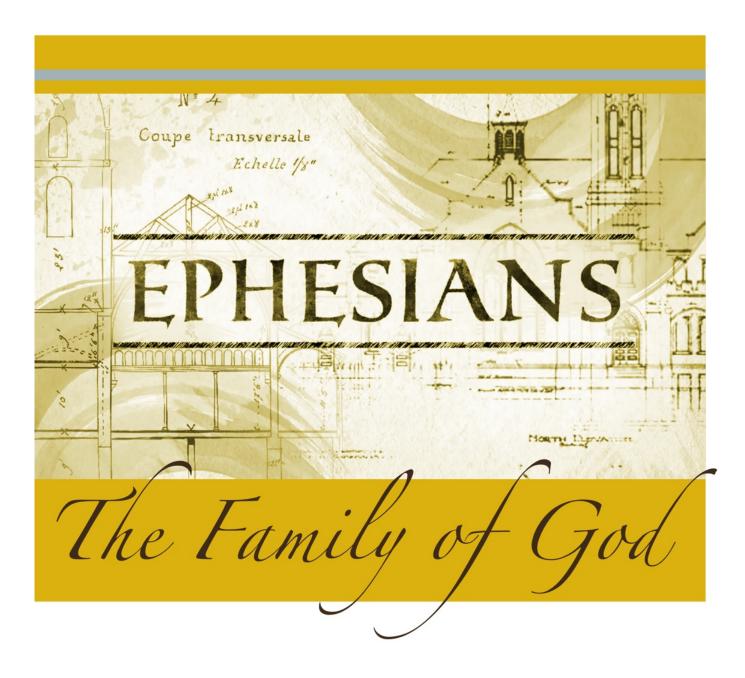


# CORNERSTONE

## Presbyterian Church



Service of Celebration and Gospel Renewal

Fifth Sunday of Easter

07 May 2023

## Pastoral Notes

#### Dear Cornerstone Family,

Last week, you, the congregation, overwhelmingly approved the session's unanimous recommendation to pursue the purchase of 203 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South, the gray two-story antebellum home cattycorner to the chapel. This past week we informed the current owner of your approval. As particulars regarding the closing date are firmed up, we will let you know.

In addition to the property across the street, the plans for slight changes to the chapel and renovations of the I<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floor continue to move forward. Several meetings with the architect and various teams happened this past week. If all the various approvals from the city come through and the crews and materials can all be lined up, the plan would be to begin and finish the renovation over the course of the summer.

Now, you've probably heard the old Woody Allen line, "If you want to make God laugh, tell him about your plans." That's doubly true when talking about construction timelines! Thankfully, our owner's representative, The Riverstone Group, has done a fabulous job ordering and directing the process thus far. That said, we still have a number of ducks to get in a row (ducks don't queue easily!) before we get a clearer read on the timeline. So, for now, we're diligently nudging things forward resting in God's sovereign control every step of the way.

Before I go, a few thoughts on moving through a season of change. First, let's own the fact that change can be scary. Whenever change is on the horizon, we know a "new normal" is coming down the pike, and life will be topsy turvy for a bit. Whether it's sending a kid to college, moving cities, entering retirement, the reality is the same—there will be losses and gains, joys and sorrows.

When a community – like a church – moves through a season of change, those same realities are present. Add to that the complexity that people respond differently to change. Some love change, others don't. In change, some will focus on the gains; others on the losses. People will even disagree on gains and losses. (One person's gain may be another person's loss!) This is normal and should be expected.

So, as we move through this season as a congregation, I want to encourage you (as you already are doing) to exercise an extra measure of wisdom and care with your fellow brothers and sisters. Due to space constraints, let me offer just two (brief) instructions.

First, be patient and respectful with those who respond differently than you (I Corinthians 9:19-23). Just because someone doesn't see or experience a certain change in the way you do, doesn't mean they are wrong. The goal is not to convince everyone that you're right and they're wrong, but to ensure that Christ is honored and that your brother or sister is loved well and built up in the faith (I Thessalonians 5:11).

