Service of Celebration and Gospel Renewal Seventh Sunday of Easter—Ascension Sunday 17 May 2015

If you are reading this in worship, I want you to know something—you are an answer to prayer. Each Sunday before worship, I ask God to bring into our midst exactly who He desires would be there. Since you are with us today, I believe God has a blessing in store for you. I am prayerful as we worship together today, that blessing will be received and enjoyed.

To that end, this service of worship has been designed that we might know God and the glory of the gospel of Jesus Christ. From the summons to worship at the beginning to the sending out into the world at the benediction, that you might know God, the truth and joy of salvation, and be equipped to answer the call to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Following the service, feel free to approach one of our elders (the men who help serve the Lord's Supper) with any prayer needs or questions you may have. I believe you will find them to be warm, inviting, and eager to serve. Please know I would personally enjoy getting to meet you this morning following the service, so please stop by and see me at the front door of the chapel.

It is my sincere prayer that your experience today at Cornerstone Presbyterian Church is one that blesses you spiritually and strengthens your faith in the Lord.

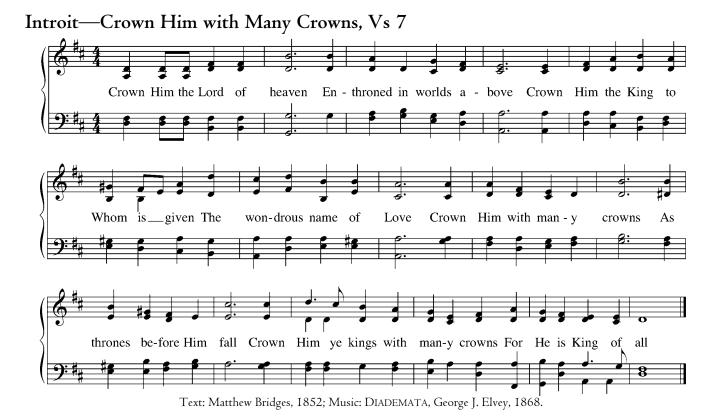
Grace & Peace, Rev. Nate Shurden Worship is a response to the love of God that brings us out of darkness into his light. The rhythm and flow of the service reflects this present reality as God calls his people and reveals himself, forgives their sins, teaches them from his Word, the Bible, feeds them, and then sends them out to live what they have learned.

This is the pattern of his love in redeeming and saving his people.

### 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.

## Prelude, Announcements & Preparation



## 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!

#### Hymn of Praise—All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name



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



(Please be seated)

## Honoring of Seniors

—High School: Abby Keliher and Madison Sperry College: Holden Sukut

+++Latecomers Please Wait to be Seated+++

## New Testament Reading—Colossians I:15-20

The Glory of the Ascended Christ

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

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—Come, O Redeemer, Come



Fa - ther en-throned on high, Ho - ly, Ho - ly: An - cient e - ter - nal light, hear our prayer Look now up - on our need, Lord be, with us; heal us and make us free, from our sin.



Come, O Re-deem-er, come, grant us mer-cy. Come, O Re-deem-er, come, grant us peace.

CCLI #11121087 ©1996 Metro One, Inc. Text and Music: Fernando Ortega, 1996.

## Corporate Confession of Sin—based on Philippians 2:1-10

Pastor: Lord, we come 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.

Pastor: 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.

Pastor: 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.

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

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

Pastor: But Christ did obey and humble 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,

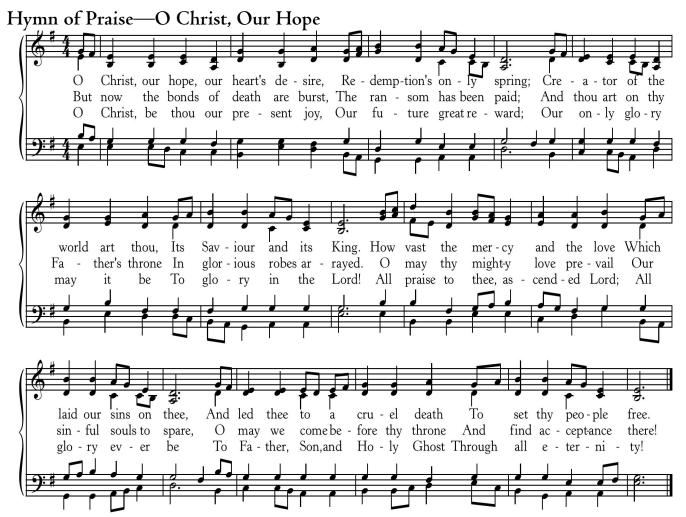
All: And our tongues will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

