

# CORNERSTONE

### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Service of Celebration and Gospel Renewal
Ordinary Time—The Sundays of Pentecost
05 July 2020

#### Pastoral Notes

#### Dear Cornerstone Family,

I had a lovely conversation this week with a thoughtful young man in our community. He overheard the final minutes of a phone conversation I shared with a friend. In that conversation, I referenced a line of thought in Charles Taylor's book, *Sources of the Self.* Taylor argues that in late modernity a seismic shift in understanding about the human person took place. The historic Christian understanding of the human soul was in large part replaced with a secularized concept of the human self. Taylor goes on to note how this shift moved society over time away from traditional understandings of human identity arising from within the moral framework of the universe to radically individual self-conceptions of human identity rooted in personality and psychology. (Yep, a little heady, but a very important observation.)

When I hung up, the young man at the table next to me introduced himself. He apologized for eavesdropping on my phone conversation, but the cultural shifts I referenced fascinated him. He noted the civil unrest we're presently experiencing in America, expressing real concern about whether the fabric of the nation can maintain itself much longer (alluding specifically to the presidential election in November). He then asked, "Do you think the shifts you mentioned are part of the reason we've lost the ability to have meaningful dialogues on social issues today?"

I could tell he sensed a connection but couldn't quite put his finger on it. I told him that anytime we jettison a divinely created, morally framed understanding of reality and opt for a subjective, psychological-sociological framed understanding of reality—where each person is free to forge or create their own identity and meaning—societal fragmentation is inevitable. "In my opinion," I said, "one of the evidences that such fragmentation is well underway in America is our inability to have reasonable, respectful discourse when we disagree on social issues."

He nodded, so I continued. "If we embrace subjective self-conceptions of personal identity; one where the individual is free to determine who he or she is, then we *necessarily* cut ourselves off from the possibility of a commonly held understanding of reality. We're all living in our own worlds so to speak. Furthermore, if we determine self-identity, then it necessarily follows that we can choose our own morality. This in turn *necessarily* cuts us off from a commonly held sense of what is right and wrong and thus a vision for moving forward together."

Now, I didn't think of it at the time, but it's worth noting now. In his book, *Culture Wars*, James Davison Hunter argues that whenever a nation's communal life and habits of social connection erode, the nation becomes increasingly dependent on the exercise of power to hold things together. This is why, Hunter suggests, American society is looking increasingly to governing officials, laws, and the exercise of political power to provide solutions for our social and cultural problems. Hunter wrote that in 1991. It's truer today than it was then.

On this July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend, in the midst of great concern for our nation, it's right for us to give thanks to God for the freedoms we *still* enjoy. Chief among them, the freedom to do what we're doing right now—worship! Friends, that's a tremendous blessing. Don't take it for granted! But as we exercise our freedom to worship today, let's remember WHO we look to for help and hope. Not to princes who cannot save (Psalm 146:3) but to our God (Psalm 121:1-2) who has set His son, Jesus Christ, on the throne of heaven and given Him the name above every name (Philippians 2:9). Only under His blessed rule are we free indeed (John 8:36).

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—Give Thanks to God the Lord, Vs I



Text: Susan H. Peterson, 1999; Music: DIADEMATA, George J. Elvey, 1868.

#### Call to Worship—Psalm 28:6-9

Pastor: Blessed be the LORD! For he has heard the voice of our pleas for mercy.

All: The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped;

Pastor: My heart exults in the LORD, and with my song I give thanks to him.

All: The LORD is the strength of his people; he is the saving refuge of his anointed.

Pastor: Oh, save your people and bless your heritage!

All: Be their shepherd and carry them forever.

#### Hymn of Praise—O God Our Help in Ages Past, Vs I-4, 7



Text: Psalm 90, Isaac Watts, 1719; Music: ST. ANNE, William Croft, 1678-1727.

#### New Testament Reading—Matthew 5:21-28

<sup>21</sup> And Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup> And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon." <sup>23</sup> But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying out after us." <sup>24</sup> He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." <sup>25</sup> But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." <sup>26</sup> And he answered, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." <sup>27</sup> She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." <sup>28</sup> Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

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 Preparation—Hear My Prayer (from Psalm 86)



Text & Music: Greyfriars Press, 2013. Used by permission.

#### Corporate Confession of Sin—based on Ephesians 2:1-7 & Romans 6:12

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. We once walked in the path of this world following the pattern of it and the spirit of the age.

