

# Corbin Presbyterian Church

## Service for the Lord's Day

11:00 a.m.

23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

November 8, 2020

**Release** by Lisle Gwynn Garrity | A Sanctified Art | inspired by Deuteronomy 15:1-11 (*The Year of Cancelled Debts*)

### Artist Statement:

The Israelites wandered the desert for forty years. Forty years was just long enough for them to let go of what they used to know, to doubt their purpose, to question God's presence, to cultivate resilience. But it was not long enough for the sting of slavery to recede from their bones. It was not long enough for them to forget the way greed can corrupt the hearts of the powerful, the way economic disparity can bleed into overt racism, the way empire can be built on the backs of forced laborers. And so, near the end of their wilderness chapter, God guides Moses to help them release the harmful systems of their past to reimagine a new way of doing life together.

These instructions in Deuteronomy become a guide for their new economy. The scheduled practice of releasing debts every seven years was designed to be both preventive and restorative. It prevented the wealth gap from growing beyond repair. It prevented systemic poverty from becoming strategic enslavement. It softened hearts turned cold and loosened fists clenched too tight. This practice of release reminds us that net worth is not synonymous with self-worth. It cuts into greed and bondage wherever it has taken root.

How might we adopt practices of financial release in our current economy? When it comes to money, we are hard-wired to fixate on *deserving*. What did you do to *cause* this debt? What qualifies you to *deserve* a forgiveness loan? How did you *earn* this income?

And yet, in God's story, money—like grace—is released wherever it is needed instead of where it is deserved.



# Gathering Around the Word

*Almighty God, you have made us in your image and crowned us with honor and glory. As we come before you in worship, shape us by your Word and fill us with your Spirit so that we may live as your beloved children and proclaim your saving love to our life's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## Prelude

### Morning Prayer

Piotr Tschaikowski.  
1840-1893

## Opening Prayer

### But First

Poetry prayer by Sara Are | A Sanctified Art

*I want to practice being free.  
I want to unstitch my heart  
From the edge of my sleeve  
So that I can give it a life of its own—  
A real chance to love and be known.*

*I want to practice opening  
My mind, my doors, and window panes,  
Anything with a hinge, everything with a frame,  
Until the breeze carries through—  
A new point of reference, truth, and you.*

*I want to practice a holy escape,  
Losing track of my minutes that turn into days  
Because the only time that matters now  
Is time with you and this golden hour.*

*I want to practice release,  
Removing the stones that weigh down my wings—  
Stones of fear, shame, and grief,  
Stones that build walls between you and me.*

*I want to do all of these things—  
Be untamed and wild, open and free,  
The first to give and the last to hold tight,  
Because gratitude and clenched fists never felt right.*

*And I am just starting to see  
That this life is a river, a holy stream.  
And if life is a river then God is the sky,  
Touching everything at once and inviting us to try  
Letting go of the raft, to float on our backs,  
So that we and God can be eye to eye—  
A lifetime of baptism and nothing but sky.  
But first, you have to release.*

## Welcome & Announcements

### Call to Worship

Through Moses, God said, “Let my people go.”  
In scripture, the law declares: “In the seventh year, you must cancel all debts.”  
With grace, Jesus said: “Give one coat away.”  
With honesty, Jesus taught: “Sell what you have, give that money to the poor.”  
Faith has always involved letting go, releasing, setting free,  
Dropping our nets, giving to others, and following.  
So in this time of worship, may we release that which binds us.  
May we worship with open hearts, so that we can walk freely with God.

Ex. 9:1  
Deut. 15:1  
Luke 3:11  
Matt. 19:21

## Hymn

### Take My Life

HENDON

*Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee; take my moments and my days;  
let them flow in ceaseless praise; let them flow in ceaseless praise.*

*Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love; take my feet and let them be  
swift and beautiful for thee, swift and beautiful for thee.*

*Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King; take my lips and let them be  
filled with messages from thee, filled with messages from thee.*

*Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold; take my intellect and use  
every power as thou shalt choose, every power as thou shalt choose.*

## Call to Confession

As the people of God, we rest in the merciful arms of the God who calls us home.  
Let us confess our sin that we might be reconciled to God and one another.

## Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we admit to holding tight to that which we know and understand.  
We put you in a box to avoid the shades of gray that come with faith.  
We put you in a box to avoid the discomfort of change.  
We put ourselves in boxes labeled with society's expectations and norms.  
We put others in boxes labeled "worthy" and "unworthy."  
We put all that we have in a box and pray that it will not run out.  
So, in this moment, we confess to holding tight to fear, greed, and worldly structures.  
Forgive us for our shallow faith and limited understanding.  
Open our eyes to a new way—  
To a holiness found in open boxes, unclenched fists, shades of gray, and holy release.  
Gratefully we pray. Amen.

## Assurance of Pardon

No matter what confines, limits, or oppresses us, hear and receive this good news:  
God washes us clean from all sin and evil.  
By the power of the Holy Spirit, our lives may be made worthy once more.  
Thanks be to God who makes us new—over and over and over again.  
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.  
**Thanks be to God!**

# *Hearing and Proclaiming the Word*

## Prayer for Illumination

### Scripture: Deuteronomy 15:1-11 *The Year of Canceled Debts*

*15 Every seventh year you shall grant a remission of debts. <sup>2</sup> And this is the manner of the remission: every creditor shall remit the claim that is held against a neighbor, not exacting it of a neighbor who is a member of the community, because the Lord's remission has been proclaimed. <sup>3</sup> Of a foreigner you may exact it, but you must remit your claim on whatever any member of your community owes you. <sup>4</sup> There will, however, be no one in need among you, because the Lord is sure to bless you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you as a possession to occupy, <sup>5</sup> if only you will obey the Lord your God by diligently observing this entire commandment that I command you today. <sup>6</sup> When the Lord your God has blessed you, as he promised you, you will lend to many nations, but you will not borrow; you will rule over many nations, but they will not rule over you.*

*<sup>7</sup> If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted toward your needy neighbor. <sup>8</sup> You should rather open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be. <sup>9</sup> Be careful that you do not entertain a mean thought, thinking, "The seventh year, the year of remission, is near," and therefore view your needy neighbor with hostility and give nothing; your neighbor might cry to the Lord against you, and you would incur guilt. <sup>10</sup> Give liberally and be ungrudging when you do so, for on this account the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake. <sup>11</sup> Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, "Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land."*

### Scripture: Matthew 19:16-22 *A Wealthy Man Seeks Eternal Life*

*<sup>16</sup> Then someone came to him and said, "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?" <sup>17</sup> And he said to him, "Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments." <sup>18</sup> He said to him, "Which ones?" And Jesus said, "You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; <sup>19</sup> Honor your father and mother; also, You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>20</sup> The young man said to him, "I have kept all these; what do I still lack?" <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." <sup>22</sup> When the young man heard this word, he went away grieving, for he had many possessions.*

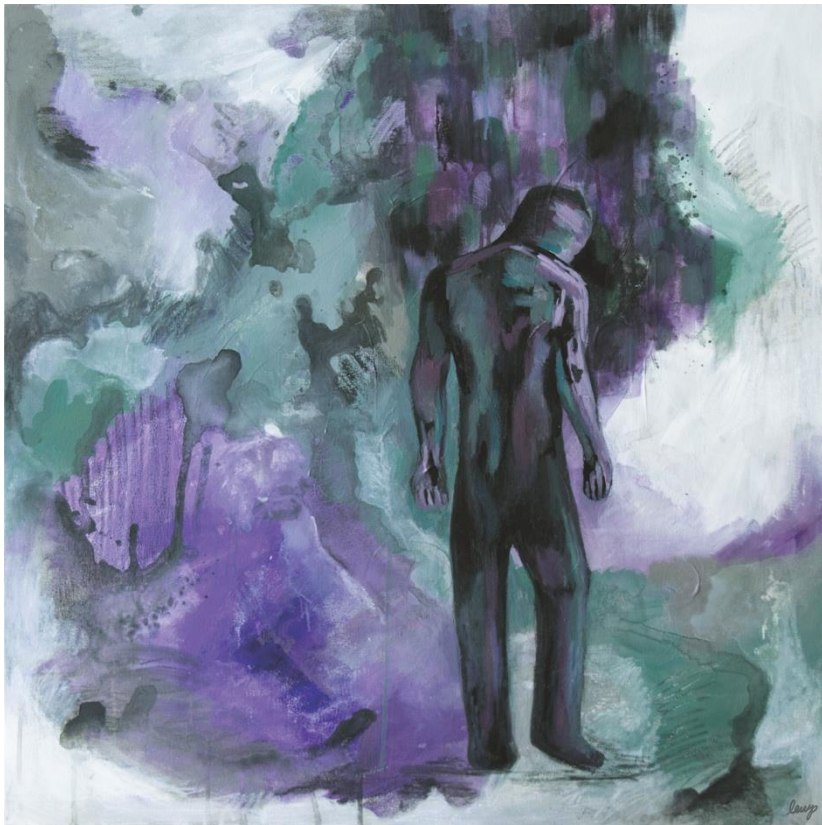
This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