## 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.

+++Latecomers are Welcome to be Seated+++



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

#### Sacrament of Baptism

Audrey Elizabeth Smith, Daughter of Eric and Lauren Smith

"For to you is the promise, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call unto him. 'And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your seed after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto you and to your seed after you.' Therefore, believe on the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved, you and your house." (Acts 2:39; Gen. 17:7; Acts 16:31)

#### Parental Vows:

- I. Do you acknowledge your own, as well as your child's, need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?
- 2. Do you claim God's covenant promises for her, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus—and only to the Lord Jesus—for her salvation, just as you do for your own?
- 3. Do you now consecrate your child to God; will you in humble reliance upon His sovereign grace set before her a godly example—praying with and for her, teaching her the good hope of the Gospel, opening to her the truth of the Scriptures, and striving by every means of grace God provides, to bring her up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

#### Congregational Vow:

Will you as a covenant community joyously commit to assisting these parents in the Christian nurture of this child?

## GOD TEACHES US THROUGH HIS WORD

## The Reading of the Word—Luke 24:50-53

50 Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. 51 While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. 52 And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, 53 and were continually in the temple blessing God.

Elder: The grass withers, the flower fades;

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

## Sermon—The Gospel of Luke, Part 102

Ascended on High

—Nate Shurden, Pastor

#### 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.

## 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

#### Words of Institution and the Lord's Table

#### Guidelines for the Lord's Supper

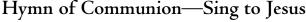
The Lord's Supper is the family meal for Christians. We invite all baptized Christians who are members of a congregation that proclaims the gospel, and who are at peace with God and with their neighbor, and who seek strength to live more faithfully for Christ to join us.

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. You may take the bread at the first table and then proceed to either side for the wine/grape juice.

#### Celebration of First Communion —McKinley John

—McKinley Johnston, Daughter of Matt and Kimbra Johnston





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

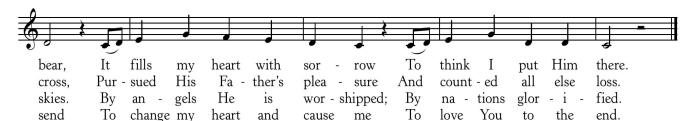
#### Hymn of Communion—There Is No Greater Portrait



Of love and There is no great - er por - trait sac - ri - fice Than Je sus leav - ing He ran the race be-fore Him Though it was filled with pain, And walked the The Son of Man was lift - ed Be - fore cre - a - tion's eyes; Was mocked and scorned by Sav-ior, let this sin - ner Be ran-somed by the flood Of mer - cy and for-



glo - ry And lay - ing down His life. When I look on the suf-fer-ings My Sav - ior chose to glo - ry In a - go - ny and shame. Then for the joy be-fore Him, He chose to bear the sol - diers, By kings and priests de - spised. But now the Son is ris - en, As - cend - ed to the give - ness A - bun - dant in Your blood. O Lord, be my sal - va - tion, Your Ho - ly Spir - it



CCLI #11121087 ©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. 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—Alleluia! Sing to Jesus



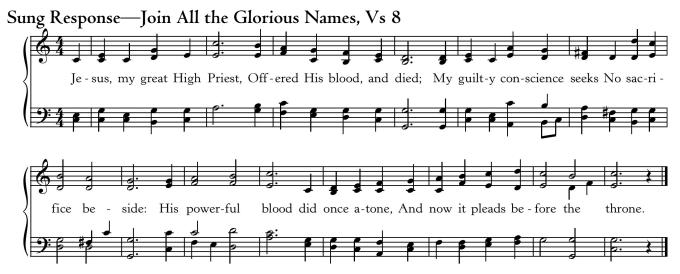
Text: William C. Dix, 1867; Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland Hugh Pritchard, 1855.

