

Service of Celebration and Gospel Renewal

The Sundays of Pentecost—Ordinary Time

15 September 2019

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

## Sung Introit—Glory Be to God the Father, Vs I



Text: Horatius Bonar, 1868; Music: Gregory Wilbur, 2011. ©2011 Greyfriars Press

## Call to Worship—Psalm 65:1,9-13

Pastor: Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion, and to you shall vows be performed.

You visit the earth and water it; you greatly enrich it

All: the river of God is full of water; you provide their grain, for so you have prepared it.

Pastor: You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.

All: You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with abundance.

Pastor: The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy,

the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,

All: the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy.

## Hymn of Praise—Praise to the Lord





Text: Psalm 103, Joachim Neander, 1680, Tr. by Catherine Winkworth, 1863; Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, Stralsund Gesangbuch, 1665, Arr, in Praxis Pietatis Melica, 1668.

#### Hymn of Praise—Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah



Text: Psalm 146, The Psalter, 1912; Music: RIPLEY, Gregorian Chant, Arr. By Lowell Mason, 1839.

#### Old Testament Reading—Joel 2:23-29

"Be glad, O children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God,

for he has given the early rain for your vindication;

he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the latter rain, as before.

<sup>24</sup> "The threshing floors shall be full of grain; the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

<sup>25</sup> I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten,

the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent among you.

<sup>26</sup> "You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

<sup>27</sup> You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel,

and that I am the Lord your God and there is none else.

And my people shall never again be put to shame.

<sup>28</sup> "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.

<sup>29</sup> Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit.

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—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.

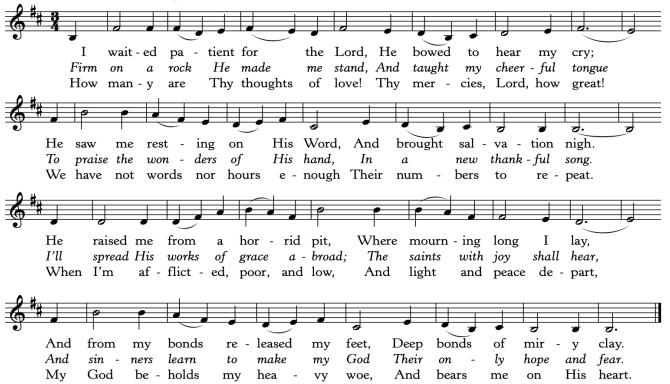
Pastor: Give us the grace and faith to not let sin reign in our mortal bodies, to not obey its passions.

## 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.

## Psalm of the Month for September—Psalm 40: I Waited Patient



Text: Based on Psalm 40; Music: Based on a Traditional Irish Melody, Gregory Wilbur & Jeremiah Small, 2008.

## The Reading of the Word—Genesis 41:1-40

After two whole years, Pharaoh dreamed that he was standing by the Nile, <sup>2</sup> and behold, there came up out of the Nile seven cows, attractive and plump, and they fed in the reed grass. <sup>3</sup> And behold, seven other cows, ugly and thin, came up out of the Nile after them, and stood by the other cows on the bank of the Nile. <sup>4</sup> And the ugly, thin cows ate up the seven attractive, plump cows. And Pharaoh awoke. <sup>5</sup> And he fell asleep and dreamed a second time. And behold, seven ears of grain, plump and good, were growing on one stalk. <sup>6</sup> And behold, after them sprouted seven ears, thin and blighted by the east wind. <sup>7</sup> And the thin ears swallowed up the seven plump, full ears. And Pharaoh awoke, and behold, it was a dream. <sup>8</sup> So in the morning his spirit was troubled, and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt and all its wise men. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but there was none who could interpret them to Pharaoh.

<sup>9</sup> Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh, "I remember my offenses today. <sup>10</sup> When Pharaoh was angry with his servants and put me and the chief baker in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, <sup>11</sup> we dreamed on the same night, he and I, each having a dream with its own interpretation. <sup>12</sup> A young Hebrew was there with us, a servant of the captain of the guard. When we told him, he interpreted our dreams to us, giving an interpretation to each man according to his dream. <sup>13</sup> And as he interpreted to us, so it came about. I was restored to my office, and the baker was hanged."