Second, stay focused on eternal matters in the midst of temporal changes (2 Corinthians 4:18). The physical church building pales in importance to the true and lasting temple of God, the church (2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1). Therefore, let's set our mind on things above and commit to relate to one another as if the church and its mission is far more important than its meeting place. As the writer of Hebrews reminds us, "For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come" (Hebrews 13:14). If we do these things, I have no doubt that we will grow together all the more through this season of change.

Your servant,

2

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—I Know that My Redeemer Lives, Vs I



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

## Call to Worship—Psalm 67:I-7

Pastor: May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us,

All: May your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations.

Pastor: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!

All: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity

and guide the nations upon earth.

Pastor: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!

All: The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, shall bless us.

Pastor: God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear him!

## Hymn of Praise—In Christ Alone



CCLI #11121087 © 2002 Thankyou Music; Text and Music: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend.

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

## New Testament Reading—I Timothy 1:12-17

<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.

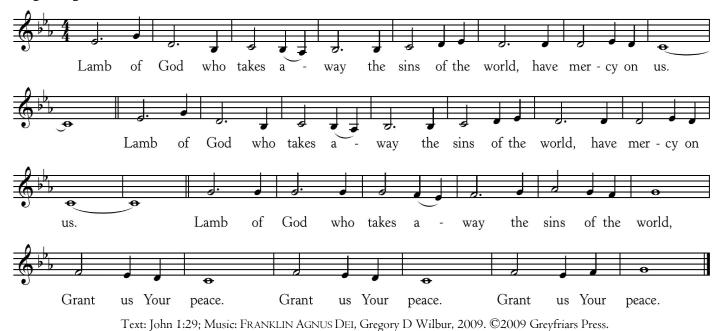
Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

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



## Congregational Prayer of Confession—Based on Daniel's Prayer from Daniel 9

Leader: O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments.

All: We have sinned and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and rules.

Leader: To you, O Lord, belongs righteousness, but to us open shame, because we have sinned against you.

All: Because of our sins, your people have become a byword among all who are around us.

Leader: O Lord, according to all your righteous acts, let your anger and your wrath turn away from your people

All: Open your eyes and see our desolations, see the people that is called by your name.

Leader: For we do not present our pleas before you because of our righteousness, but because of your great mercy.

## Silent Prayers of Confession

#### Assurance of Pardon—Romans 8:15-17

For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

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

Psalm 89:I-I8—We Will Sing Your Love Forever



Text and Music: Gregory D Wilbur, 2020.

## The Reading of the Word—Ephesians 3:I-I3

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup> assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup> how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. <sup>4</sup> When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup> which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup>Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, <sup>10</sup> so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup> This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup> in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. <sup>13</sup> So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.

Pastor: The grass withers, the flower fades;

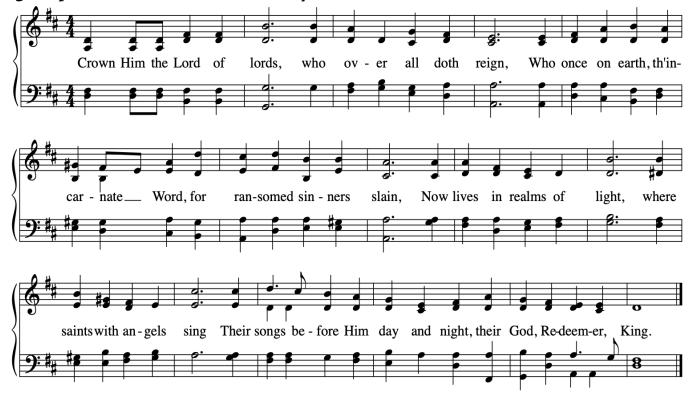
All: But the Word of our God will stand forever.

