

# CORNERSTONE

## Presbyterian Church



SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND GOSPEL RENEWAL

The Sundays of Pentecost: Ordinary Time
12 November 2023

## Pastoral Notes

I asked Greg Wilbur to tell us a bit about the new piano that we've been enjoying in worship these past few months. In addition, he's going to give us a preview of some of the upcoming music and services we will enjoy during the Advent season at Cornerstone.

#### Dear Cornerstone Family:

We are blessed with a number of gifted musicians in our midst, and it is a joy to lead the players week by week and in special services. As part of our weekly music, our old upright piano served us well for more than a decade. While fun to play, the design of that piano with its bright and narrow tone was better suited for a private practice room than for leading in worship.

Late in 2022, a Cornerstone member donated money with the express purpose of providing for a piano fund for a different and better instrument. The Finance Committee added to that amount, and I began the search for a piano to coincide with the renovations in the Chapel.

Many of you may know Brandon Herrenbruck, an elder at our sister church, Parish Presbyterian, and owner of Steinway Pianos in Nashville. Steinway pianos are some of the finest in the world—each handcrafted in New York—and they are the standard for performers and concert stages all over the globe.

Brandon selected several non-Steinway pianos for me to try—less expensive pianos made overseas, but still much better than the one we had. Before I left the store, he remembered that he also had a few used pianos in stock. And there was the I934 Walnut Steinway M-class grand in immaculate condition and refurbished with Steinway parts. It is a beautiful antique that almost looks new and has a rich tone and feel. I studied music for six years in college and earned two degrees, yet I can only recall being able to play a Steinway piano twice. What a joyful thing to be able to utilize such a fine instrument week by week for the purpose of leading in worship. The Steinway store was very generous in making this a reality and I am most grateful.

I hope you have noticed and enjoyed the difference in the instruments and what that adds to our congregational singing. I continue to be encouraged every week by the enthusiastic and joyful singing of the congregation and am humbled and truly blessed to serve at Cornerstone.

With that in mind, I wanted to tell you about some of the fun and different ways that we will celebrate during the Advent season. On Thursday, December 7 at 7:00 p.m., the Cornerstone choir along with the New College Chorale will present a **Christmas Concert** of music from various ages. Music from England, Italy, Norway, Russia, and Ireland including pieces by Handel, Vivaldi, Ola Gjeilo, Palestrina, Amy Grant, and James Taylor. This will be a concert of beautiful and fun music for the season.

Since December 24<sup>th</sup> falls on a Sunday this year, we decided to incorporate our annual **Lessons & Carols** service within our Sunday morning services. In addition to the preaching of the Word and the sacrament, we will read various Scriptures from the Gospel story—from Genesis, to Isaiah, to Matthew, to Luke—as well as sing together many familiar carols as a congregation. I look forward to sharing that morning with my church family as we worship and anticipate the coming of Christ in the Incarnation.

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—Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise, Vs I & 2



Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867; Music: ST. DENIO, Traditional Welsh Melody.

## Call to Worship—Psalm 56:10-13

Pastor: In God, whose word I praise, in the LORD, whose word I praise,

All: in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can man do to me?

Pastor: I must perform my vows to you, O God;

All: I will render thank offerings to you.

Pastor: For you have delivered my soul from death, yes, my feet from falling,

All: that I may walk before God in the light of life.

## Hymn of Praise—Come, Thou Almighty King



Text: Anonymous, 1757; Music: TRINITY, Felice de Giardini, 1769.

+++New Arrivals, please wait in the Narthex to be seated. Following the Confession of Sin, Ushers will assist you.+++

## New Testament Reading—2 Corinthians 8:I-II

We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, <sup>2</sup> for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. <sup>3</sup> For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, <sup>4</sup> begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— <sup>5</sup> and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. <sup>6</sup> Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. <sup>7</sup> But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also.

<sup>8</sup>I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. <sup>9</sup>For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. <sup>10</sup> And in this matter I give my judgment: this benefits you, who a year ago started not only to do this work but also to desire to do it. <sup>11</sup> So now finish doing it as well, so that your readiness in desiring it may be matched by your completing it out of what you have.

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—Holy Father, Hear My Cry, vs I & 2



Text: Horatius Bonar, 1843; Music: Gregory Wilbur, 2010. Used by permission.

## Congregational Confession of Sin—Malachi 3:6-7

Leader: "For I the LORD do not change;

All: therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.

Leader: From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes

All: and have not kept them.

Leader: Return to me, and I will return to you," says the LORD of hosts.

And so we pray together:

Holy Father, May we seek You while You may be found and call upon You while You are near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let us return to the LORD, that You may have compassion on us, and to You, our God, for You will abundantly pardon. Lord God, we have sinned against you; we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry and repent. Have mercy on us according to your love. Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin. Renew a right spirit within us and restore us to the joy of your salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(cf. Isaiah 55:6-7, Psalm 51)

## Silent Prayers of Confession

## Assurance of Pardon—from Ephesians 5:26-27

For Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify us, having cleansed us by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that we, as the Church, might be holy and without blemish.

