

# CORNERSTONE

# PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND GOSPEL RENEWAL

First Sunday of Advent—Hope
03 December 2023

# Pastoral Notes

Dear Cornerstone Family,

On December 4, 1973 in Birmingham, AL, the Presbyterian Church in America was born. That means that tomorrow is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the PCA. To commemorate the occasion, all PCA churches are being asked to remember the denomination in prayer today. We will do just that while rejoicing in God's goodness—that through many dangers, toils, and snares, God has preserved the witness of the PCA these 50 years. Should the Lord tarry, let's pray the PCA will be preserved in faithfulness for yet another 50 years.

It's appropriate that this day of prayer and recognition of God's faithfulness to the PCA would fall on the first Sunday of Advent. As you may have heard this week on the *Life at the Corner* podcast, Advent has traditionally been a time of spiritual preparation. As we anticipate the celebration of the incarnation at Christmas, we prepare spiritually for the second coming of Jesus Christ. As the old Roman Missal declared, "Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ is coming again!"

As an aid to your spiritual preparations during this season, our Cornerstone Christmas Devotional is available for you to pick up this morning. You will find daily services, readings, historical tidbits, and personal reflections from Cornerstone members. I want to publicly thank Mr. Greg Wilbur and Mr. Max Shell for their efforts in helping design, oversee, and execute the production of the devotional. They did a marvelous job! I believe you will be greatly helped by it. Please grab a copy—or two or three. Pass one along to a friend or a neighbor. Let's put the devotional to good use as together we trim our lamps and stay awake, looking for the coming of the King, the Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 12:37).

In addition to the Cornerstone devotional, there are a host of helpful resources on the Cornerstone bookshelf. Run by the bookshelf and check out Jonathan Gibson's *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* or Leland Ryken's *Journey to Bethlehem*. Both volumes are instant classics! Who knows, you might even find the perfect gifts for the readers on your list.

In closing, please don't forget to mark your calendar for all that is going on in December at Cornerstone. From our Christmas concert on December 7th to our Children's Choir performance on December 17th to our Lessons and Carols Sunday services on Christmas Eve, it's a month full of opportunities to worship and fellowship together. It's also, of course, an ideal time to invite unbelieving family, friends, and neighbors to join you. In fact, what could be sweeter than celebrating Christ's coming and witnessing Christ come into the heart of another. Should that happen, it would be a merry Christmas indeed.

Your servant.

State

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.

# Choral Prelude—My Dancing Day

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day: I would my true love did so chance To see the legend of my play, To call my true love to my dance:

Sing O my love, O my love, my love, my love; This have I done for my true love.

Then I was born of a virgin girl, Of her I took my fleshly substance; Thus was I knit to man's nature, To call my true love to my dance.

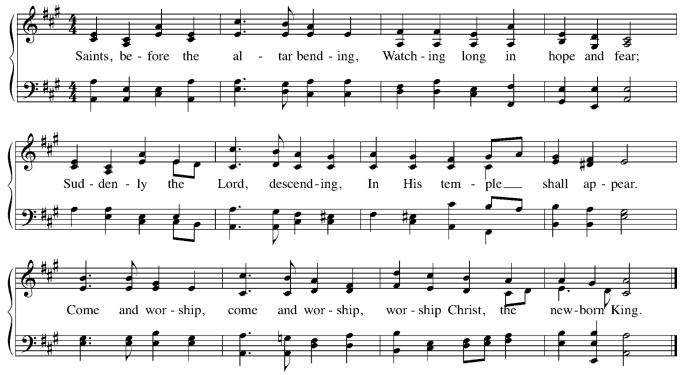
Text: K.A. Hindenlang; Music: Arr. Crawford R. Thoburn, 1990

## 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—Angels from the Realms of Glory, Vs 4



Text: James Montgomery, 1816, 1825; Music REGENT SQUARE, Henry Smart, 1867.

