

Corbin Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day

11:00 a.m.

24th Sunday after Pentecost

November 15, 2020

Gathering Around the Word

Creator God, you made all that is, both seen and unseen. You made us in your image that we might reflect your goodness, wisdom, and love. As we gather around your Word this day, may we hear your story anew, and our faith may be renewed, that we may serve you. Amen.

REIMAGINE: Love, By Another Way

Poetry prayer by Sara Are | A Sanctified Art

*I used to think that love was simple.
You would know when you know,
What was meant, would be.
But I fell in love
And it's not that easy.
It's compromise and identity,
Mountains and valleys,
Apologies and memories,
Imbalance, recentering.
It turns out,
Love took reimagining.*

*I used to think Church was simple.
Church was community without walls,
Faith and hope missed with call.
But then the world grew violently sick
And the way to be Church
Was to keep distance.
So doors were closed,
And people sent home.
It was all love, by another way.
And yet it was not how we imagined Sunday.*

*I used to think justice was simple,
That I could make a difference, all by myself.
There was a clear right and wrong,
a way I could help,
But then I learned of privilege and bias,
Of white savior complex and our Church's
silence.
And all at once, it wasn't so easy,
I needed to learn. I needed to listen.
I needed to reframe my original vision.*

*I guess what I'm trying to say is
Life will throw first drafts our way.
The chance to dream,
To lead, to sing,*

*To love, to give,
To pray, to be.
But in order to grow,
To follow God's lead,
We have to do the work—
Reimagining.*

*And despite our best efforts,
Love will fail.
Churches will close.
Justice will leave the vulnerable exposed.
And when that happens,
We must own our part,
Say we're sorry
And try to restart.*

*So write it all down.
And write it again.
A first draft,
A second,
An epilogue, and then
Share it with me
And we will pray,
And the spirit will move,
And maybe one day,
We can write this world
inside heaven's gate.*

*For I am
Starting to believe
That what matters in life
Will never be easy.
So we must imagine and imagine again.
We must dream and try, die and rise.
And in our rising, may we see
The next right reimagined thing
Until step by step we are home.
Love, by another way.*

Opening Prayer

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

When Moses gathered the people of Israel, God said,
“I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.”
As we gather today, let us worship the Lord, who continues to be our God
and who still brings us out of the places of our bondage.
Let us remember God’s redeeming story.
Let us release all that separates us from God’s story.
The us reimagine our story through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Let us worship God!

Hymn

Lord of All Good

TOULON

*Lord of all good, our gifts we bring to you; use them your holy purpose to fulfill,
tokens of love and pledges brought anew, that our who life is offered to your will.*
*We give our minds to understand your ways; hands, eyes, and voices to serve your great design;
heart with the flame of your own love ablaze, till for your glory all our rowers combine.*
*Father, whose bounty all creation shows; Christ, by whose willing sacrifice we live;
Spirit, from whom all life in fullness flows: to you with grateful hearts ourselves we give.*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of everlasting love, we confess that we have been unfaithful to our covenant with you and with one another. We have worshiped other gods: money, power, greed, and convenience. We have served our own self-interest instead of serving only you and your people. We have not loved our neighbor as you have commanded, nor have we rightly loved ourselves. Forgive us gracious God. Bring us back into the fullness of our covenant with you and one another. Show us the way. Teach us to reimagine your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Guide us to live as your children—beloved, freed, and given new life in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Hearing and Proclaiming the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture: Leviticus 19:9-10; 25:8-12 *The Year of Jubilee*

⁹ When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. ¹⁰ You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the Lord your God.

⁸ You shall count off seven weeks of years, seven times seven years, so that the period of seven weeks of years gives forty-nine years. ⁹ Then you shall have the trumpet sounded loud; on the tenth day of the seventh month—on the day of atonement—you shall have the trumpet sounded throughout all your land. ¹⁰ And you shall hallow the fiftieth year and you shall proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you: you shall return, every one of you, to your property and every one of you to your family. ¹¹ That fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you: you shall not sow, or reap the aftergrowth, or harvest the unpruned vines. ¹² For it is a jubilee; it shall be holy to you: you shall eat only what the field itself produces.

Scripture: Mark 12:38-44 *The Widow's Mite*

³⁸ As he taught, he said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, ³⁹ and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! ⁴⁰ They devour widows’ houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.”

⁴¹ He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. ⁴² A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. ⁴³ Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. ⁴⁴ For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

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

Sermon

Reimagining Sabbath

The Rev. Lisa R. Eye



JUBILEE by Lauren Wright Pittman

A Sanctified Art | inspired by Leviticus 19:9-10;
25:8-12

Artist Statement: In the Year of Jubilee, God offers rest—a break for farmers, relief for those experiencing economic injustice, and Sabbath for the land. This radical rest is counter to the rhythm of our lives; it resists valued ideologies like efficiency and productivity and has broad economic implications. Jubilee has remained a theoretical, hopeful concept tucked away in scripture. This kind of radical slowing down is difficult to imagine, however...so is a global, economy-halting pandemic.

Rest feels unnatural in a pandemic, but it's available to us if we are willing to receive it. Rest slows our vision and illuminates gifts that normally whirl by us. While sheltering in place, I've searched for positivity, and during such great loss, I've found more—more time, space, and color. I found a patch of mint in my yard, and the scent became my soul's balm. Rest offers recovery. The earth is thriving with a break from humanity. Scientists are seeing significant decreases in air pollution and animals are returning to previously uninhabitable waterways.

Rest offers perspective. God does not want us worn ragged, reaping the maximum extent of our harvest. God wants new eyes for us to recognize broken systems so we can enact change that sustains everyone: “You shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the Lord your God” (v.10). God is found in the connective tissue of our relationships to our neighbor—particularly those most vulnerable.

