

CORNERSTONE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND GOSPEL RENEWAL

Ascension Sunday 12 May 2024

Pastoral Notes

Dear Cornerstone Family,

We are thrilled to welcome our dear brother and friend, Rev. Ben Griffith, back to the Cornerstone pulpit. Ben was born and raised in the hub city, Hattiesburg, MS, and is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi. Ben attended seminary at Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, MS, and served at First Presbyterian Church in Hattiesburg, MS, from 2008 to 2019. That same year Ben pioneered his way to Tennessee accepting a call to be an Assistant Pastor with us at Cornerstone Presbyterian Church. Then, in 2023, Ben accepted a call to become the next Reformed University Fellowship Minister at Samford University in Birmingham, AL, where he has just finished his first year on campus.



Ben and his dear wife, Rebecca, and their three children Margaret, Owen, and Libby are some of the best people you'll ever meet. They were a tremendous blessing to our fellowship from 2019-2023. It's with great joy that we welcome them "home" to Franklin and Cornerstone today.

RUF is the campus ministry of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA). For the last fifty years, the ministry of RUF has reached students from all walks of life, sharing with them the good news of the gospel and equipping them to serve Christ in the church and the world. Today, there are more than 150 RUF's nationwide staffed by over 400 campus ministers, interns, and staff. It's one of the fastest growing and most influential outreach ministries of the PCA.

Since our founding, Cornerstone has generously supported the ministry of RUF. Below you will see a list of the RUF ministries we currently support.

Rev. Chase Daws - Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN

Rev. Ben Griffith - Samford University in Birmingham, AL

Rev. James Jardin – Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, KY

Rev. Will Cote - Austin Peay University in Clarksville, TN

Rev. Lee Leadbetter – University of Tennessee in Knoxville, TN

Rev. Weston Duke - Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, TN

Rev. Ryan Angel - Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville, TN

In addition to preaching in both services, Ben will be giving an update on the ministry of Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) at Samford University in the chapel during the Sunday School hour. Please join us!

Your servant,

Nate

Worship Notes—Today is Ascension Sunday and the reminder of the completion of the earthly ministry of Christ which culminated in the three-fold redemptive work of his death, resurrection, and ascension. The ascension to the right hand of the Father places Christ with dominion over all things— especially sin and death. Ascension occurs forty days after Easter—a reverse parallel to the forty days of Lent. The Introit from verse 7 of Crown Him with Many Crowns hails Christ as the "lord of Heaven enthroned in worlds above." Our Call to Worship from Psalm 115 reminds us that "Our God is in the heaven; He does all that He pleases." All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name sings of the kingship and reign of Christ as "Lord of all." The New Testament Reading from I Corinthians 15 speaks of Christ as the "firstfruits" to whom "all things are put in subjection." The Confession of Sin from Philippians 2 exhorts us to have the same mind of Christ in humility and that God "has highly exalted Him." Before the Throne of God Above reminds us of the role of Christ as mediator between God and mankind (I Tim 2:5). Both of our Communion Hymns speak of Christ as "the king of heaven" and as the one "ascended to the skies by angels worshiped; by nations glorified." The final hymn, Benediction, and Sung Response all speak of Christ as our ascended Lord who "is seated at the right hand of the throne of God." As the Easter hymn says, we rejoice in the hope that "Soar we now where Christ has led!" — Greg Wilbur

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.



Call to Worship—based on Psalm 115:1-3, 15, 18

Pastor: Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to Your name give glory,

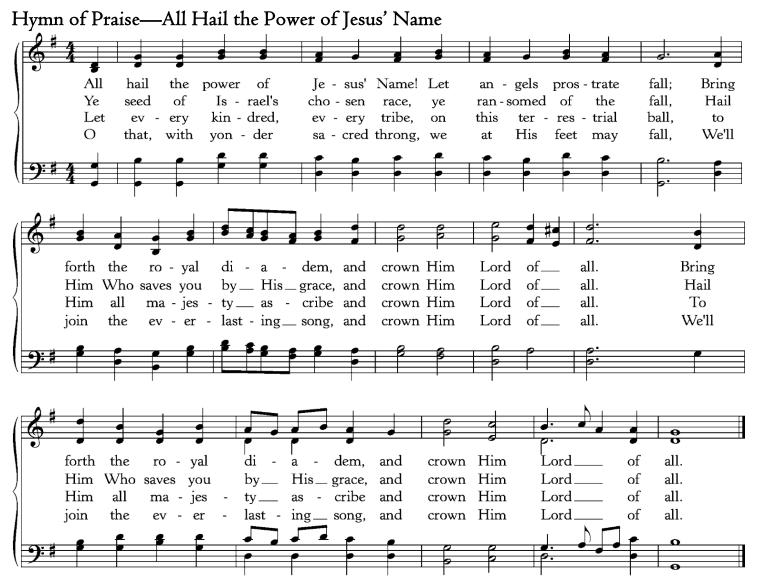
All: For the sake of Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness!