#### Call to Worship—Psalm 33:1, 18-22

Pastor: Shout for joy in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright.

All: Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him,

on those who hope in his steadfast love,

Pastor: He will deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine.

All: Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.

Pastor: For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name.

All: Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

### Hymn of Praise—O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



#### Old and New Testament Readings—Genesis 12:1-3 & Galatians 3:7-9

The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

<sup>2</sup> "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you;

I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

<sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

<sup>7</sup>Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham. <sup>8</sup>Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you." <sup>9</sup>So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

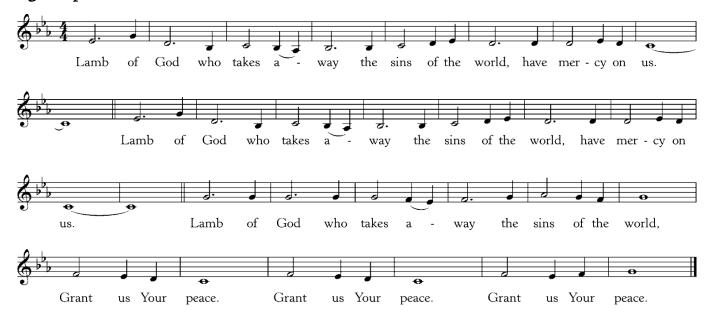
Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

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—Lamb of God



Text: John 1:29; Music: Franklin Agnus Dei, Gregory D Wilbur, 2009. ©2009 Greyfriars Press.

## Congregational Confession of Sin—based on Isaiah 59:1-2, 9-13

Leader: Lord, we come confessing. Behold, Your hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or Your ear dull, that it cannot hear;

But our iniquities have made a separation between us and You, O God, and our sins have hidden Your face from us.

Therefore, justice is far from us, and righteousness does not overtake us;

#### All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: We hope for light, and behold, we get darkness.

We hope for brightness, but we walk in gloom.

We grope for the wall like the blind; we grope like those who have no eyes; we stumble at noon as in the twilight,

among those in full vigor we are like dead men.

We hope for justice, but there is none; for salvation, but it is far from us.

#### All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: For our transgressions are multiplied before You, and our sins testify against us;

For our transgressions are with us, and we know our iniquities:

We have sinned, and denied the Lord, and turned back from following our God.

#### All: Lord, forgive our sins.

#### Silent Prayers of Confession

# Assurance of Pardon—I Timothy I:15-17

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

# Hymn of Expectation—Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus



Text: Charles Wesley, 1745; Music: JEFFERSON, William Walker, 1855. Arr. Gregory Wilbur.

#### GOD TEACHES US THROUGH HIS WORD

## The Reading of the Word—Matthew I:I-6

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

<sup>2</sup>Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, <sup>3</sup> and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, <sup>4</sup> and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, <sup>5</sup> and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, <sup>6</sup> and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah,

Leader: The grass withers, the flower fades;

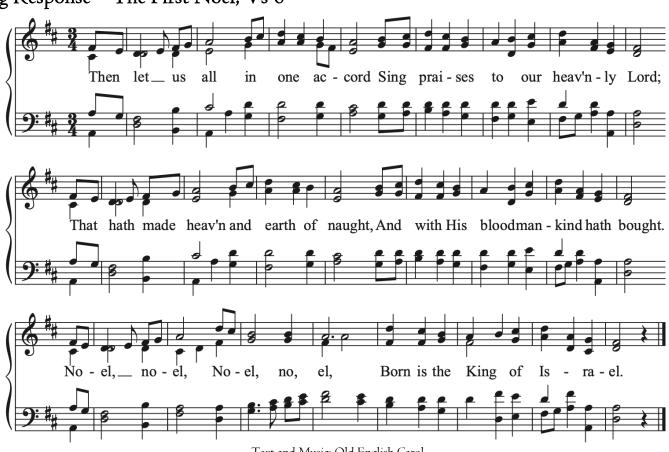
All: But the Word of our God will stand forever.

