

CORNERSTONE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Service of Celebration and Gospel Renewal

The Sundays of Pentecost—Ordinary Time

18 September 2022

Pastoral Notes

Dear Cornerstone Family,

Months ago, when I was breaking down the various sections of Exodus for preaching, I wrestled long with how to tackle the part of the book we're looking at today: the Ten Commandments. Do I go slowly through the commands and do a sermon on each one? Do I do one sermon on the whole section? For a variety of reasons, I landed on two sermons for Exodus 20, believing I could get to some of the text's richness while not wading in too deep to all the ins and outs.

About a minute after I decided on this path, I wondered if it was the right decision. And the more I thought about it, the more I felt compelled to not miss this opportunity to do a command-by-command walk through this very important, foundational section of Scripture. But, instead of Sunday morning, I opted for Wednesday nights. So, on Wednesday nights this fall, we're taking a slow pass through the Ten Commandments, trying to sit in and soak up as much of the richness of this section as we can.

On Wednesday night this past week, I asked the question, "Why take ten weeks on Wednesday night to teach through the Ten Commandments?" Three things came to mind:

First, the Ten Commandments are neglected in our time. Mark Twain once said, "A classic is a book that everyone praises, and no one reads." I'm afraid the same could be said for the Ten Commandments. Yes, people generally know them — don't murder, steal, etc. — but increasingly people do not have a sense of their meaningfulness or significance, and that's really needed. In fact, that's my next point.

Second, a thorough treatment of the Ten Commandments is needed in our time. Did you know that next to the Gospels, the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments have been considered by the church historically to be the most important sections of Scripture for the training of disciples of Jesus Christ? For instance, nearly half of the questions in the Westminster Shorter Catechism are devoted to the Ten Commandments. The reason is that our forefathers understood the Christian life as a following Christ life, and since Christ's life was marked by law-keeping (see Matthew 5:17), our life must, too, or so the reasoning goes.

Thirdly, the Ten Commandments are often misunderstood in our time. At Cornerstone, we never want to wrongly present or emphasize the law in a way that undermines or subverts the primacy of grace. At the same time, we wouldn't want to wrongly present or emphasize grace in such a way where God's law or obedience was treated as if it was irrelevant or optional. What's the relationship between law and grace? Can law and grace be harmonized in some way? Well, you should be able to tell by the title of my Wednesday night series, "God's Gracious Law: The Ten Commandments" that I'm convinced that the Bible provides a beautiful harmony of grace and law. But in saying that, there's still a lot of questions to answer.

So, we're going to pursue those questions, and dig around in some of the complexities. Why? Because it's important. It's worth our time. And hope you'll join us as we explore together the grace of God's law and the law of God's grace in the Ten Commandments this fall.

Your servant,

2

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—Rejoice Ye Pure in Heart vs. 1, 5



Text: E.H. Plumptre, 1865; Music: MARION, Arthur H. Messiter, 1883.

Call to Worship—from Psalm 19:1, 7, 10, 14

Pastor: The heavens declare the glory of God,

All: and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

Pastor: The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;

All: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;

Pastor: More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;

All: sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

Pastor: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart

be acceptable in your sight,

All: O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

Hymn of Praise—Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder



New Testament Reading—Mark 12:28-34

²⁸ And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" ²⁹ Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰ And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' ³¹ The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." ³² And the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that he is one, and there is no other besides him. ³³ And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." ³⁴ And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And after that no one dared to ask him any more questions.

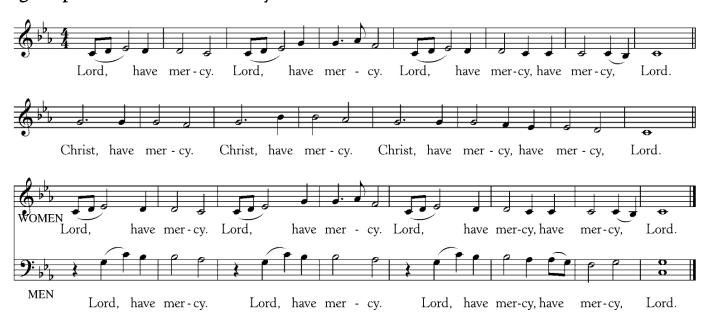
Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

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—Lord, Have Mercy



Text: Luke 18:13; Music: Franklin Kyrie, Gregory D Wilbur, 2009. ©2009 Greyfriars Press.