Sermon—The Family of God: A Study in Ephesians, part 11

Stewarding the Mystery

—Nate Shurden, *Pastor* 

## Sung Response—Crown Him with Many Crowns vs 8



Text: Matthew Bridges, 1852; Music: DIADEMATA, George J. Elvey, 1868.

## 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.

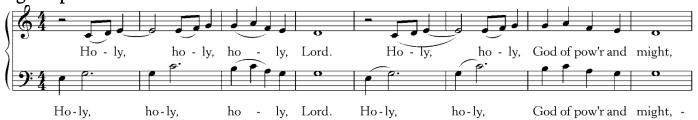
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic\* church,

The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

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

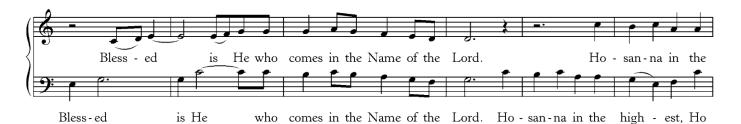
<sup>\* &</sup>quot;Catholic" refers to the universal church of God's people throughout all time and from all places

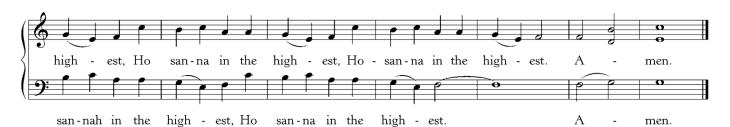
## Sung Response—Sanctus





Heav'n and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho san-na in the high - est.





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

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

Pastor: Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us;

All: therefore let us keep the feast.

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.

#### Celebration of First Communion

-Grier Faulk, Daughter of Matt & Alicia Faulk

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—Come Ye Souls, By Sin Afflicted



Text: Joseph Swain, 1792; Music: Gregory Wilbur, 2005. © 2005 Greyfriars Press, Used by Permission.

## Hymn of Communion—Christ is Made the Sure Foundation



7th Century Latin Hymn Tr. J. M. Neale 1861 Ad. lyrics by Noah Aikens, Music Noah Aikens

#### 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—How Sweet and Awesome, Vs I-5



Text: Isaac Watts, 1707; Music: ST. COLUMBA, Old Irish Tune.

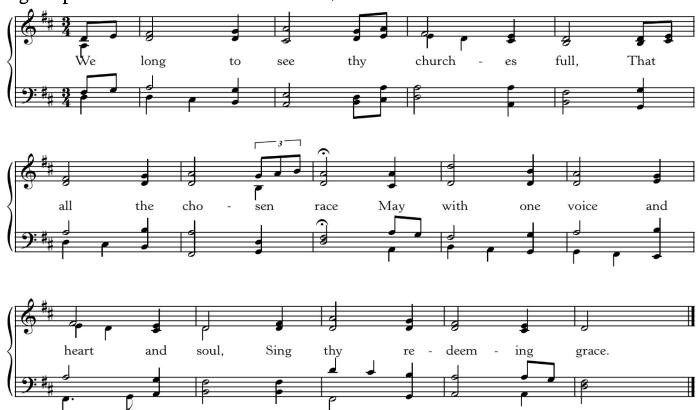
## GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT TO BE LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

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 6:23-24

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—How Sweet and Awesome, Vs 6



Text: Isaac Watts, 1707; Music: ST. COLUMBA, Old Irish Tune.

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 at Jim Warren Park. Go to the church website or app now to register your children (rising K – rising  $6^{th}$  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. You can also scan the QR codes on the bulletin boards around the building to easily access wish lists and registration.

#### The Cornerstone School of Discipleship

The Doctrines of Grace: Exploring the Five Points of Calvinism

In this four-week course, we will wrestle together with the Bible's teaching on some often-debated questions like, "Does God really choose people for salvation? Did Christ really die for everyone? Can we really be assured of our salvation if we must persevere to the end?" Don't miss this opportunity to plumb the depth of these important topics! Join us in The Chapel at 9:45 a.m. on Sundays in May.