+++New Arrivals are Welcome to be Seated+++

## Psalm of Praise—Amid the Thronging Worshippers (Psalm 22)



Text: The Psalter, 1912; Music: KINGSFOLD, Old English Folk Song.

## The Reading of the Word—Malachi 3:6-12

<sup>6</sup> "For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. <sup>7</sup> From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. But you say, 'How shall we return?' <sup>8</sup> Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, 'How have we robbed you?' In your tithes and contributions. <sup>9</sup> You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. <sup>10</sup> Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. <sup>11</sup> I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>12</sup> Then all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of delight, says the LORD of hosts.

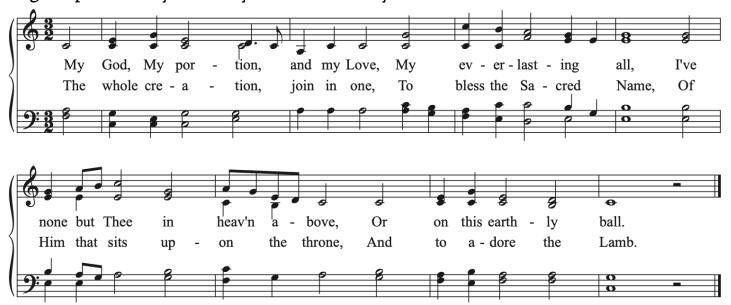
Leader: The grass withers, the flower fades;

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

## Sermon—Malachi: God's Unchanging Love, part 6

Generous God, Ungenerous People —Drew Abercrombie, Director of Youth and Families

## Sung Response—My God, My Portion, and My Love vs I & 5



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748; Music: DUNLAP'S CREEK, from Southern Harmony.

## 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



CCLI #11121087 Text: Is 6:3, Rev 4:8, Mt 21:9; Music: Franklin Sanctus, Gregory D Wilbur, 2009.

#### 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 to the second for wine/juice.

## Psalm of the Month—Psalm 105:I-I0: O Thank the Lord



Text: Book of Psalms for Singing, 1973; based on Psalm 105:I–II © 2009 Crown & Covenant Publications; Music: Johnson's *Tennessee Harmony*, 1818; adapted & harmonized by Greg Wilbur 2012, 4-Part by Thomas Grassi

### Communion Hymn—Jesus Paid It All



Text: Elvina M. Hall, 1865; Music: ALL TO CHRIST, John T. Grape, 1865. Alt. Maxwill Shell & Gregory Wilbur 2023

#### 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



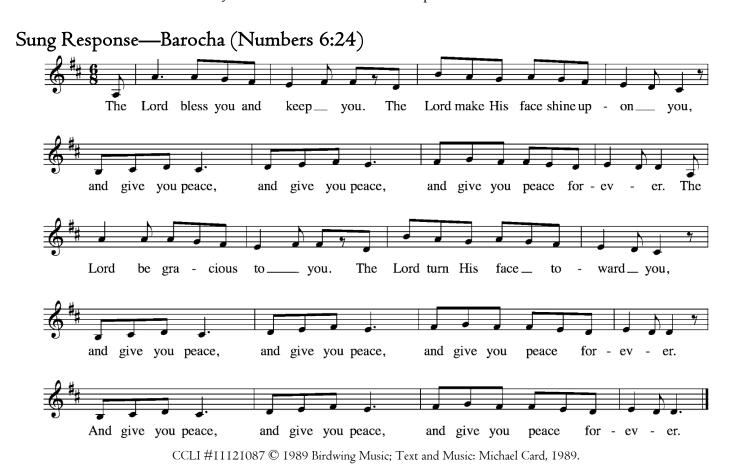
Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1874; Music: HENDON, Henri A. C. Malan, 1827; Harm. Lowell Mason, 1841.

### 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—based on Ephesians 6:23-24

May peace be with you, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible.



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

#### Arts Discussion: Babette's Feast by Isak Dinesen

As we prepare for holiday food and feasts, this short work (about 25 pages) reminds us of the role of food in Scripture and the redemptive power of sharing a table, and ourselves, with others. Come discuss with us tomorrow, November 13, at 7:00 p.m. Contact: greg@cstonepres.org

#### Nursery Ministry

You have the opportunity to serve the tiniest covenant members of your Cornerstone family each Sunday by caring for them in the nursery. Don't miss this blessing! Let Christy Shurden know if you would like to volunteer. Contact: nursery@cstonepres.org (You must have been a member of Cornerstone for a minimum of six months to serve in the nursery, children's, or youth ministries.)

#### New Home Fellowship Groups

Here at Cornerstone, we want every member to be actively engaged with other believers in fellowship, communion, and prayer. Part of the way this happens is through Home Fellowship Groups. Contact Tony (tony@cstonepres.org) for more information on HFGs forming in Franklin and Spring Hill.

