

# CORNERSTONE

# PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Service of Celebration and Gospel Renewal

Ascension Sunday

29 May 2022

### Pastoral Notes

Dear Cornerstone Family,

You made it. You survived the blitzkrieg of May! It was touch and go there for a bit, but it's nearly June and you're still clothed and in your right mind. Let's call that a win. ☺

Now, you've got Monday off with plans to fire up the grill with some friends and remember those who died in the line of duty. The pool will open soon. The fishing pole is in the back of the truck. The soon-in-coming beach vacation is circled on the calendar. You're settling into a school's-out-for-summer state of mind. Can I get an amen?

But before you dive headfirst into summer, may I offer a caution? Summer is an opportune time to slow down, spend quality time with family, and enjoy some R&R. At the same time, summer is an easy time to lose our way spiritually. Our Bible reading takes a backseat to beach reading. Our church attendance is replaced by pool time. Generally, we have a tendency to ease up on the accelerator spiritually speaking. If I boiled it all down, the temptation to live for self is stronger during summer than at any other point in the year.

It is true; this temptation is always present, lurking underneath each moment of every day. But there are certain times—like summer vacation—that are literally designed *for us*, so to speak. Think about it. Why do we go on vacation? We go for our own rest and enjoyment. In fact, our friends actually tell you, "Go enjoy yourself." When we say that, we mean, "Go have a good time," and that's right in so far as it goes. But it's easy for our sinful hearts to hear "Enjoy yourself!" and slip into "live for self" mode. Ironically, when we do this, we cut the legs out of true rest and enjoyment. The pleasure we gain when living for self is shallow and fleeting. It leaves us disappointed and discontent.

Truth is, God has not designed us to enjoy ourselves by living for self. This is where we go wrong. We go on vacation, and we try to rest like the rest of the world. If we're honest, many of us "rest" from our Christian commitments on vacation. It's crazy, but we go on vacation to rest, and we walk away from the Lord of rest! Not surprisingly, our vacations end up restless. We wind up needing vacations from our vacations (!) because we neglected the true rest our souls need.

With all this in mind, I want to challenge you to commit to move through summer differently this year. By all means, keep catching those lightning bugs and sipping that sweet tea on the back porch. Enjoy the good things God designed summer for. But as you do, enjoy the Lord of the summer most of all. If you do that, you might just have the best summer yet.

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.

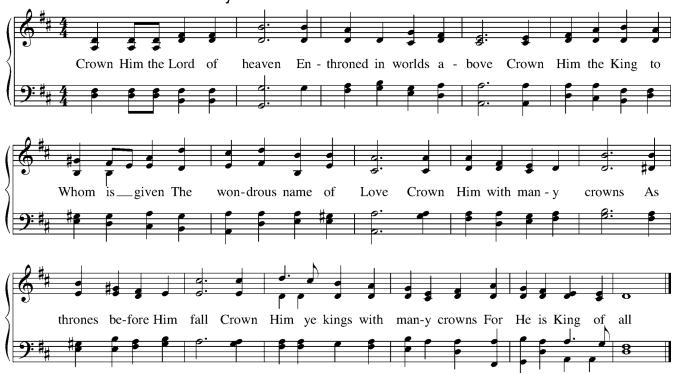
This is the pattern of his love in redeeming and saving his people.

#### 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—Crown Him with Many Crowns, Vs 7



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

#### Call to Worship—based on Psalm II5:I-3, I5, I8

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.

#### New Testament Reading—I Corinthians 15:20-28

<sup>20</sup>But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup>For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup>For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. <sup>23</sup>But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. <sup>24</sup>Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. <sup>25</sup>For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup>The last enemy to be destroyed is death. <sup>27</sup>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. <sup>28</sup>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.

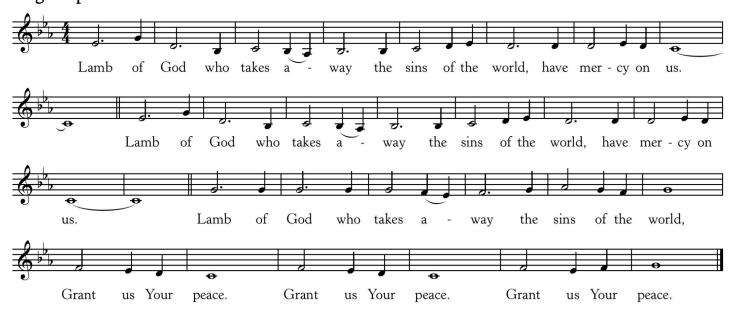
Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

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.

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

Leader: 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.

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.

#### 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—Exodus 12:28-51

<sup>28</sup> Then the people of Israel went and did so; as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did.