#### Women's Summer Bible Study

Sisters, mark your calendars for Tuesday evenings in June and July! We will meet together in The Chapel at 6:30 p.m. for Saved: Experiencing the Power of the Book of Acts. You can find an introduction letter from Nancy Guthrie on the Women's Ministry page of the church website, and personal Bible study questions will be posted there next month. The Youth Group will be selling Acts scripture journals and bottled and sparkling water during the first several weeks of the study to benefit their upcoming mission trip. Bring your friends and invite your neighbors!

#### **Exploring Cornerstone Class**

If you're interested in learning more about Cornerstone or uniting in membership, please join Pastor Nate and other Cornerstone leaders on Sunday mornings throughout June for the Exploring Cornerstone Class. In this class, you will learn about the history, beliefs, vision, and ministries at Cornerstone as well as meet key ministry leaders. The class will be held in The Chapel on Sundays in June, 9:45-10:35 a.m. Please register on the church website or app.

#### Senior Recognition Sunday

We want to publicly recognize and honor all the hard work of our graduating seniors on Sunday, May 14. If you have a senior, please make sure to let Preston Brooks know. We want make sure we don't miss anyone! Contact: youth@cstonepres.org

#### Loving Franklin's Elderly

On the first Sunday of each month one of your Cornerstone leaders conducts a brief worship service at Morning Pointe of Franklin. All are invited to come this afternoon and lend your voice to the singing of hymns and offer friendship to the residents. Join us from I:45-2:30 p.m. Contact: ethanvroom99@gmail.com

#### Floating into Finals

All Cornerstone Youth are invited to take a study break on Wednesday, May 17 at the Brookses' (1020 Lumsden Lane). We will have yard games, chick-fil-a, and ice-cream floats. Come recharge as you head into the final week of the school year! 6:00-8:00 p.m., come and go, or come and stay. Contact: youth@cstonepres.org

#### New College Franklin Commencement

New College Franklin invites you to our Commencement Service on May 13 at 2:00 p.m. in The Chapel. Please come and join with NCF's faculty, student body, and families to celebrate the Class of 2023 in prayer and reflection. We appreciate the encouragement and prayers of Cornerstone and look forward to sharing this service with you.

## Youth Mission Trip

The Youth Group will be serving July 15-20 at a Joni and Friends family camp in Dayton, TN, buddying up with a child or teen with special needs for a fun week at camp!

The cost for each of our kids to attend Is \$450. We are currently taking donations towards our trip through the church website and app, or you can scan the QR code to go straight to the donations page.



Today's message, "Stewarding the Mystery," is taken from Ephesians 3:I-13. Please take time to discuss the questions below with your family, friends, or Home Fellowship Group (HFG).

- What is the "stewardship of God's grace" that Paul references in v. 2?
- What is the "mystery" that has been "hidden for ages in God" (v. 9) that has now been revealed (v.5)?
- How is Paul's self-conception (v.8) and current imprisonment (v. I) understood through God's call on his life (v. 8-9)? What spiritual principle does this teach us?
- What from today's message struck a chord with you?
- Practically, what would it look like to live out the truths 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
Office Administrator: Robin Spychalski (615-618-4707) or office@cstonepres.org
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Teacher in Residence: Nathan Johnson (423-285-9099) or njohnson@newcollegefranklin.edu
Administrative Assistant for Discipleship: Martha Brooks martha@cstonepres.org
Home Fellowship Information: HFG@cstonepres.org

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Men's Ministry: men@cstonepres.org

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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

Randy Allen (615-260-1884) Will Kesler (423-313-7493) Jim Payne (615-497-0613) Chuck Emerson: *Emeritus* (615-943-8443) John Millard (423-443-8852) Jim Smith (615-347-4188) Joe Haworth (615-289-7543) Ron Moffat (629-215-5135)

#### Deacons

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

 Matt Faulk (714-801-7596)
 Wes Pittman (615-393-0365)
 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

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All Scripture quotations from the English Standard Version

