

# CORNERSTONE Presbyterian Church



SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND GOSPEL RENEWAL

Second Sunday of Advent—Peace 10 December 2023

# Pastoral Notes

Dear Cornerstone Family,

During our Cornerstone Family Meeting last Sunday, the Finance Committee gave a report on the fiscal health of the congregation. The report was very encouraging! The Lord continues to provide abundantly for our needs through your weekly offerings, and for that we rejoice.

At the nearly halfway mark in our fiscal year, giving is ahead of projection and expenses are slightly under projection. As the year progresses, we expect expenses to increase as several significant ministry initiatives will catalyze in early 2024. That said, we are encouraged at our current position and are supremely grateful for your sacrificial giving and steady support of the church's ministry.

Beyond ministry expenses, we will continue to incur costs associated with our renovation. These costs are being paid out over time from our surplus. As the project moves along, we continue to see our surplus diminish as expected. We are, however, committed not to let the surplus dip below \$300,000 in order to maintain enough cash on hand for emergency purposes.

Finally, in March 2024 the balloon note on the chapel will come due. We owe roughly \$600,000 on the chapel currently. It would be our earnest hope to pay off the chapel by March, so that we have no need to renegotiate the balloon note at a significantly higher interest rate. <u>If each Cornerstone member committed to increase their giving by 25% to even 50% for the next three months—from December through February—we would be poised to pay off the chapel by March of 2024.</u> But as I say that, it might be that the Lord has blessed you with the financial wherewithal to alleviate a large portion of this debt today with just one check. I do not know what the Lord will do, but I am convinced of this—with the Lord's help, we can meet this need. I am convinced of it for this reason: **the power of the gospel.** 

The churches in Macedonia were dirt poor. But when they heard the gospel, their hearts swelled with joy and their lives overflowed in a wealth of generosity for the work of ministry. People gave far beyond their means to support the advance of the gospel and to meet the needs of the church (2 Corinthians 8:1-3). Surely, with all the Lord has given us, we can loosen our grip on the earthly treasure that won't last (Matthew 6:19-21) and give sacrificially and cheerfully toward the eternal treasure that will never end (Revelation 21:9-27).

May the Lord do a mighty work in our hearts and make it so!

On the Behalf of the Finance Committee,

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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—Methinks I See

Methinks I see an heav'nly host, Of angels on the wing! Methinks I hear their cheerful notes, So merrily they sing. Let all your fears be banish'd hence, Glad tidings I proclaim; For there's a savior born today, And Jesus is his name.

Lay down your crooks, and quit your flocks, To Bethlehem repair; And let your wand'ring steps be squar'd By yonder shining star. Seek not in courts or palaces, Nor royal curtains draw; But search the stable, see your God Extended on the straw.

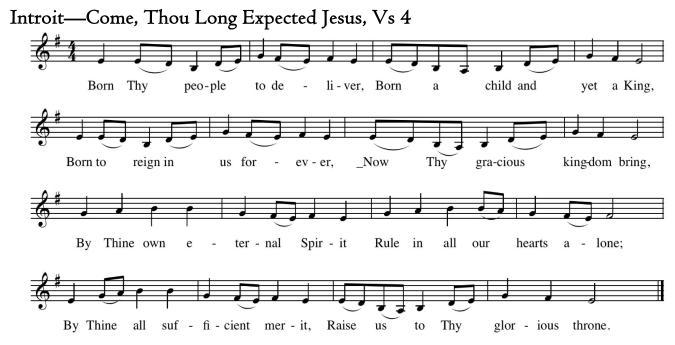
Then suddenly a heav'nly host, Around the shepherds throng, Exulting in the threefold God And thus address their song. To God the Father, Christ the Son, And Holy Ghost ador'd: The First and Last, the Last and First, Eternal praise afford.

Text and Music: William Billings, 1778.

#### 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.



Text: Charles Wesley, 1745; Music: American Melody.

# Call to Worship—from Isaiah 12

Pastor: We will give thanks to You, O LORD, for though You were angry with Your people, Your anger turned away, that You might comfort us.

#### All: Behold, God is our salvation, we will trust and will not be afraid;

Pastor: For the LORD God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation. With joy, we will draw water from the wells of salvation.

All: Give thanks to the LORD, call upon His name. Make known His deeds among the people, proclaim that His name is exalted.

Pastor: Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth.

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

Hymn of Praise—O Come, All Ye Faithful



Text: Latin Hymn, Tr. By Frederick Oakeley, 1841; Music: Cantus Diversi, 1751.