<sup>29</sup> At midnight the LORD struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of the livestock. <sup>30</sup> And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he and all his servants and all the Egyptians. And there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where someone was not dead. <sup>31</sup> Then he summoned Moses and Aaron by night and said, "Up, go out from among my people, both you and the people of Israel; and go, serve the LORD, as you have said. <sup>32</sup> Take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone, and bless me also!"

<sup>33</sup> The Egyptians were urgent with the people to send them out of the land in haste. For they said, "We shall all be dead." <sup>34</sup> So the people took their dough before it was leavened, their kneading bowls being bound up in their cloaks on their shoulders. <sup>35</sup> The people of Israel had also done as Moses told them, for they had asked the Egyptians for silver and gold jewelry and for clothing. <sup>36</sup> And the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have what they asked. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.

<sup>37</sup> And the people of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides women and children. <sup>38</sup> A mixed multitude also went up with them, and very much livestock, both flocks and herds. <sup>39</sup> And they baked unleavened cakes of the dough that they had brought out of Egypt, for it was not leavened, because they were thrust out of Egypt and could not wait, nor had they prepared any provisions for themselves.

<sup>40</sup> The time that the people of Israel lived in Egypt was 430 years. <sup>41</sup> At the end of 430 years, on that very day, all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt. <sup>42</sup> It was a night of watching by the LORD, to bring them out of the land of Egypt; so this same night is a night of watching kept to the LORD by all the people of Israel throughout their generations.

<sup>43</sup> And the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "This is the statute of the Passover: no foreigner shall eat of it, <sup>44</sup> but every slave that is bought for money may eat of it after you have circumcised him. <sup>45</sup> No foreigner or hired worker may eat of it. <sup>46</sup> It shall be eaten in one house; you shall not take any of the flesh outside the house, and you shall not break any of its bones. <sup>47</sup> All the congregation of Israel shall keep it. <sup>48</sup> If a stranger shall sojourn with you and would keep the Passover to the LORD, let all his males be circumcised. Then he may come near and keep it; he shall be as a native of the land. But no uncircumcised person shall eat of it. <sup>49</sup> There shall be one law for the native and for the stranger who sojourns among you."

<sup>50</sup> All the people of Israel did just as the LORD commanded Moses and Aaron. <sup>51</sup> And on that very day the LORD brought the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt by their hosts.

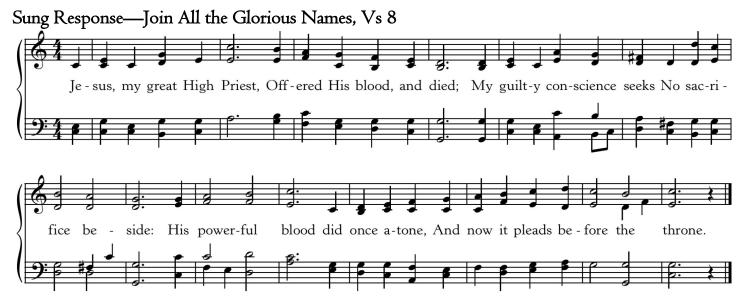
Leader: The grass withers, the flower fades;

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

Sermon—Delivered: A Study in Exodus, part 16

The Way Out

—Nate Shurden, Pastor



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.

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

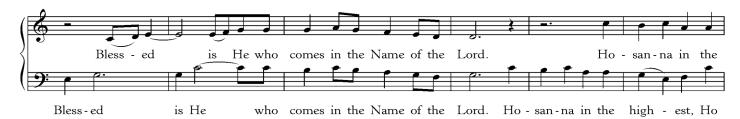
# Sung Response—Sanctus Ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord. Ho - ly, God of pow'r and might,

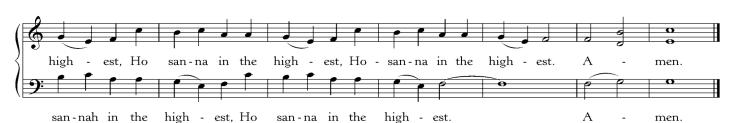


Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly, God of pow'r and might, -



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.

#### 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.

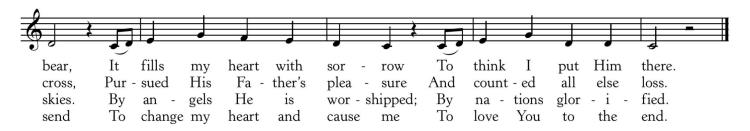
#### Hymn of Communion—There Is No Greater Portrait