Pastor: Why should the nations say, "Where is their God?

All: Our God is in the heavens; He does all that He pleases.

Pastor: May you be blessed by the LORD, who made heaven and earth!

All: We will bless the LORD from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the LORD!



Text: Edward Perronet, 1779; alt. St. 4 John Rippon, 1787; Music: CORONATION, Oliver Holden, 1793.

Prayer of Praise and Thanksgiving

New Testament Reading—I Corinthians 15:20-28

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³ But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴ Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ²⁷ For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "all things are put in subjection," it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. ²⁸ When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

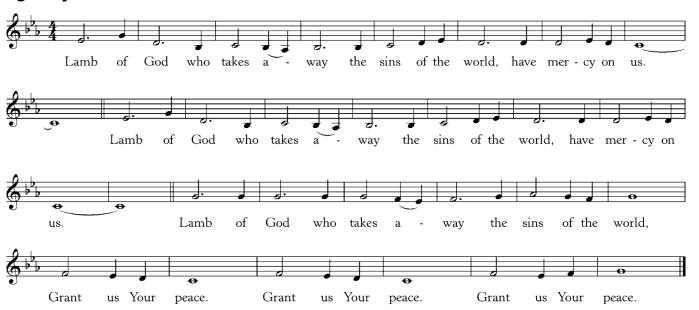
Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

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 Confession of Sin—based on Philippians 2:I-I0

Leader: Lord, we come in prayer confessing. Although there is great encouragement in Christ, comfort in love, participation in the Spirit, and affection and sympathy, we are not of the same mind,

All: Neither do we share the same love or act in one accord.

Leader: We act in pride—desiring the best for ourselves and wanting others to fail.

All: We do not act in humility nor consider others more significant than ourselves.

Leader: We look to our own interests and ignore the interests of others.

All: We do not have the mind of Christ Jesus—because we act as if we were equal with God.

Leader: We resist acting as a servant, humbling ourselves, and obeying—

All: Especially to the point of self-sacrifice or death.

Leader: But Christ did obey and humbled Himself on our behalf, therefore,
God has highly exalted Him and given Him the name that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus our knees will bow along with all in heaven and on earth
and under the earth,

All: And our tongues will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon—Romans 8:32-34

He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

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

Hymn of Praise—Before the Throne of God Above



CCLI #11121087 ©1997 Sovereign Grace Worship; Text: Charitie Bancroft, 1863; Music: Vikki Cook, 1997

The Reading of the Word—Luke 10:38-42

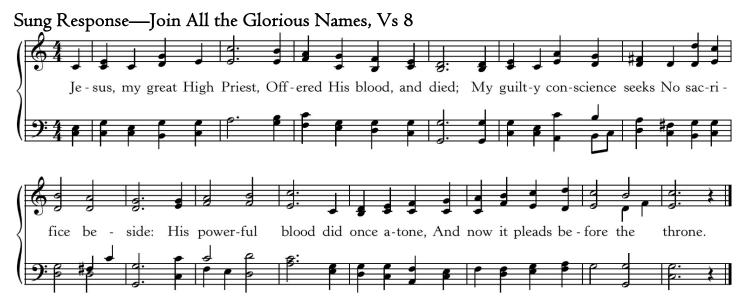
Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house.³⁹ And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." ⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things,⁴² but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."

Leader: The grass withers, the flower fades;

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

Sermon—Distracted by Jesus

—Ben Griffith, Reformed University Fellowship, Samford University



Text: Isaac Watts, 1709; Music: Darwall, John Darwall, 1770.

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



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

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.

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.