# Old Testament Reading—Isaiah 52:7-10

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7 How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news,
who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,
who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."
8 The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice;
together they sing for joy;
for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion.
9 Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem,
for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem.
10 The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.
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 I:29; Music: FRANKLIN AGNUS DEI, Gregory D Wilbur, 2009. ©2009 Greyfriars Press.

# Congregational Prayer of Confession—based on I John 2:8-11, 15-17

Leader: Lord, we come before you in prayer and confession.

The darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining.

You call us to love one another even as you have loved us.

We say that we are in the light, but if we hate our brother we are still in darkness.

If we truly understood how you loved us,

how could we not show compassion and love for those around us?

#### All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: Whoever loves his brother abides in the light,

and in him there is no cause for stumbling.

When we hate our brother, we are in the darkness and we walk in the darkness,

and we do not know where we are going,

because the darkness has blinded our eyes.

May the light of the knowledge of Christ flood our hearts and compel us towards love.

#### All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: Too often we allow fleshly desires to reign in our hearts

for we love the world or the things in the world.

If we love the world, the love of the Father is not in us.

For all that is in the world-the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes

and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.

And the world is passing away along with its desires,

but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

All: Lord, forgive our sins.

#### Silent Prayers of Confession

# Assurance of Pardon—I John 2:23-25

No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life.



Hymn of Praise—Angels from the Realms of Glory

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

#### The Reading of the Word—Matthew I:I-17

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,<sup>7</sup> and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, <sup>8</sup> and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, <sup>9</sup> and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,<sup>10</sup> and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amo, and Amos the father of Josiah, <sup>11</sup> and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

<sup>12</sup> After the exile to Babylon: Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, <sup>13</sup> Zerubbabel the father of Abihud, Abihud the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor, <sup>14</sup> Azor the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Akim, Akim the father of Elihud, <sup>15</sup> Elihud the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob, <sup>16</sup> and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary,and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah.

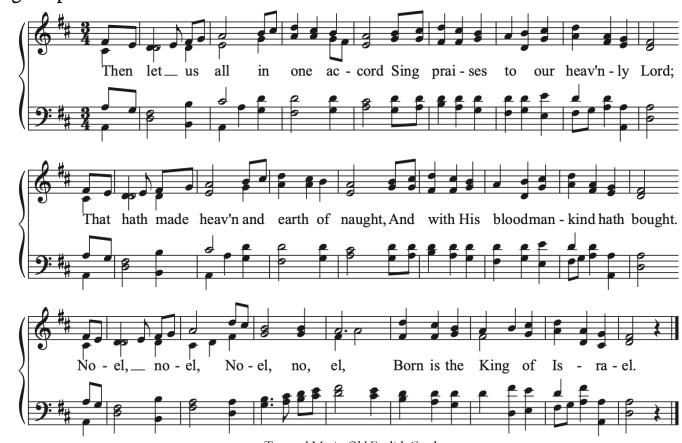
<sup>17</sup> Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Messiah.

Leader: The grass withers, the flower fades; All: But the Word of our God will stand forever.

Sermon—The Name Above All Names Part 2

Jesus Christ, Son of David

-Tony Giles, 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.



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

# Profession of Faith-from Philippians 2:5-11

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—O Light Divine

O Light divine! The world rejoices as the morning breaks and shadows fly. All nature blends her myriad voices to greet the dayspring from on high. O Light eternal, love divine, Let Thy bright radiance around and in us shine. Light eternal, shine, O shine upon us. All glorious, evermore, all glorious, from age to age Thou art the same unchanging Light. O Light divine! Break forth O glorious Light, Our Light, our Life from on high.

Music: Alexander Archangelsky, 1846-1924.



Text: 15th century German Carol, Trans. Theodore Baker, 1894; Music: ES IST EIN ROS, harm. Michael Praetorius, 1609.

#### 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* 

# GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND IN GRATEFUL PRAISE

# 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.

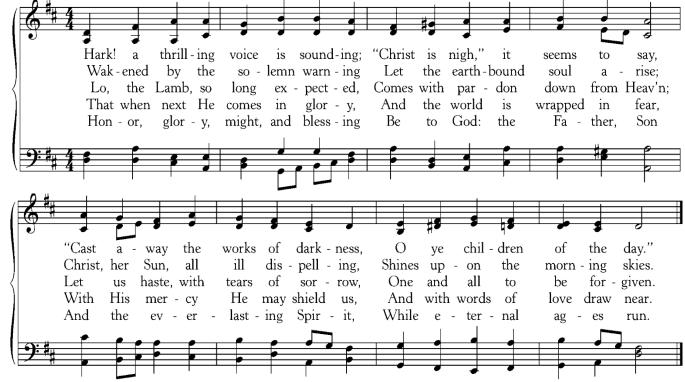
Give us this day our daily bread.