Sermon—The Name Above All Names, Part I

Jesus Christ, Son of Abraham

—Nate Shurden, Pastor

# Sung Response—The First Noel, Vs 6



Text and Music: Old English Carol

#### Sursum Corda

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

Leader: 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—Gloria



CCLI #11121087 Text: Luke 2:14; Music: Franklin Gloria, Gregory D Wilbur, 2012 ©2012 Greyfriars Press.

#### Profession of Faith—from Philippians 2:5-II

We believe, that though Christ Jesus was in the form of God,

He did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,
but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant,
being born in the likeness of men.

And being found in human form,
He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.

Therefore God has highly exalted Him
and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

#### 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.

# Choral Hymn—Advent Alleluia

Salvation is created. O Lord God, Lord God Almighty, We offer praise to Thee above; O Lord, holy Lord, God.

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, And with fear and trembling stand; Ponder nothing earthly minded, For with blessing in His hand, Christ our God to earth descendeth, Our full homage to demand.

Text and Music: Pavel Tschesnokoff, 1912; Arranged by Keith Christopher, 2008

#### Hymn of Communion—Of the Father's Love Begotten, Vs I-5



Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413; Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, 12th century Plainsong,

#### 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.

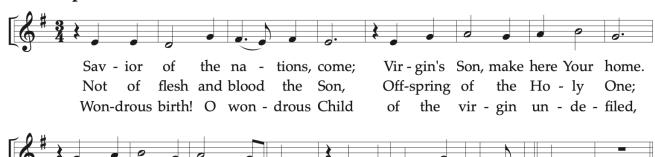
Give us this day our daily bread.

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 Expectation—Savior of the Nations, Come



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth, Born of Mar - y ev - er blest, though by all the world dis-owned, that the Lord chose such a birth.

God in flesh is man - i - fest.

still to be in heav'n en-throned.



From the God - head forth You came, Bright-ly does Your man - ger shine, You, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son,

and re-turn un-to the same, Glo-rious is its light di-vine. Have o'er sin the vic-t'ry won.



Cap - tive lead - ing death and hell. Let not sin o'er-cloud this light; Bound-less shall Your king - dom be. High the song of tri - umph swell! Ev - er be our faith so bright. When shall we its glo - ries see?





Text: Ambrose of Milan, 4th c.; Pa. Martin Luther, I524; Music: based on plainsong melody, arr by Ross Hauck, 2020. Used by permission.

#### 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—Romans 15:12-13

The root of Jesse will come, even He who arises to rule the Gentiles; in Him will the Gentiles hope.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. *Amen.* 

#### Sung Response—To Us a Child of Hope is Born, Vs I



Text: John Morrison, 1781; Music: KINGSFOLD, English Folk Tune.

Missions Prayer Focus—Weston Duke is the RUF campus minister at MTSU. He preaches at the weekly large groups on Wednesday nights, leads small groups, meets with students to disciple them, and equips student leaders to reach and serve the campus around them. He also supervises and mentors two interns, Josh and Meliah Campbell.

#### Please Pray:

- That the many new students who have come into RUF this semester would feel a sense of belonging in our group.
- That all of our students would desire to know Jesus more deeply and follow him more closely.
- That as we finish our study in Acts students would continue looking for ways to participate in God's mission on campus.
- Pray for our interns McKenna Coartney and Garrett McLain, that the Lord would give them more opportunities to minister to students across campus.

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

#### Loving Franklin's Elderly

On the first Sunday of each month, a group from Cornerstone leads a brief worship service at Morning Pointe of Franklin. We'd love to have you offer friendship to the residents and lend your voice to the singing of hymns. Please join us after the service today from I:30-2:15 p.m. Contact: ethan@cstonepres.org.

# Cornerstone Devotional for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany

As an aid to your spiritual preparations during this season, this new devotional is available for you to pick up today at either entrance to the Chapel. Please grab a copy—or two or three—to use and to share with a friend or neighbor. Let's put the devotional to good use as we look for the coming of the King.