All: And we were dead in trespasses and sins.

Pastor: We all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the desires of the mind.

All: We were by nature children of wrath like the rest of mankind.

Pastor: But You, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which You loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses,

All: You made us alive together with Christ.

Pastor: By grace You saved us and raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Him.

All: In the coming ages You will show the immeasurable riches of Your grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus.

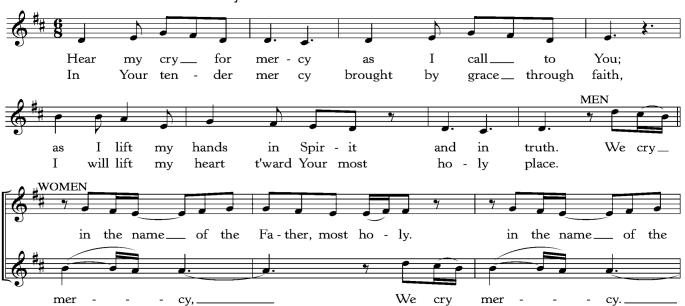
Pastor: Give us the grace and faith to not let sin reign in our mortal bodies, to not obey its passions.

#### Silent Prayers of Confession

#### Assurance of Pardon—from I Peter 1:18-21

Know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

#### Hymn of Praise—Tender Mercy





CCLI #11121087 Text and Music: Scott Roley and Paige Overton Pitts, © 1999 Used by Permission.

#### GOD TEACHES US THROUGH HIS WORD

#### The Reading of the Word—Psalm 44

O God, we have heard with our ears, our fathers have told us, what deeds you performed in their days, in the days of old:

- <sup>2</sup> you with your own hand drove out the nations, but them you planted; you afflicted the peoples, but them you set free;
- <sup>3</sup> for not by their own sword did they win the land, nor did their own arm save them,

but your right hand and your arm,

- and the light of your face, for you delighted in them.
- <sup>4</sup> You are my King, O God; ordain salvation for Jacob!
- <sup>5</sup> Through you we push down our foes;

through your name we tread down those who rise up against us.

<sup>6</sup> For not in my bow do I trust, nor can my sword save me.

- <sup>7</sup> But you have saved us from our foes and have put to shame those who hate us.
- <sup>8</sup> In God we have boasted continually, and we will give thanks to your name forever. *Selah*
- <sup>9</sup> But you have rejected us and disgraced us and have not gone out with our armies.
- <sup>10</sup> You have made us turn back from the foe, and those who hate us have gotten spoil.
- <sup>11</sup> You have made us like sheep for slaughter and have scattered us among the nations.
- <sup>12</sup> You have sold your people for a trifle, demanding no high price for them.
- <sup>13</sup> You have made us the taunt of our neighbors, the derision and scorn of those around us.
- <sup>14</sup> You have made us a byword among the nations, a laughingstock among the peoples.
- <sup>15</sup> All day long my disgrace is before me, and shame has covered my face
- <sup>16</sup> at the sound of the taunter and reviler, at the sight of the enemy and the avenger.
- <sup>17</sup> All this has come upon us, though we have not forgotten you, and we have not been false to your covenant.
- <sup>18</sup> Our heart has not turned back, nor have our steps departed from your way;
- <sup>19</sup> yet you have broken us in the place of jackals and covered us with the shadow of death.
- <sup>20</sup> If we had forgotten the name of our God or spread out our hands to a foreign god,
- <sup>21</sup> would not God discover this?

For he knows the secrets of the heart.

- <sup>22</sup> Yet for your sake we are killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.
- <sup>23</sup> Awake! Why are you sleeping, O Lord? Rouse yourself! Do not reject us forever!

<sup>24</sup> Why do you hide your face?

Why do you forget our affliction and oppression?

- <sup>25</sup> For our soul is bowed down to the dust; our belly clings to the ground.
- <sup>26</sup> Rise up; come to our help!

Redeem us for the sake of your steadfast love!