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—Hark! a Thrilling Voice is Sounding



Text: 5th century, trans. Edward Caswall, 1849; Music: MERTON (MONK), William H. Merton, 1850

**Missions Prayer Focus**— James Jardin is the Reformed University Fellowship campus minister at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Ky. RUF's mission is to reach students with the Gospel and to equip them to serve God and their neighbors within the local church and beyond.

#### Please Pray:

- For the Jardins as we grow together here in Bowling Green.
- For me as I'm officiating my 2nd wedding for our former interns, Peyton & Leslie, at the end of December!
- For us to have another great mission trip serving in St. Louis in January.
- For my ongoing efforts to reach new supporters for the work here.
- For Janie Fortner, our intern. We're looking to Jesus together to lead the way!

# 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—2 John I:3

May grace, mercy, and peace be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father's Son, in truth and love. *Amen.* 

Sung Response—To Us a Child of Hope is Born, Vs 2



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

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 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.

#### Elder Election and Q&A

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 is hosting a Q&A with them during the Sunday School hour today. Please be in prayer for Mr. Brooks and Mr. Cheney and prepare to vote your conscience at the end of the month.

#### Prayer Ministry

The prayer team would be honored to pray for you this holiday season. Submit prayer requests to prayer@cstonepres.org.

#### 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-thepress Advent and Christmas titles. You won't find better prices anywhere!

CHRISTMAS AT CORNERSTONE service Times

December 24: 8:00am; 10:45am December 31: 8:00am; 10:45am

#### 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.

#### Life at the Corner Podcast

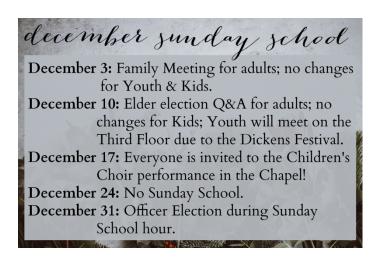
Have you heard the latest episode of *Life at the Corner*? You can catch a new episode every Monday. Let us know what you think or submit questions to lifeatthecorner@cstonepres.org.

#### 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.)

#### Year-End Giving

Gifts for tax credit for 2023 should be postmarked by December 31. Questions? Contact Robin in the church office at 615.618.4707 or office@cstonepres.org.



#### Taking the Message Home

Today's message "Jesus, Son of David" is taken from Matthew I:I-I7. Please take time to discuss the questions below with your family, friends, or Home Fellowship Group.

- Why do you think Matthew opens with a genealogy? Knowing what you do about the rest of the Gospel of Matthew, how would you have opened the story he tells? Why?
- The time between the Old and New Testaments is sometimes called 'four hundred years of silence." What would (could) have sustained a people's trust from one generation to another?
- How do you respond when it seems as if God has forgotten his promises? How might this passage prompt you trust in those promises?
- If Matthew's original audience is persecuted Jewish Christians, how might the opening 17 verses encourage them to remain faithful and not give up their faith to avoid further persecution? How does it encourage you to remain faithful?
- What did you find most helpful in today's sermon?

# 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

Prayer Requests: prayer@cstonepres.org

#### **Ruling Elders**

Randy Allen (615-260-1884) Chuck Emerson: *Emeritus* (615-943-8443) Joe Haworth (615-289-7543)

Mark Mitchell (630-835-7754)

Will Kesler (423-313-7493) John Millard (423-443-8852) Ron Moffat (629-215-5135)

Deacons

Jim Payne (615-497-0613) Jim Smith (615-347-4188)

Mark Elliott (615-477-1041) Matt Faulk (714-801-7596) Dan Fiedler (615-812-4032)

Mike Payne (615-579-6453) Wes Pittman (615-406-6209) Brent Roberts (615-394-0662) Jim Robinson (615-587-0442) \*Todd Russell (615-319-4803)

Matt Suits (706-218-2823) Casey Taggart (662-813-3563) Larry Thompson (901-734-1520) Bob Vermilye (615-943-8139)



\*On Sabbatical

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

All Scripture quotations from the English Standard Version