Congregational Prayer of Confession—The Ten Commandments

Leader: O Lord, Your law is holy. Christ came not to abolish the Law or the Prophets but to fulfill them. (Matt 5:17)

All: Let your mercy come to me, that I may live; for your law is my delight (Ps 119:77)

Leader: For You are the Lord our God,

who brought us out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

And You spoke these words, saying:

All: You shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself a carved image.

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

Leader: O Lord, Your law is holy.

All: Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Honor your father and your mother: that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

Leader: O Lord, Your law is holy. Christ is our only righteousness.

All: You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

Leader: O Lord, Your law is holy. Christ is our only righteousness.

All: You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness.

You shall not covet. (Ex 20:I-I7)

Leader: Cause us to believe and enter into the rest of Christ through His finished work from the foundation of the world (Heb 4:3)

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon—based on Ephesians 2:8-10

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Hymn of Praise—Come, Thou Fount



Text: Robert Robinson, 1758; Music: NETTLETON, Asahel Nettleton, 1825.

The Reading of the Word—Exodus 20:1-21

And God spoke all these words, saying,

- ² "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.
- ³ "You shall have no other gods before me.
- ⁴ "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷"You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

⁸ "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

¹² "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

13 "You shall not murder.

14 "You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵ "You shall not steal.

¹⁶ "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷ "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."

¹⁸ Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off ¹⁹ and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die." ²⁰ Moses said to the people, "Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin." ²¹ The people stood far off, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.

Leader: The grass withers, the flower fades;

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

Sermon—Delivered: A Study in Exodus, part 25

The Grace of the Law

—Nate Shurden Pastor

Sung Response—Song of Moses (Revelation 15:3-4)



Song of Moses (Revelation 15:3-4) Text: Nathan Johnson, 2022; Music: Gregory Wilbur, 2022.

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.

* "Catholic" refers to the universal church of God's people throughout all time and from all places

Sung Response—Glory Be to God the Father



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

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 to partake of the bread, and then to the second tables to drink the cup of wine/juice.





Prayers for Those Not Taking the Lord's Supper

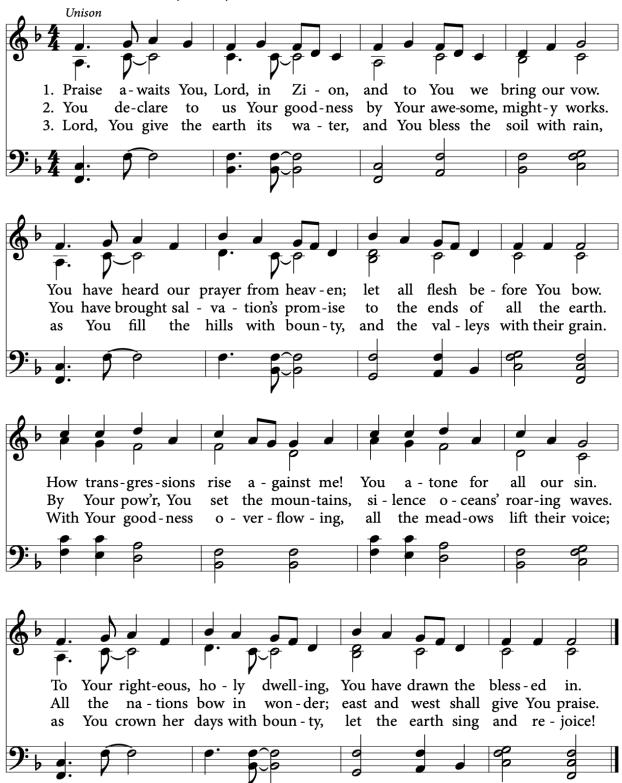
If you are not able to partake in the Lord's Supper today, please use this time to meditate on one of the following prayers.