Leader: The grass withers, the flower fades;

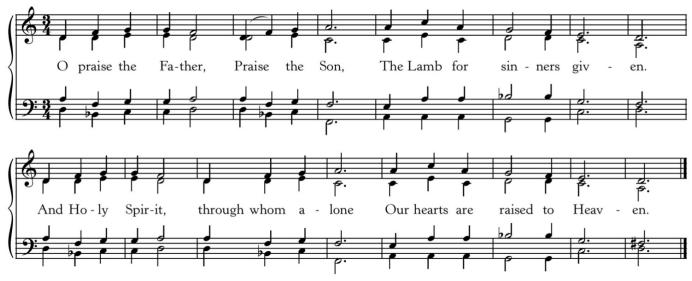
All: But the Word of our God will stand forever.

#### Sermon—Summer Psalms: Finding Our Way to God, Series 2, Pt 5

Asking God for Help

—Nate Shurden, Pastor

#### Sung Response—O Praise the Father



Text: John Mason, 1683; Music: Gregory Wilbur, 2011.

#### Sursum Corda

Elder: The Lord be with you. People: And also with you.

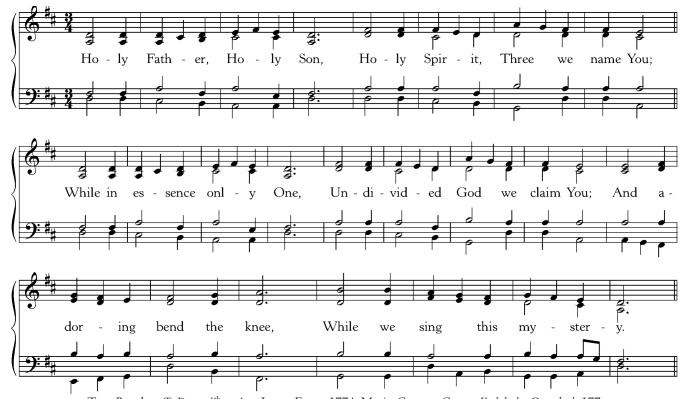
Elder: Lift up your hearts. People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Elder: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Elder: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to You,

Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

#### Sung Response—Holy God We Praise Your Name, Vs 4



Text: Based on Te Deum, 4th c., Attr Ignace Franz, 1774; Music: GROSER GOTT, Katholisches Gesangbuch, 177

#### 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

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

#### Psalm of the Month—Psalm 66: Come All You People



CCLI #11121087 Text: The Psalter, 1912; Music: Gregory Wilbur, 2020

#### Hymn of Communion—Holy Father, Hear My Cry



CCLI #11121087 Text: Horatius Bonar, 1843; Music: Gregory D Wilbur, 2010.

#### 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—Abide, O Dearest Jesus



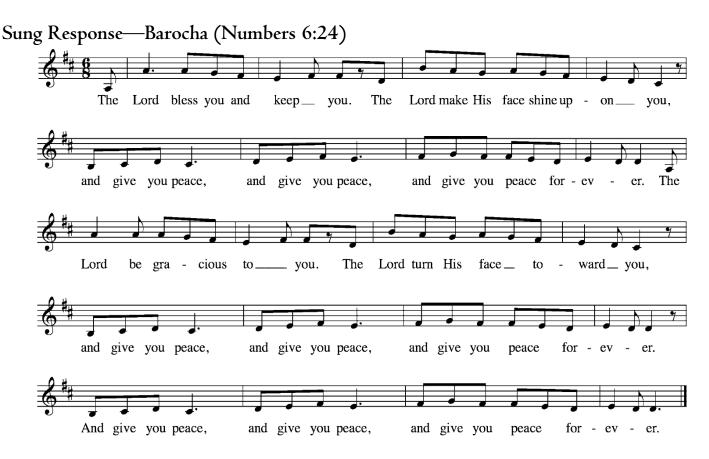
Text: Joshua Stegmann, 1628, Trans August Crull, c. 1892; Music: ST. THEODULPH, Melchoir Teschner, ca. 1615.

#### 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 5:23-24

<sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it. *Amen*.



CCLI #11121087 © 1989 Birdwing Music; Text and Music: Michael Card, 1989.