Rest reminds us of our interconnectedness. Despite physical distancing, people are rediscovering one another while longing for and celebrating ways to support one another. Rest uncovers the *enoughness* in our lives, and as my dear mentor used to say, “Enough is abundance.” What will we glean from this time of rest?

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

As Those of Old Their First Fruits Brought

FOREST GREEN

*As those of old their first fruits brought of vineyard, flock, and field
to God, the giver of all good, the source of bounteous yield,
so we today our first fruits bring, the wealth of this good land:
of farm and market, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.*

*A world in need now summons us to labor, love, and give,
to make our life and offering that all may truly live.
The church of Christ is calling us to make the dream come true:
a world redeemed by Christ-like love, all life in Christ made new.*

*In gratitude and humble trust we bring our best today,
to serve your cause and share your love with all along life's way.
O God who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ your Son,
help us to give our ourselves each day until life's work is done.*

Following the Word into the World

Charge & Blessing

Postlude

God the Omnipotent

Alex Lvov
1799-1870

Prayer Concerns

Homebound friends and family members; Sandra Adams; Dwight Barnett; Chuck Barton; Jim Becker; Charlene & Tom Blair; Steve Carnes; Aiden Craft; Pam & Robb Hall; Carolyn Hendrickson; Philip Martin; Ruth Martin; Jearld Robinson; Donny Seay; Susan Simms; Keats Smith; Jack Taylor; Ed Tye; Karllyle Keith Young; Kathy Zanio; Students, Teachers and familie; Margaret Henderlight; Jean Jacobs; Avery Gabbard and the Gabbard family; Denise Hinkle; Sheila Milburne; Family of Travis Baker (nephew of Tony Baker); Nathan Norman (Mary Begley's nephew)

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 or call the church office at 606-528-1444.

Announcements for the Week of November 15-22, 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

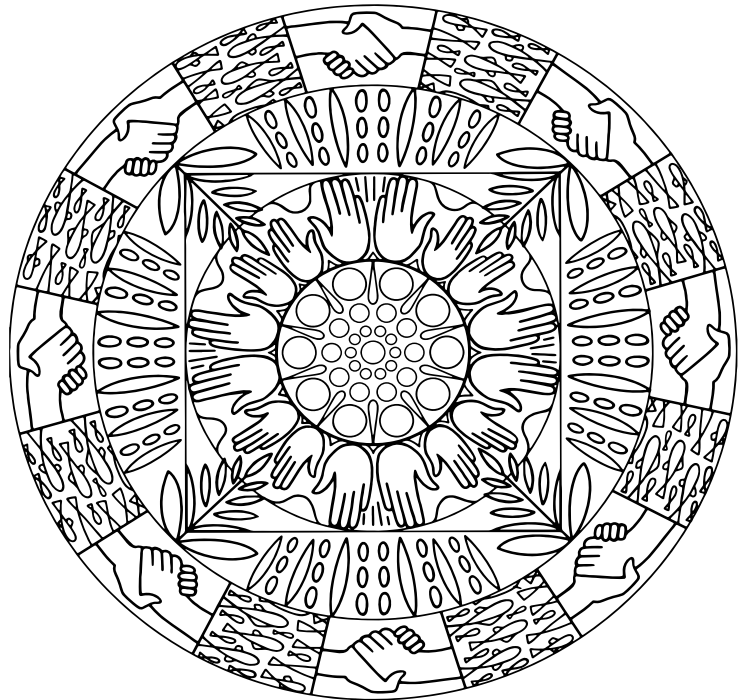
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15 – “Reimagine”
Mark 12:38-44 & Leviticus 19:9-10; 25:8-12

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

Today we continue our 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 REIMAGINE. Scripture calls us to reimagine our world as God created it to be—not one of scarcity, poverty, and disconnectedness, but a good world of abundance and enough to provide for all. In **Mark 12:38-44**, we sit down with Jesus and his disciples as he teaches about giving as they watch a poor widow contribute two small copper coins to the temple treasury while many rich people put in much larger sums. What does Jesus say to them and to us about how and why we give, about the value we place on a gift or a giver? In **Leviticus 19:9-10; 25:8-12**, Moses receives from God instructions for how the Israelites are to live after generations of enslavement by Pharaoh—instructions for leaving some of the crop for the poor and hungry. They also are given instructions for the practice of Jubilee, when, in a fifty-year cycle, debts are forgiven, imbalances are restored, and Sabbath is celebrated. With these instructions, God reimagines a different world for his children. What might he be challenging us to reimagine?

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 meditation and prayer. The imagery within the four rings of this mandala corresponds to the scriptures in our series.



For week three, we add the **third ring** with images from today's scriptures. The wheat laid along the corners of the square represent the corners of the crops left for the poor and the immigrant to glean. The seeds and wheat chaff represent the bounty that is to be shred during Jubilee, creating a community where the hungry are fed, The seeds/circles may also represent the coins

the widow offers to the treasury. In this ring we are reminded of Jubilee practices to avoid creating systems that impoverish and leave the vulnerable without the resources and support they need to thrive.

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*#	(\$ 5,200.11)
Offerings	\$ 83,646.18	\$ 81,263.95*	(\$ 2,382.23)
Expenses	\$ 114,414.66	\$ 102,972.98&	(\$ 11,441.68)
	Actual Receipts – Actual Expenses		\$ 6,241.75

* 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

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 \$12,138.65.27. 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 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CorbinPresby/>

Zoom link for worship: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83307369561?pwd=NUJocHN1NmNMZEtiOUdGRW0vcEwzdz09>

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

Session

Class of 2020
Karen Nies

Class of 2021
Tom Fish
Bob Martin

Class of 2022
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.