<sup>14</sup> Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they quickly brought him out of the pit. And when he had shaved himself and changed his clothes, he came in before Pharaoh. <sup>15</sup> And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I have had a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it. I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it." <sup>16</sup> Joseph answered Pharaoh, "It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer." <sup>17</sup> Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Behold, in my dream I was standing on the banks of the Nile. <sup>18</sup> Seven cows, plump and attractive, came up out of the Nile and fed in the reed grass. <sup>19</sup> Seven other cows came up after them, poor and very ugly and thin, such as I had never seen in all the land of Egypt. <sup>20</sup> And the thin, ugly cows ate up the first seven plump cows, <sup>21</sup> but when they had eaten them no one would have known that they had eaten them, for they were still as ugly as at the beginning. Then I awoke. <sup>22</sup> I also saw in my dream seven ears growing on one stalk, full and good. <sup>23</sup> Seven ears, withered, thin, and blighted by the east wind, sprouted after them, <sup>24</sup> and the thin ears swallowed up the seven good ears. And I told it to the magicians, but there was no one who could explain it to me."

<sup>25</sup> Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, "The dreams of Pharaoh are one; God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do. <sup>26</sup> The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good ears are seven years; the dreams are one. <sup>27</sup> The seven lean and ugly cows that came up after them are seven years, and the seven empty ears blighted by the east wind are also seven years of famine. <sup>28</sup> It is as I told Pharaoh; God has shown to Pharaoh what he is about to do. <sup>29</sup> There will come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt, <sup>30</sup> but after them there will arise seven years of famine, and all the plenty will be forgotten in the land of Egypt. The famine will consume the land, <sup>31</sup> and the plenty will be unknown in the land by reason of the famine that will follow, for it will be very severe. <sup>32</sup> And the doubling of Pharaoh's dream means that the thing is fixed by God, and God will shortly bring it about. <sup>33</sup> Now therefore let Pharaoh select a discerning and wise man, and set him over the land of Egypt. <sup>34</sup> Let Pharaoh proceed to appoint overseers over the land and take one-fifth of the produce of the land of Egypt during the seven plentiful years. <sup>35</sup> And let them gather all the food of these good years that are coming and store up grain under the authority of Pharaoh for food in the cities, and let them keep it. <sup>36</sup> That food shall be a reserve for the land against the seven years of famine that are to occur in the land of Egypt, so that the land may not perish through the famine."

<sup>37</sup> This proposal pleased Pharaoh and all his servants. <sup>38</sup> And Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find a man like this, in whom is the Spirit of God?" <sup>39</sup> Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has shown you all this, there is none so discerning and wise as you are.<sup>40</sup> You shall be over my house, and all my people shall order themselves as you command. Only as regards the throne will I be greater than you."

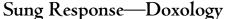
Leader: The grass withers, the flower fades;

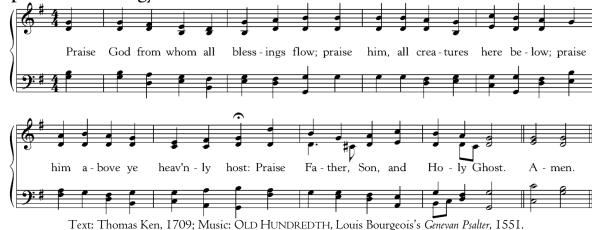
All: But the Word of our God will stand forever.

## Sermon—New Beginnings: A Study of Genesis, Part 51

The Redeeming Nightmare

—Ben Griffith, Pastor





#### 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. 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—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 Heidelberg Catechism

Q. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

A. That I am not my own, I but belong—

body and soul, in life and in death<sup>2</sup>—

to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.<sup>3</sup>

He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood,<sup>4</sup>

and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.<sup>5</sup>

He also watches over me in such a way<sup>6</sup>

that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven;<sup>7</sup>

in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.<sup>8</sup> Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life<sup>9</sup>

and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him. 10

I I Cor. 6:19-20

2 Rom. 14:7-9

3 I Cor. 3:23; Titus 2:14

4 I Pet. I:18-19; I John I:7-9; 2:2

5 John 8:34-36; Heb. 2:14-15; I John 3:I-II

6 Jn 6:39-40; 10:27-30; 2 Thess. 3:3; I Pet. I:5

7 Matt. 10:29-31; Luke 21:16-18

8 Rom. 8:28

9 Rom 8:15-16; 2 Cor 1:21-22; 5:5; Eph 1:13-14

I0 Rom. 8:I-I7

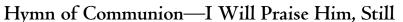
#### Words of Institution and the Lord's Table

## 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.





CCLI #11121087 © 1998 MargeeDays Music; Text and Music: Fernando Ortega, 1998.