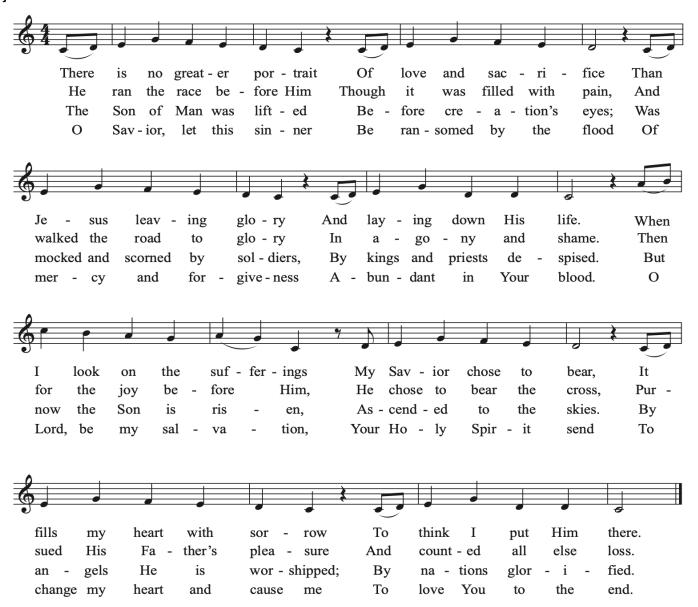
If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer. You can find some sample prayers on the next page. We hope that this time is helpful to you as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ and with His people, the church.

At Cornerstone, we come forward to receive communion. Proceed to the first table for the bread, and then on the second for wine/juice.



CCLI #11121087 ©2002 Word Music, Dejamesolo Music, Rich Nibbe Songs. Text & Music: Fernando Ortega and Rich Nibbe, 2002.

Hymn of Communion—There Is No Greater Portrait



CCLI#III21087 ©2005 ReformedPraise.org Text and Music: Eric Schumacher & David L. Ward, 2005.

Prayers for Those Not Taking the Lord's Supper

If you are not able to partake in the Lord's Supper today, please use this time to meditate on one of the following prayers.

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth. Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise.

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—O Christ, Our Hope



Text: Latin Hymn, 8th Century, Tr. By John Chandler, 1837; Music: KINGSFOLD, Old English Folk Song

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 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. *Amen.*

Sung Response—A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing, Vs, 7



Text: The Venerable Bede, 673-735; Trans Benjamin Webb, 1854; Music: LASST UNS ERFFEUEN, Peter von Brachel, 1623

Missions Prayer—Colleen McGarry is the Local Programs Coordinator as well as the Director of Communications for SGI in Nashville. She is responsible for overseeing and organizing the English classes for refugee women as well as mentoring and training volunteers as they learn to be friend refugees with the hope and love of Christ.

Please Pray:

- That God would move the hearts of His people to reach out to the immigrant and refugee in love and as a result discover the joy that God gives in the work.
- That there would be a Bible Study begun this year among those we serve.
- That Colleen would have clarity and wisdom in putting together a new literacy curriculum this summer.

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

Today! Sunday School with Rev. Ben Griffith

We're taking a one week break from our adult Sunday School classes to hear an update from Rev. Ben Griffith about the ministry of Reformed University Fellowship at Samford University in Birmingham, AL. Please join us today in the Chapel.

Overflow Has Moved

Additional seating for services is now available in the Fellowship Hall.

Book Discussion: June 3

Join other Cornerstone members and friends the first Monday of June for a discussion of G.K. Chesterton's *The Ballad of the White Horse*. Copies are available on the Bookshelf. We will meet at The Corner House at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 3.

Upcoming discussion: July I, *The Princess and the Goblin* by George MacDonald

Life at the Corner Podcast

Have you kept up with the latest episodes of *Life at the Corner?* Tune in every week to hear Nate discuss a wide range of matters—theology, books, movies, current events, etc. Let us know what you think or submit questions to lifeatthecorner@cstonepres.org.

Cornerstone Youth

There will be no Wednesday night youth group for the rest of May. The summer session will begin on June 5! Our last spring Sunday School will be on May 19 (next Sunday), resuming for summer June 9.

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.

Women's Summer Bible Study

Sisters, mark your calendars for Tuesday evenings in June and July! We will meet in the Chapel at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday from June II to July 30 for the second half of Saved: Experiencing the Power of the Book of Acts with Nancy Guthrie. There are personal Bible study questions free to women attending the study—they are available on the church website anytime, and there will be printed copies available next Sunday. Bring your friends and invite your neighbors!

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.

Opportunity to Serve at the Chapel

We need help with renovations happening on the second floor of the chapel building. We're looking for people who can help with moving on May 20 and June 7 from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. and painting on May 23 from 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Help is welcome anytime during those hours—stay for as long as you are able! Please sign up on the website.

Lost and Found

Did you know that Cornerstone has a collection of lost and found items? Check the lost and found in the fellowship hall to see if you've left behind any mugs, notebooks, jackets, etc. Items left longer than a month will be donated to GraceWorks.

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)



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