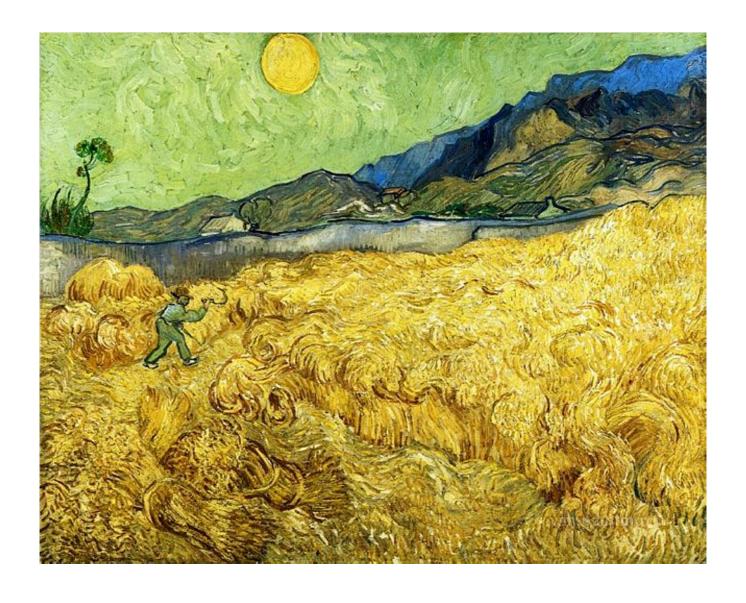


CORNERSTONE Presbyterian Church



Service of Celebration and Gospel Renewal

The Sundays of Pentecost—Thanksgiving Sunday

24 November 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—Simple Canon of Thanks with Children's Choir

Let all the world rejoice! Forever lift your voice! Give thanks and praise To God with a song! Forever lift your voice! Together sing, rejoice!

Sing to God in peace and love, Our blessings come from God above; Grateful songs together raise! Joyfully sing, joyfully sing Forever in praise!

Let all the world rejoice! Forever lift your voice! Give thanks and praise To God with a song! Together sing, rejoice!

Now thank we all our God! With heart and hands And voices in song, Together sing in praise! Rejoice!

from The School Round Book, 1852 and Nun Danket Alle Gott by Johann Cruger (1598-1662) arr. Patrick M. Liebergen

Announcements & Preparation

Choral Introit—Let All Things Now Living

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to God the Creator triumphantly raise, who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us, who guides us and leads to the end of our days. His banners are o'er us, his light goes before us, a pillar of fire shining forth in the night, till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished, as forward we travel from light into light.

Call to Worship—from Psalm 111:1-5, 7-9

Pastor: Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

All: Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them.

Pastor: Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.

He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;

All: the Lord is gracious and merciful.

Pastor: He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever.

All: The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy;

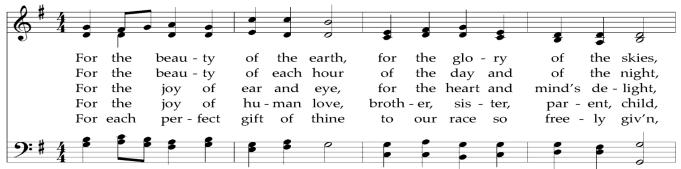
Pastor: they are established forever and ever,

to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

All: He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever.

Pastor: Holy and awesome is his name!

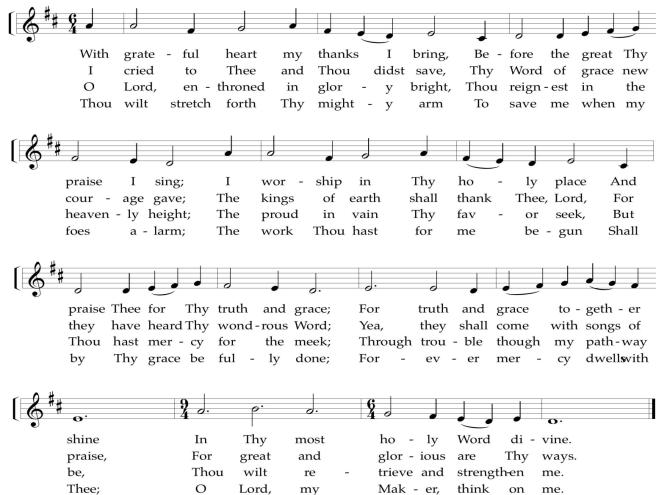
Hymn of Praise—For the Beauty of the Earth





Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1864; Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1838, Arr by William H. Monk, 1861.





Text: Psalm 138, The Psalter, 1912; Music: SUSSEX CAROL, Traditional English Tune.

Old Testament Reading—Isaiah 12

You will say in that day:

"I will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me.

² "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD God is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation."

³ With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴ And you will say in that day:

"Give thanks to the LORD, call upon his name,

make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted.

⁵ "Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth.