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

Psalm 65: Praise Awaits You, Lord, in Zion



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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.

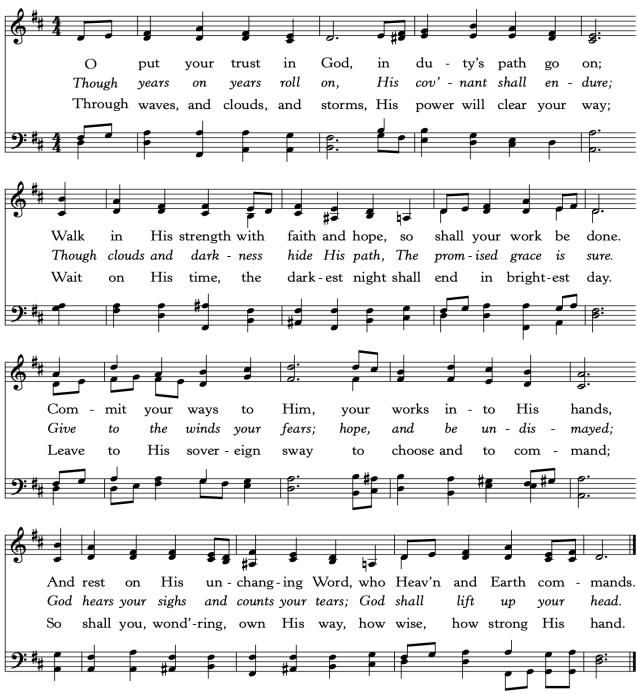
Give us this day our daily bread.

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 Put Your Trust In God



Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1656; Music: TERRA BEATA, Franklin L. Sheppard, 1915.

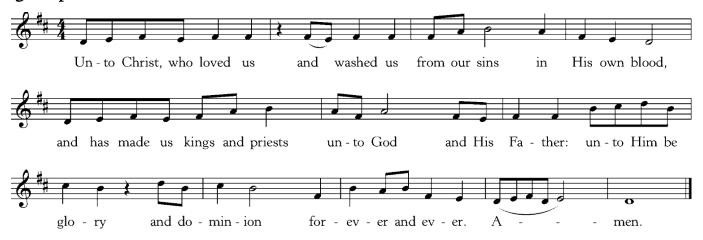
GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT TO BE LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

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—from Romans 15:5-6

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Sung Response—Unto Christ Who Loved Us



CCLI #11121087 ©1936 Oxford University Press. Text: Revelation1:5-6 Music: UNTO HIM WHO LOVED US, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1936.

Missions Prayer Focus—Brent and Valerie McAlpin and family are newly supported missionaries by Cornerstone. They will serve with Mission to the World (MTW) in Leeds, England, in partnership with the International Presbyterian Church. They arrived in Leeds on Monday. Their desire is to see lives transformed by the gospel and new bodies of believers gather to worship God, to the praise of His glorious grace! Prayer Focus:

- Schools—we have submitted applications to local schools; please pray that we would get our 'first choices'
 for schools (kids are not guaranteed a spot just for living in the school district)
- Odds and ends—all the details associated with moving to a new place: furnishing the house, buying a car, getting our residency cards, learning where to shop, finding friends, etc.
- Church—Christ Church Central Leeds has just held its first ever members meeting. Pray for the church as it starts fall ministry season. We are excited to be able to host a community group and take on various other responsibilities.

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

Cornerstone Ministry Expansion Team

The Cornerstone Ministry Expansion Team would love to hear your thoughts and be encouraged by your prayers as we continue to seek the Lord's will in the expansion of Cornerstone's ministries. Feel free to drop us a line there: expansion@cstonepres.org

The Cornerstone School of Discipleship

Core Class—The Christian Hope in a Secular Age: Engaging Unbelief with the Hope of the Gospel (302) In this course we will explore the topic of "apologetics." Come and join us as we learn together how to thoughtfully and charitably engage some of the big questions of our day with the hope of the gospel.