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



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

#### Hymn of Communion—Sing to Jesus



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

#### 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.

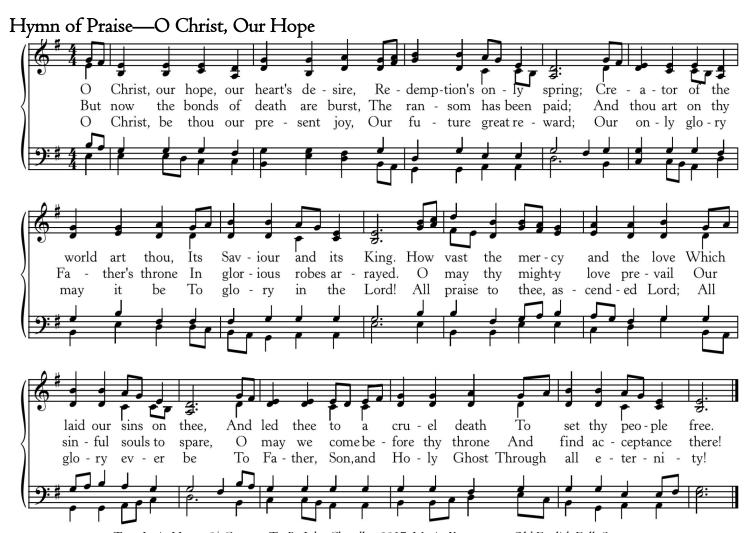
And forgive us our debts,

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



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

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

#### Church Fellowship Today

Come join us outside in the courtyard between services. There is no Sunday School, so all are invited to fellowship with one another while enjoying coffee and doughnuts.

#### Young Adults Picnic Today

The Young Adults will gather around I:00 p.m. at Arrington Vineyards. Bring your lunch, a blanket and/or chairs, and join us for some fun and fellowship! Contact: youngadults@cstonepres.org

#### Prayer Meeting

Throughout May, the prayer team will meet on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. on the third floor at Cornerstone. The meeting will move to Monday evenings for the months of June and July. Everyone is welcome! Submit prayer requests online or email to prayer@cstonepres.org.

#### Women's Summer Bible Study and Fellowships

Sisters, make plans to be at Cornerstone on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. beginning June 7. Nancy Guthrie will lead us in the second half of *Blessed*. Personal Bible study questions are available on the Women's Ministry page of the website. Also plan to join us before study on June 21 and July 19 for a catered fellowship supper. Registration is not required for the study, but you do need to sign up for supper through the website or app. Invite your friends and neighbors!

#### The Bookshelf

We have a new and expanded Bookshelf with lots of new titles for all your summer reading needs. Please check out these new works and many more on The Bookshelf today!

- Rejoice and Tremble: The Surprising Good News of the Fear of the Lord by Michael Reeves (\$15)
- Holiness: It's Nature, Hindrances, Difficulties, and Roots by J.C. Ryle (\$10)
- Blessed: Experiencing the Promise of the Book of Revelation by Nancy Guthrie (\$10)

#### Cornerstone Youth: Wednesdays and Kayaking

Youth Group will resume on Wednesday, June 8 at the Allens' from 6:00–8:00 p.m. Dinner will be served! Bring a towel if you plan to swim.

We will go kayaking on Saturday, June 11. Get all the details and reserve your spot on the website and app. Questions? youth@cstonepres.org

#### College Students: RUF

Nashville's Reformed University Fellowship will meet at Midtown 12 South, Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. from May 31 through the end of July. All college students are welcome and encouraged to attend!

# The Church, Seminary, and Culture: A Public Conversation with Dr. Guy Richard

On Sunday, June 5th during the Sunday School hour, Pastor Nate will sit down with Dr. Guy Richard, President of Reformed Theological Seminary in Atlanta, GA, to discuss the challenges and importance of training ministry leaders for the church in the present cultural moment. Don't miss this important conversation! Join us next week in the chapel.

#### Cornerstone Men: Standing Firm in the Faith

Brothers, block off Thursday nights in July! The men of Cornerstone are going to enjoy some food, fellowship, and man-to-man talks from guest preachers from around middle Tennessee. More information is forthcoming. In the meantime, go ahead and reserve the evenings of July 7, 14, 21, and 28 on your summer calendar, and let us know you're coming by registering through the app or website.

#### Life at Cornerstone

The best way to keep up with all things Cornerstone is through our weekly email, "Life at Cornerstone." It drops into your inbox every Wednesday at 6:00 a.m. Subscribe through the homepage of the website.

Today's message, "The Way Out," is taken from Exodus 12:28-51. Please take time to discuss the questions below with your family, friends, or Home Fellowship Group (HFG).

- How does the judgement of Egypt relate to the salvation of Israel? How does this relate to the cross of Jesus Christ?
- Why was Pharaoh's request for blessing (12:32) not honored? What does this teach us?
- What does the language of "plundered the Egyptians" indicate (see Exodus 12:35)? What implications can we draw from this?
- Why are there restrictions placed on those who can partake in Passover? How does that correspond to the Lord's Supper (see I Corinthians II:I7-34)?
- What was your biggest takeaway from today's message?

## CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

#### Presbyterian Church in America

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Men's Ministry: men@cstonepres.org

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Acting Youth Director: Taylor Thompson (717-371-0848) 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

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\*On Sabbatical

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All Scripture quotations from the English Standard Version