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## *Finding Release* by Lauren Wright Pittman | A Sanctified Art | inspired by Matthew 19:16-22

(A wealthy man seeks eternal life)



### **Artist Statement:**

As I write this in the midst of a global pandemic, we are collectively grieving countless losses and desperately seeking answers to quell our fears of what's to come. The economy is nosediving and many face grave illness or even death. Some can't see past the fog of new living restrictions and are calling to reopen the economy because they believe it will save us. Others are choosing to stay home, risking economic fallout, to protect lives of the vulnerable.

When afraid, we turn inward. I see fear and loneliness in the rich man. He's focused on an individual path, leading to his personal salvation, while missing the full picture. The man's wealth may cause him comfort, but it does not exist in a vacuum. His wealth affects the lives of others—particularly those at the margins of society.

Jesus offers the rich man spiritual grounding that completely threatens his financial stability, but it's good news just the same. Jesus reveals to the rich man the truth that we are all connected. Jesus chooses to name commandments concerning interpersonal relationships and community (v. 18-19). Jesus offers the rich man freedom from his entanglement with wealth, and gifts him belonging and a way forward

(v. 21). The rich man feels the weight of this truth. To “enter this life” he must recognize his responsibility for his neighbor, because our lives are interwoven.

Instead of grasping to Jesus' lifeline, the rich man turns away because he cannot fathom losing everything. His grief feels palpable in this time of upheaval. I meditated on his grief, layering dusty purples, muted greens, and chalky blacks. I imagine the rich man isn't turning away from Jesus altogether. Perhaps he's taking space to feel his grief, processing all he will lose so he can truly find release.

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Sermon

*Release*

The Rev. Lisa R. Eye

## *Responding to the Word*

Profession of Faith

*The Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth,**

**And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

.... Hear us as we pray as our Lord taught us, saying: **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.**

## Offering

*Even though we cannot present our gifts in-person during worship today, we still respond with gratitude for the gifts God has given to us. Tithes and offerings may be sent to Corbin Presbyterian Church, 601 Master St., Corbin, KY 40701.*

## Prayer of Dedication

### Hymn

### *We Give Thee but Thine Own*

SCHUMANN

*We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be;  
all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.*

*May we thy bounties thus as stewards true receive,  
and gladly, as thou blesses us, to thee our first fruits give.*

*The captive to release, to God the lost to bring,  
to teach the way of life and peace: it is a Christ-like thing.*

*And we believe thy word, though dim our faith may be;  
whate're we do for thine, O Lord, we do it unto thee.*

## *Following the Word into the World*

## Charge & Blessing

### Postlude

### *Divertissement*

Gordon Young  
1919-1998

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## *Prayer Concerns*

Homebound friends and family members; Sandra Adams; Dwight Barnett; Chuck Barton; Jim Becker; Charlene & Tom Blair; Steve Carnes; Caudill family (Covid-19); Aiden Craft; Pam & Robb Hall; Carolyn Hendrickson; Danny Jones; Philip Martin; Ruth Martin; Donny Seay; Susan Simms; Keats Smith; Jack Taylor; Ed Tye; Karlyle Keith Young; Kathy Zanio; Students, Teachers and families; Wanda May (Mary Begley's sister – undergoing testing); Margaret Henderlight; Jean Jacobs; Avery Gabbard and the Gabbard family; Denise Hinkle; Sheila Milburne.