#### Communion Hymn—If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee



If thou but suf - fer God to guide thee What can these an - xious cares a - vail thee Be pa - tient and a - wait His lei - sure All are a - like be - fore the High - est: Sing, pray, and keep His ways un-swerv-ing,

thy And hope in Him through all These nev - er ceas - ing moans and sighs? cheer-ful hope, In heart con - tent with 'Tis eas - y for our God, We Per - form thy du ties faith - ful - ly,



be - tide thee, And bear thee through the He'll give thee strength, what - e'er days. thou be - wail thee O'er each dark mo - ment as What can it help if flies? To take what-ever Fa - ther's plea-sure And His dis - cern - ing love hath thy sent, То raise thee up, though low thou li - est, To make the rich man poor and low. And trust His Word: though un - de - serv-ing, Thou yet shalt find it true thee.



Who trust in God's un - chang-ing love Builds on the rock that naught can move. tri - als do but press The heav - ier for Our cross and our bit - ter - ness. Nor doubt our in most wants are known To Him who chose us for His own. Who True won - ders still by Him are wrought set - teth up and brings to for - sook The soul that trust - ed nev - er yet in need Him in - deed.

Georg Neumark, 1641, trans Catherine Winkworth, 1855; Music: NEUMARK, Georg Neumark, 1657, Mod. 2011.

#### 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.



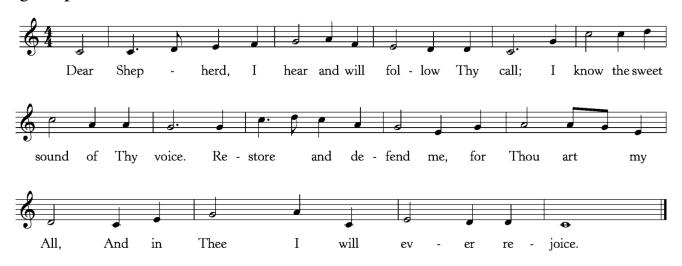
#### GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT TO BE LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

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—Ephesians 3:20-21

<sup>20</sup> Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

## Sung Response—O Thou In Whose Presence, Vs II



Text: Joseph Swain, 1791; Music: DAVIS, 1813.

Prayer Focus—David Carrera is a church planter and senior pastor of Beth Sar Shalom Reformed Church (BSSRC) in Shelbyville, TN that serves the hispanic community in the area. BSSRC recently moved into a new location which is allowing additional ministries to be added to its ministry to include the production of a local Spanish radio program using the teaching material of Dr. R. C. Sproul.

- Pray for David's marriage and children; for their spiritual health and strength.
- Pray for BSSRC, for growth in faith, love and knowledge of the Lord and be a strong witness of His grace.
- Pray for the local ministry; for great opportunities to serve and discernment to be involved with the ones that honor the Lord.
- Pray for David's international ministry; He is involved in teaching pastors the doctrines of grace in countries where that teaching is not available.
- Pray for David's continued involvement in producing Reformed Christian teaching in Spanish.

Today's message, "The Redeeming Nightmare," is taken from Genesis 41:1-40. Please take time to discuss the questions below with your family, friends, or Home Fellowship Group (HFG).

- "After two whole years..." How do you think about God's timing in Joseph's story? How does this change the way you think about God's timing in your own story?
- One writer says that for Joseph, "the vale of tears proved to be the valley of soul-making." How has Joseph's suffering and waiting prepared him, in specific ways, to serve in the capacity God will call him to? How does this help you to endure in your own suffering?
- How was Joseph's humility before Pharaoh incredibly risky? What does this teach us about the nature of true humility?
- God's "toolbox" for accomplishing his purposes is enormous we see here that he even uses the climate and crop failure to bring about his will for his people. How does this encourage you? What are some of the surprising "tools" in his toolbox that he is using in your life right now, to bring you to himself?
- The subtitle of Sally Lloyd Jones's *The Jesus Story Book Bible* is: "every story whispers his name." How does this episode in Joseph's life point you to Jesus and show you your need of him right now?

# CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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\*On Sabbatical

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All Scripture quotations from the English Standard Version