Elective Class—A Match Made in Heaven: Pursuing a Lifetime of Love (The Chapel) Pastor Nate will present the Bible's vision for marital oneness while addressing key reasons couples fail to experience the oneness God intends. Only imperfect couples allowed!

Thanksgiving and Advent Choir

The choir is rehearsing Wednesday evenings after Vespers in preparation for a Community Thanksgiving Service with surrounding PCA churches as well as our typical Lessons & Carols service in December. It's not too late to join! Choir is a wonderful opportunity to meet others in the church while we prepare music to lead God's people in worship. Contact: Greg Wilbur at greg@cstonepres.org

Men's Studies Starting This Week

Brothers, join us this fall as we course our way through Walking in Union with Christ. In this nine-week series, you will discover how the gospel transforms the way you understand the mind, body, words, family, friendship, vocation, goods, and time. There are several day, time, and location options. Please register for a particular group and find all the details on the church website or app.

Mozart and Friends Concert – TODAY!

On Sunday September 18 at 2:00 p.m., flutist Madeline Cawley and the Harvest Arts Chamber Ensemble will present a beautiful afternoon of classical music in The Chapel. You are invited to join them for this two-year anniversary celebration of sharing concerts with the community! "Mozart and Friends" is a ticketed event. Tickets can be secured online via Eventbrite.

Seeing the Gospel in Stories

Monday, October 3, 7:00 p.m.

Using the Grimm's Fairy Tales "Cinderella" and two others, we will talk about how to read for symbols in a story, how that helps us to understand Scripture, and how these stories intentionally tell the story of the Gospel and redemption. There are free copies available on The Bookshelf, or look for the downloadable pdf in Life at Cornerstone, on the website, and app.

Midweek at Cornerstone

Midweek at Cornerstone had a great first week! Please join us this week as we gather for a catered dinner followed by Kids Club, Youth Group, Vespers, and Choir. Dinner registration for this week is open online and will close Monday at noon.

Servant Group International & Cornerstone Women

Come to Cornerstone September 22 at 6 p.m. to help assemble sewing kits for the "Sew for Hope" classes at SGI while enjoying some fellowship with your sisters. No sewing knowledge is required! This is a perfect opportunity for youth aged ladies to serve as well. Please let us know you're planning to attend by signing up online through the website or app.

We also have the opportunity to participate in "Walk and Talk" on October 8 and 15. Nashville is home to many refugee women who would love the chance to exercise, practice their English, and make a new friend. Help make a difference in the lives of our newest neighbors! Registration is required. www.servantgroup.org/walk

Cornerstone Youth

The Youth Group has two opportunities, September 24 and November 12, to volunteer for a few hours at Graceworks Ministries. All 7th-12th graders are encouraged to sign up for one or both Saturdays through the link on the website or app.

Fall Devotional

This new devotional will guide us all the way to Advent and is available at both chapel entrances. It includes scripture passages to read for Sunday through Friday and suggestions for morning and evening prayer. It is also available as a downloadable PDF on the church website and app. Today's message, "The Grace of Law" is taken from Exodus 20:I-2I. Please take time to discuss the questions below with your family, friends, or Home Fellowship Group (HFG)

- The Ten Commandments are made up of two tables. What are the two tables?
- How is the greatest commandment (Matthew 12:29-31) a summary of the Ten Commandments?
- What does the phrase, "Law follows grace" mean? If grace followed law, why would that be troubling?
- In today's message, Pastor Nate indicated that the Ten Commandments are God's prescription for life, liberty, and joy. How does that work? What would it take to increasingly experience the commands in this way?
- Did you learn something new today? What reminder did you need to hear from today's message? What questions do you still have about the law?

CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Presbyterian Church in America

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All Scripture quotations from the English Standard Version