*With confidence in your love and mercy, O God, we lift our prayers for those in need. Heal them in body, mind, or circumstance, working in them by your grace, wonders beyond all they may dream or hope. Amen.*

Please send additions and updates for the prayer list to [churchoffice@corbinpres.org](mailto:churchoffice@corbinpres.org) or leave a message on the church voicemail at 606-528-1444.

**We extend Christian sympathy to Rob & Gayle Bolton and their family upon the death of Rob's father, Carl "Bobby" Bolton**, who died in Louisville on November 3, 2020. Bobby was the son of the late W.E. (Ed) & Vear Bolton of Corbin, and was married to the late Pat Henry Bolton at the Corbin Presbyterian Church on N. Laurel St. in 1951. Pat was the daughter of Jesse & Sidney Bolton, who become members on October 14, 1923. Rev. Lisa Eye conducted the committal service on November 7, 2020 at Cumberland Memorial Gardens.

*If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord;  
So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. Romans 14:8*

## Announcements for the Week of November 8-15, 2020



**Stewardship Season 2020**  
*Transforming our money stories in light of God's story.*

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1 – “Remember”**  
Luke 22:1-23 & Exodus 16:1-18

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8 – “Release”**  
Matthew 19:16-22 & Deuteronomy 15:1-11

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15 – “Reimagine”**  
Mark 12:38-44 & Leviticus 19:9-10; 25:8-12

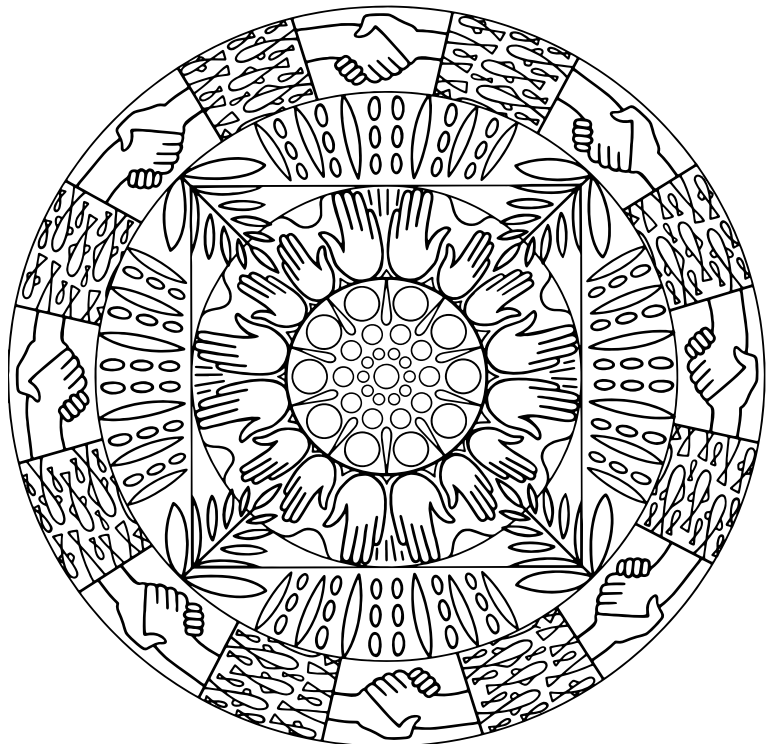
**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22 – “Restore”**  
John 21:1-4 & Genesis 33:1-17

**Last Sunday we begin a 4-week stewardship series entitled, *Our Money Story*.** So much of our beliefs and behaviors are rooted in stories—narratives that are personal, familial, societal, cultural, and religious. We all have a money story, whether we recognize it or not. Perhaps we are living from a story of fear or shame or guilt. Or a story that our actions won't have an impact. Or a story that we don't have enough. Throughout these 4 weeks, we are invited to tease apart these overlapping narratives, to claim and recreate our stories in light of the stories we find in scripture. Where might God be speaking a new narrative into the limited ones we have told ourselves?