#### Life at the Corner Podcast

Did you catch the first episode this week? What did you think? We would love to hear from you! Please send feedback or questions to lifeatthecorner@cstonepres.org.

#### Christmas Concert

Mark your calendars! Cornerstone will celebrate this upcoming season with a Christmas Concert on Thursday evening, December 7. The choir will perform a number of wonderful historical and contemporary pieces to help us prepare our hearts and rejoice in the coming of the Lord.

#### Young Adults Thanksgiving Potluck

Join the Young Adults for a Thanksgiving potluck on Friday, November 17, at 6:00 p.m. at the Allen's house (2940 McLemore Cir). Sign up online to bring a side dish or dessert and let us know you're coming. Contact: youngadults@cstonepres.org

#### Children's Sunday School Assistant Needed!

The children's ministry has a pressing need for an assistant in our  $3^{rd}/4^{th}$  grade Sunday School class. Consider if you can serve the kids of our congregation in this season. Please reach out if you can help. elementary@cstonepres.org

#### A Sacrifice of Praise

Thanksgiving is on the horizon. Is your heart ready for the season? Join us at Midweek this Wednesday evening, November 15, at 6:15 p.m. as together we enter into the presence of the Lord for an informal time of offering thanksgiving, praise, and prayer to the Lord. Come and be encouraged by the stories of God's work in our midst.

#### Cornerstone Anniversary Service

We will celebrate the 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Cornerstone on Sunday, November 26. On that Sunday, we will take time in worship to remember God's faithfulness to us and enjoy

a church-wide fellowship on the grounds between services in lieu of Sunday School. We need your help to provide food! Please scan this QR code to view the sign-up sheet.



#### Youth Service Day

This Saturday, November 18, Cornerstone Youth students are invited to come and serve with GraceWorks Ministries. We will be working with the food pantry to make meal bags for students in need in Williamson County from 8:00-10:00 a.m. Please make sure you are registered through GraceWorks—information on how to register is in the weekly youth email.

#### Women's Christmas Party

Cornerstone Women are invited to kick off the season with our annual Christmas party at the home of Julie Kesler (I106 Gray Fox Lane) at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, November 27. We will be collecting gifts for GraceWorks' Manger again this year—you can read all about this wonderful ministry at graceworkstn.org, as well as see a list of most needed items. Please bring an appetizer and/or dessert to share. Let us know you're planning to come by signing up on the website or in the app!

Today's message, "Are You in the Book of Remembrance?" is taken from Malachi 3:13-18. Please take time to discuss the questions below with your family, friends, or Home Fellowship Group (HFG).

- What about God's character gives us confidence to come to him in repentance? Why?
- What purposes did the tithe and temple contributions serve in Israel? And what did Israel's neglect of these reveal about their hearts?
- In what ways does money have a grip on you? In what areas can you grow in generosity?
- How does God's generous gift of himself in Christ change everything for those who receive him?
- How is God calling you to "test" and trust him as you handle the resources he has given you?

## CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

#### Presbyterian Church in America

Pastor: Nate Shurden (615-618-4707 Office) or nate@cstonepres.org
Assistant Pastor: Tony Giles (615-430-8801) or tony@cstonepres.org
Worship and Chief Musician: Greg Wilbur (615-512-4156) or greg@cstonepres.org
Office Administrator: Robin Spychalski (615-618-4707) or office@cstonepres.org
Church Life Coordinator: Dan Fiedler (615-812-4032) or dan@cstonepres.org
Women's Ministry Director: Martha Brooks (615-591-1683) or women@cstonepres.org
Men's Ministry: men@cstonepres.org

Young Adult Ministry: Taylor Thompson (717-371-0848) or youngadults@cstonepres.org
Director of Youth and Families: Drew Abercrombie (407-489-1724) or drew@cstonepres.org
Children's Director: Meredith Suits (865-250-3579) or elementary@cstonepres.org
Nursery Coordinator: Christy Shurden or nursery@cstonepres.org
Administrative Assistant for Discipleship: Kelley Shell (662-231-9814) or kelley@cstonepres.org
Home Fellowship Information: HFG@cstonepres.org
Prayer Requests: prayer@cstonepres.org

#### Ruling Elders

Randy Allen (615-260-1884) Will Kesler (423-313-7493) Jim Payne (615-497-0613) Chuck Emerson: *Emeritus* (615-943-8443) John Millard (423-443-8852) Jim Smith (615-347-4188) Ron Moffat (629-215-5135)

#### Deacons

 Mark Elliott (615-477-1041)
 Mike Payne (615-579-6453)
 Matt Suits (706-218-2823)

 Matt Faulk (714-801-7596)
 Wes Pittman (615-406-6209)
 Casey Taggart (662-813-3563)

 Dan Fiedler (615-812-4032)
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 \*Todd Russell (615-319-4803)

\*On Sabbatical

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All Scripture quotations from the English Standard Version