#### Youth Christmas Party

The youth are having a Christmas party this Wednesday, December 6 from 6:00-9:00 p.m. We will gather at the Allen's house (2940 McLemore Circle) for food, Christmas games, and a white elephant gift exchange. Come wearing an ugly Christmas sweater and bearing a favorite Christmas treat (one per family) and a \$10-\$15 gift for the exchange. We expect to have a laugh-filled evening together as we enjoy the season and one another.

#### Elder Election Q&A: Get to Know Terry & Preston

Preston Brooks and Terry Chenery have been examined, sustained, and unanimously recommended to you, the congregation, for election as elders on Sunday, December 31. To give you the opportunity to get to know them better, Pastor Nate will host a Q&A with them during the Sunday School hour on December 10. Please be in prayer for Mr. Brooks and Mr. Cheney and join us in the Chapel on December 10 at 9:35 a.m. to prepare to vote your conscience at the end of the month.

#### New Titles on the Bookshelf

Stop by the Bookshelf on the second-floor landing today and check out a host of new books, including hot-off-the-press Advent and Christmas titles. You won't find better prices anywhere!

#### Christmas Concert

Cornerstone will celebrate this season with a concert *this Thursday,* December 7, at 7:00 p.m. The choir will perform a number of wonderful contemporary and historical pieces to help us prepare our hearts and rejoice in the coming of the Lord. Come celebrate with us!

#### Evenings of Encouragement for Moms

This group meets the first Tuesday of every month at the home of Suzann Allen (2940 McLemore Circle). Join us Tuesday, December 5, 6:45-8:30 p.m., as we discuss Sara Wallace's book, For the Love of Discipline.

#### Children's Christmas Program

All children are invited to participate in our Christmas program during the Sunday School hour on December 17. We will have a rehearsal for the program on Wednesday, December 13 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. After the rehearsal, parents are invited to join the children as we carol around the Franklin square and back to the church. Contact Jessica Michaud: jessicammichaud@gmail.com.

#### 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.)

# december sunday school

**December 3:** Family Meeting for adults; no changes for Youth & Kids.

December 10: Elder election Q&A for adults; no changes for Kids; Youth will meet on the Third Floor due to the Dickens Festival.

December 17: Everyone is invited to the Children's Choir performance in the Chapel!

December 24: No Sunday School.

**December 31:** Officer Election during Sunday School hour.

### Taking the Message Home

Today's message, "Jesus Christ, Son of Abraham," is taken from Matthew I:I-6. Please take time to discuss the questions below with your family, friends, or Home Fellowship Group (HFG).

- Generally speaking, what does the purpose of genealogy serve in the Scripture? What is the significance of the fact that the New Testament opens with a genealogy?
- Why is important that Jesus Christ is a son of Abraham?
- What are a few peculiarities about the genealogy of Jesus Christ in Matthew? Why would these peculiarities have likely been troubling to the original audience of Matthew's gospel?
- What personal encouragement did you gain today from reflecting on the lineage of Jesus?
- Reflect on these words from J.C. Ryle: "We should always read this catalogue with thankful feelings. We see here that no one who partakes of human nature can be beyond the reach of Christ's sympathy and compassion. Our sins may have been as black and great as those of any whom St. Matthew names. But they cannot shut us out of heaven, if we repent and believe the gospel."

# 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) Joe Haworth (615-289-7543) 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)
 Brent Roberts (615-394-0662)
 Larry Thompson (901-734-1520)

 Mark Mitchell (630-835-7754)
 Jim Robinson (615-587-0442)
 Bob Vermilye (615-943-8139)

 \*Todd Russell (615-319-4803)

\*On Sabbatical

136 Third Ave S, Franklin, Tennessee 37064 www.cornerstonepresfranklin.org (615) 618-4707

All Scripture quotations from the English Standard Version