**This week's theme is RELEASE.** As we hear today's scriptures, we will practice releasing shame, anxiety, guilt, greed or anything that keeps us from freedom and wholeness. We release the elements of our money story that prevent us from fulling living into God's story. In Matthew 19:16-22, we see a man grieved to let go of his wealth. In Deuteronomy 15:1-11, we find the radical social mandate of cancelled debts, a communal release that is practiced for the good of all. Releasing is a spiritual practice that frees us from ourselves and liberates others.

As we explore these themes, we will be aided by poetry, prayers, and artwork created by *A Sanctified Art*. One visual tool we will use during worship is a mandala. Meaning “circle” in Sanskrit, a mandala is a geometric, circular designed used in several religious traditions for mediation and prayer. The imagery within the four rings of this mandala corresponds to the scriptures in our series.

**For week two,** we add the **second ring**. The open hands represent the posture Jesus invited the rich man to take by letting go of his possessions and wealth. The hands also symbolize the releasing of debts—a mandate given to the Israelites through Moses in order to build a community in which all could prosper.



**A Study Guide** for the series containing all of the scriptures, poetry prayers, journaling prompts, art & reflections is available for pick-up, mailing, or download by contacting the church office.

**The Finance Committee** has been carefully monitoring the church's financial status and providing monthly updates as we enter the last quarter of the 2020 budget year and plan for 2021. We give thanks to Chair, Tom Fish, for their work and to the faithful stewards who give even in the midst of uncertain times!

**The Session has called a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, November 22, 2020**, immediately following worship, for the purpose of presenting a comprehensive financial update, the Proposed 2021, and any recommended changes to the terms of call to the Pastor.

**General Fund Financial Update through September.** Here is a summary of the Church's financial status through September (the last month for which information is currently available).

	<u>Year-to-Date Budgeted</u>	<u>Year-to-Date Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Budget Receipts	\$ 114,414.84	\$ 109,214.73*#	<b>(\$ 5,200.11)</b>
Offerings	\$ 83,646.18	\$ 81,263.95*	<b>(\$ 2,382.23)</b>
Expenses	\$ 114,414.66	\$ 102,972.98&	<b>(\$ 11,441.68)</b>
	<b>Actual Receipts – Actual Expenses</b>		<b>\$ 6,241.75</b>

\* Does not include Building Fund receipts of \$215.00.

# Includes only the monthly prorated portion of an annual pledge paid in January.

&Includes \$2,814.92 in repair expenses paid through General Fund rather than Building Fund

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**Overall, the Church's general fund receipts and expenses to date are tracking appropriately with the budget. However, a decline in offerings in recent months could be of concern should it become a trend. Fortunately, expenses continue to trend under budget.**

Through September, the Church's general fund receipts were roughly \$5,200 less than budgeted. An analysis of general fund offerings in September shows \$11,835 received, including one prorated annual pledge. That amount is \$2,540.98 more than the amount of monthly offerings anticipated in the budget.

Expenses for the year through September have been roughly \$11,952 less than budgeted. In addition, while August general fund expenses totaled \$12,323.72, general fund receipts for the month totaled \$12,138.65. Thus, monthly receipts were \$389.02 less than expenses. The September payment for the State Farm property was posted early in August; otherwise September receipts would have exceeded expenses by \$3,389.02.

**Altogether actual year-to-date receipts continue to exceed year-to-date expenses, currently by \$6,241.75.**



## **Corbin Presbyterian Church**

**601 Master Street, Corbin, KY 40701**

**Phone: 606-528-1444 Website: [www.corbinpres.org](http://www.corbinpres.org) Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CorbinPresby/>**

**Zoom link for worship: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83307369561?pwd=NUJocHNlNmNMZEtiOUdGRW0ycEwzdz09>**

**The Reverend Lisa R. Eye, Pastor  
Clay Howard, Director of Music/Organist  
Mary Begley, Administrative Assistant  
David Hoskins, Treasurer**

**Session**

**Class of 2020**

**Class of 2021**

**Class of 2022**

Karen Nies

Tom Fish  
Bob Martin

Janet Martin  
Doralene Webb

**Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9am – 1pm**

**Rev. Eye may be reached by calling the Church Office or by email: [pastor@corbinpres.org](mailto:pastor@corbinpres.org).**