Welcome to Cornerstone! We're glad you're visiting with us today, and would love the opportunity to welcome you personally. We invite you to fill out our visitor card by following this link. https://cornerstonepresbyterianchurch.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/40/responses/new



# Focus on Church Ministry

#### **Exploring Cornerstone Class**

If you're interested in learning more about Cornerstone or uniting in membership, please join Pastor Nate and other ministry staff for an online Zoom edition of the Exploring Cornerstone class. In this class, you will learn about the history, beliefs, vision, mission, and ministries of Cornerstone. Specific dates and times TBD. Register: susan@stonepres.org

#### Men's Ministry—Bible Study

Set aside Thursday mornings for our Bible Study series, Coffee with Calvin (& Friends)—True Prayer, True Power. We are studying Charles Spurgeon's sermons on prayer. The next meeting will be July 9 at the Franklin Mercantile, and we will meet every other Thursday, ending on August 20. We hope you'll join us to study the teaching of this powerful 19th century pastor. Study begins at 7:00 am; please stay after for a time of breakfast and extended fellowship with your brothers from Cornerstone.

#### Men's Ministry—Summer Series

Join us at Randy Allen's house Thursday evenings in July for fellowship, food, and a discussion of *The Masculine Mandate* by Richard D. Phillips. There are many competing visions today surrounding what it means to be a man. Phillips believes this problem demands sound exegesis of biblical passages relating to masculinity. Discussions will be led by members of the Men's Ministry Team. \$5 suggested donation to cover the cost of dinner. July 16, 23, and 30 at 6:30 p.m. Info/register: ronald.moffat@gmail.com

#### Prayer Requests

Our prayer team would be honored to pray for you. Join the team and submit requests: prayer@cstonepres.org

#### GraceWorks is Celebrating 25 Years

During COVID-19, GraceWorks has been working to serve **double** the number of fellow Williamson County residents by meeting **double** the demand for food and rent assistance. Give to GraceWorks between July 3-15, and, in celebration of their 25<sup>th</sup> birthday, your gift will be **doubled!** graceworksministries.net

#### Women's Ministry—Summer Bible Study

Join with other Cornerstone women and women from around the world as we learn from Nancy Guthrie's 8-week video series, God Does His Best Work with Empty. In addition to the video series, Nancy is leading a Zoom call just for Cornerstone women Tuesday evenings from 8–8:30 p.m. Contact Martha or Julie to register for the call and find out how to access the personal Bible study questions: women@cstonepres.org

#### Youth Group—The Prodigal God

6:00–8:00 p.m., Wednesdays at the Allen's. Dinner provided. Bring a towel if you want to swim! More info: youth@cstonepres.org

#### Youth Girls—Rising 7th-I2th Graders

Join us for lunch and cookie decorating! Thursday, July 9, 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m., at the Griffith's. Lunch and cookies provided! 411 William Wallace Drive

#### New College Franklin

NCF is seeking housing for college students for the 2020/2I school year beginning in August. If you are interested in housing a student (or two!) or finding out more, contact Tammy McCoy: office@newcollegefranklin.org

## Women at the Merc: Thursday, August 6 Save the date! More info to come!

#### CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

#### Presbyterian Church in America

Pastor: Nate Shurden (618-4707 Office) or nate@cstonepres.org
Assistant Pastor: Ben Griffith (601-606-2687) at ben@cstonepres.org
Assistant Pastor: Tony Giles (430-8801) or tony@cstonepres.org
Worship and Chief Musician: Greg Wilbur (512-4156) or greg@cstonepres.org
Office Administrator: Susan Bumpus (618-4707) or office@cstonepres.org
Administrative Assistant for Discipleship: Martha Brooks martha@cstonepres.org
Home Fellowship Information: HFG@cstonepres.org
Women's Ministry: Martha Brooks and Julie Kesler at women@cstonepres.org
Men's Ministry: Ron Moffat or men@cstonepres.org
Acting Youth Director: Taylor Thompson (717-371-0848) or youth@cstonepres.org
Children's Director: Meredith Suits (865-250-3579) or elementary@cstonepres.org

en's Director: Meredith Suits (865-250-3579) or elementary@cstonepres.

Nursery Coordinator: Christy Shurden or nursery@cstonepres.org

Prayer Requests: prayer@cstonepres.org

Ruling Elders

Randy Allen (260-1884) Terry Cheney (579-7089)

Mark Elliott (477-1041) Kevin McClung (243-9228) Mike Payne (579-6453) Chuck Emerson: *Emeritus* (943-8443) Joe Haworth (289-7543)

Deacons

Jim Robinson (587-0442) Todd Russell (319-4803) David Steffens (557-5316) Jim Payne (497-0613) Jim Smith (347-4188)

Larry Thompson (901-734-1520) Bob Vermilye (599-9577)

\*On Sabbatical

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All Scripture quotations from the English Standard Version