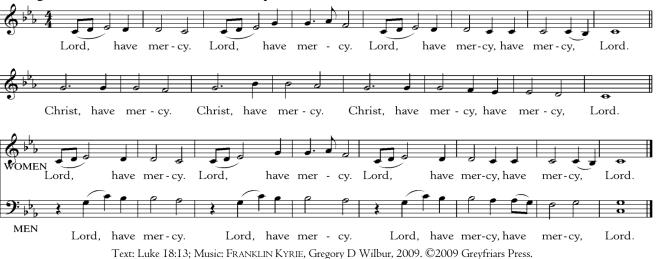
⁶ Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

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



Corporate Confession of Sin—based on Colossians 3:12-17

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. As your chosen ones,

we have not always put on compassionate hearts, kindness or humility.

All: You have called us holy and beloved,

but yet we fail to be meek and patient, nor do we bear with one another.

Pastor: As You have forgiven us, so we also must forgive.

All: We neglect to put on love

which should bind everything together in perfect harmony.

Pastor: Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts—for this we have been called as one body.

All: Help us shift the gaze from our own lives, and be thankful.

Pastor: May Your Word dwell in us richly that we may teach and admonish one another in all wisdom as we sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs.

All: Let these melodies fill us with thankfulness in our hearts to You.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon—from Colossians 1:16-17, 19-20

By Christ, all things were created in heaven and on earth—all things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross.

Hymn of Praise—We Gather Together



Testimony of Thanksgiving

GOD TEACHES US THROUGH HIS WORD

The Reading of the Word—Genesis 50:15-26

¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶ So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you." And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰ As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹ So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

²² So Joseph remained in Egypt, he and his father's house. Joseph lived IIO years. ²³ And Joseph saw Ephraim's children of the third generation. The children also of Machir the son of Manasseh were counted as Joseph's own. ²⁴ And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die, but God will visit you and bring you up out of this land to the land that he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob." ²⁵ Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here." ²⁶ So Joseph died, being IIO years old. They embalmed him, and he was

put in a coffin in Egypt.

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 60

God Meant It for Good

—Nate Shurden, Pastor

Sung Response—Teach Me, O Lord, Thy Way of Truth, Vs I



Text: Joseph P. Holbrook, ca. 1878; Music: TALLIS' CANON, Thomas Tallis, ca, 1567.

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—Let Glory Be to God on High



CCLI #11121087 Text: From the Liturgy of St. James & an 8th Century manuscript (Gloria in excelsis Deo); Music: Greyfriars Press, 2018.

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 death²—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.³

He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood,⁴ and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.⁵

He also watches over me in such a way⁶

that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven;⁷ in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.⁸

Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life⁹ and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.¹⁰

I I Cor. 6:19-20 2 Rom. I4:7-9 3 I Cor. 3:23; Titus 2:I4 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 2I:16-18

8 Rom. 8:28 9 Rom 8:15-16; 2 Cor I:2I-22; 5:5; Eph I:I3-I4 10 Rom. 8:1-17

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.





Text: Martin Rinkart, 1636, Tr by Catherin Winkworth, 1858; Music: Nun Danket, Johann Crüger, 1647.



Text: Unknown author, 6th or 7th Century (Angularis fundamentum lapis); translated from Latin to English by John Chandler, 1837.

Music: Gregory D Wilbur, 2011 ©2011 Greyfriars Press, Used by Permission

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: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1901; Music: TERRA BEATA, Franklin Sheppard, 1915.

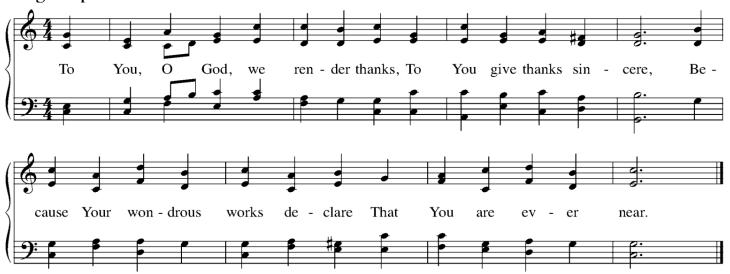
GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT TO BE LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

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—I Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Amen.

Sung Response—To You, O God, We Render Thanks, Vs 4



Text: Psalm 75; Music: ST, ANNE, William Croft, 1678-1727.

Today's message, "God Meant it for Good" is taken from Genesis 50:15-26. Please take time to discuss the questions below with your family, friends, or Home Fellowship Group (HFG)

- How does the ending of the Joseph narrative tie up the story lines that opened the Joseph narrative?
- The individual episodes of Joseph's life hardly make sense on their own. By the end of the story, however, God's good plans and purposes are crystal clear. How does this help you live by faith with the loose ends of your life right now?
- Look back at Joseph's back and forth with his brothers in vs 15-21. How do the brothers' response teach us about our hearts when we forget grace? How does Joseph's response give us a portrait of true forgiveness and reconciliation?
- Kent Hughes writes, "God has never had an evil thought toward a child of his, and he never will." Do you believe that? If you were to live more of life with this truth in mind, how would that change your day to day existence?
- How does the truth of Genesis 50:20 in some sense summarize the message of the whole Bible?
- Despite the sin and brokenness that is a part of life, take a moment to share with your family or HFG
 where you see God's intention for good playing out in your life?

CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Presbyterian Church in America

Prayer Requests: prayer@cstonepres.org

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All Scripture quotations from the English Standard Version