### 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.* 



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

#### HOME FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

Chuck Emerson, 943-8443 or emersonbrntwd@aol.com 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at 5:00 p.m., Steffens' house, Sermon Discussion

Bob and Cindi Wolk 686-3349 or cindi\_wolk@yahoo.com Every other Sunday after church at Cornerstone, Sermon Discussion

Greg Wilbur 512-4156 or greg@cstonepres.org 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at 5:00 p.m., Wilbur's house, Sermon Discussion

Jim Smith, 347-4188 or jims@svmic.com 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at 6:00 p.m., Smith's house

Randy Allen, 260-1884 or randmanrx@gmail.com Sundays at 5:30 p.m., Allen's house, *I Samuel* 

Andy Patton, 500-1492 or parachuteadams I@gmail.com I<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays, 5:00 p.m. Patton's house

Matt Michaud, 803-319-2693 or michaudba@gmail.com Sundays at 4-6 p.m., Michaud's house

#### LITURGICAL CALENDAR AND EPIPHANY

God built within His people an innate desire to celebrate, to mark seasons and events, to set up "stones of remembrance" so that we do not forget His goodness and promises. One method that the Church has used over time is dividing each year according to the events in the life of Christ—a reminder of redemptive history. Although the Church Calendar is not prescribed by Scripture, it can be a useful framework or tool to help walk our hearts through the Gospel every year.

The major divisions of the liturgical year are:

- Advent—The four Sundays leading to Christmas; preparation for the coming of Christ and the need for a Savior
- Christmas and the Twelve Days—Celebration of the Incarnation and the Gift of Christ, our Redeemer
- Epiphany—January 6; Coming of the Magi for Christ is the Light of the World; Hope for the Gentiles; Kingship of Christ
- Lent—from Ash Wednesday to Easter; repentance and reflection; recognition that our sinfulness leads to the cross; intentional time to exercise the disciplines of grace
- Holy Week—Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday; Jesus as King, Priest, Prophet; The remembrance that the shedding of blood was necessary for the forgiveness of sins
- Easter—Resurrection of the Living Lord; the conquering of death and sin
- Ascension—Christ in Power at the right hand of the Father; Christ interceding as the Mediator
- Pentecost—Coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church; God sends out His people as the Church
- Ordinary Time—The weeks between Pentecost and Advent; Living in light of the Gospel as the Church

We've come to the very final message in the Gospel of Luke. And what an appropriate ending it is! Today we are exploring the Ascension of Jesus Christ. Please prayerfully consider the questions below and discuss them with your family, a friend, or your home fellowship group.

- ➤ Before Jesus ascended into heaven, he lifted up his hands and blessed the disciples (v.50). What is the significance of this?
- The Scripture teaches us that Christ's parting from earth into heaven was a promotion to the throne of God (Revelation 12:5; Romans 8:5). Why is it important that Jesus occupy the throne of God?
- ➤ It would seem that the disciples would have been saddened to lose the physical presence of Jesus. However, Luke tells us that they worshiped with joy and continually visited the temple (v52-53). Why do you think they responded this way?
- What does the ascension teach us about the gospel of Jesus Christ (see Philippians 2:5-II)?
- What does the ascension teach us about the second coming of Jesus Christ (see Acts I:II)?
- What difference does (or should) the ascension make in our daily walk as Christians?

# CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## Presbyterian Church in America

#### Ruling Elders

| Randy Allen (260-1884)             | Cy Fenton (500-5304)      | Jim Payne (497-0613)   |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Terry Cheney (579-7089)            | Stacy McGuire (339-3900)* | Jim Smith (347-4188)   |
| Chuck Emerson: Emeritus (661-9273) |                           | Greg Wilbur (512-4156) |

#### Deacons

| Clint Branch (516-9855) | Kevin McClung (243-9228)  | Larry Thompson (901-734-1520) |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Joe Haworth (289-7543)  | David Steffens (557-5316) | Bob Vermilye (599-9577)       |
| Riley May (866-8662)*   | *On Sabbatical            |                               |

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All Scripture quotations from the English Standard Version