

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Christ the Redeemer Presbyterian Church

December 10, 2006

The Second Sunday of Advent¹

Welcome and Silent Preparation

The Reverend Douglas D. Warren

A Word About Worship and this time of Preparation: We have the incredible privilege of coming into the presence of the living God. Please take a few moments now to silently prepare your heart. As others around you are in prayer and contemplation, please consider their need for quiet.

*A Note to Parents: There is a **nursery** available at your discretion throughout the service. Please ask one of the greeters if you need help finding your way. There is also a class called **Kids’ Quest** for children (3 and up) during the sermon. Children are welcome to come forward during communion to be prayed for by the pastor, but should not partake of communion until they have professed their faith publicly and been approved by the session.*

GATHERING TO WORSHIP THE REDEEMER

Prelude “Venezuelan Waltz Una Dia de Noviembre” *Antonio Lauro*

Advent Candle Lighting The Slavery Candle The Warren Family

***Call to Worship** *Psalm 86*

Minister: We will praise you, O Lord our God, with all our whole hearts; we will glorify your name forever. For you have delivered us from the power of death.

All: Bring joy to your servants, O Lord, for to you we lift up our souls. There is none like you; no deeds can compare with yours.

Minister: All the nations you have made will come and worship before you. They will bring glory to your name, for you alone are God.

All: Teach us now your way, O Lord, and we will live in your truth. Give us undivided hearts that we may fear and praise your great name.

***Song of Exultation** (196) “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” *HYFRYDOL*

Prayer of Adoration *(concluded by praying together):* Mr. Richard Kurtz

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

REPENTING TOGETHER BY GOD’S GRACE

Scriptural Call to Repentance James 2:10 Rev. Warren

God Himself warns us, “For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.”

Song of Preparation (Insert) “At the Name of Jesus” *Gilley²*

Corporate Confession Psalm 51 Rev. Warren

Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from

my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against You, You only, I have sinned, and done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak, and blameless when you judge. Amen.

Silent Reflection/Confession *Please take a few moments to pray privately*

Proclamation of Forgiveness Psalm 130 Rev. Warren

If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand? O Israel, put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love and with Him is full redemption. He Himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.

***Song of Renewal** (447) “Christ for the World We Sing” *Giardini*

***The Peace of God** *This is an opportunity to extend the grace of Christ to one another.*

Minister: The peace of the Lord be always with you!

People: And also with you!

Extending Christ’s Grace Pastoral Sabbatical Rev. Warren

Prayers for Christ’s Church and the World Rev. Warren
Praise Requests

Greeting and Announcements Mrs. Sharie Pillsbury

Children ages 3-9 are excused to **Kids’ Quest** at this time.

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

***Scripture Reading** (insert) Deuteronomy 31:1-8 Jake & Monique Paris

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

The Sermon “Immanuel” Rev. Warren
Awaiting Our Covenant-Keeping King

The Offertory “Jorge do Fuso” *Leo Brouwer*

***Affirmation of Faith** The Westminster Shorter Catechism³

Minister: What is the chief end of man?

People: Man’s chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

Minister: What rule has God given to direct us in how to glorify and enjoy Him?

People: The Word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us as to how we may glorify and enjoy Him.

***Gloria Patri** *Greatorex*

Glory be to the Father
And to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning
Is now and ever shall be
World without end.
Amen. Amen.

³ The Westminster Shorter Catechism, composed as an aid for teaching children scriptural truths, has been used by congregations and families in both worship and instruction for the past 350 years.

CELEBRATING HOLY COMMUNION

***Word About Communion:** This is a time for all people to seek the Lord. For Christians, communion is a time to meet with their Savior by faith to be strengthened and renewed as they eat bread and drink wine. All those who trust in Christ alone as their Savior and Lord, belong to a church that embraces the gospel, and are at peace with their fellow Christians are welcome to come forward. For those not taking communion, we invite you to consider the prayers found below.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Minister: God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.⁴

People: Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.

Minister: He says, “Be still, and know that I am God;”

People: The Lord Almighty is with us; The God of Jacob is our fortress.

Words of Institution & Invitation

Minister: God lives in a high and holy place,

People: But also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit,

Minister: To revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite.

People: The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Approaching the Lord’s Table

Please listen carefully to the minister’s explanation of communion.

All those who are prepared to come to the Lord’s table can come forward. If you are not yet prepared to come, with all the responsibilities that entails, this is a loving environment within which to consider your estate before a holy and merciful God. Please use the prayers below as an aid. Both wine and grape juice are available (juice is in the outer circle of the trays).

***Communion Song** (213) “What Child Is This” *GREENSLEEVES*

COMMISSIONING FOR SERVICE

***Concluding Prayer** Rev. Warren

***The Benediction** Jude 24-25 Rev. Warren

Minister: To Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forever more.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Postlude Selections by Annibal Augusto Sardinha

Please stay and enjoy some refreshments after the service.

¹ The season of Advent is the beginning of the Church calendar anticipating as it does the birth and now the return of the promised Redeemer of God’s people. For more on the history and practice of Advent, please see our *Taking Gathered Worship Home* handouts at the back table.

*** Please stand, if you are able. Thank you.**

² Music: Jonathan Gilley 1996, Text, Caroline M. Noel 1870, CCLI License Number 1958155.

⁴ This communion litany is taken from Psalm 46. The themes of God’s presence with us and His power in conquering everything provide us hope. It is only in Him as our fortress that we can know His peace and rest. As we come to His table, let us look together to Him for our strength.

Reflections

“Before Jesus, almost no pagan author had used ‘humble’ as a compliment. Yet the events of Christmas point inescapably to what seems like an oxymoron: a humble God. The God who came to earth came not in a raging whirlwind nor in a devouring fire. Unimaginably, the Maker of all things shrank down, down, down, so small as to become an ovum, a single fertilized egg barely visible to the naked eye, an egg that would divide and redivide until a fetus took shape, enlarging cell by cell inside a nervous teenager.

“‘Immensity cloistered in thy dear womb,’ marveled the poet John Donne. He ‘made himself nothing...he humbled himself,’ said the apostle Paul more prosaically. Could it be true, this Bethlehem story of a Creator descending to be born on one small planet? If so, it is a story like no other. Little wonder a choir of angels broke out in spontaneous song, disturbing not only a few shepherds but the entire universe.”

— Philip Yancey

PRAYERS FOR THOSE NOT COMMUNING

*If you would like to use this time to speak silently to God,
we hope that the prayers below will be a help to you.*

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth and the Life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding for you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared to hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my savior. Amen.

Prayer for Those Struggling with Sin

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my needs, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking only to you, the author and finisher of my faith. Amen.

Prayer of Commitment

Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship 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.

Christ the Redeemer Presbyterian Church exists to
Worship Christ in Community,
As We Celebrate and Extend His Grace
to Portland, New England, and the world.

Christ the Redeemer Presbyterian Church is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), a denomination committed to the historic Christian faith.

Musicians: Sharie Pillsbury & Evan Pillsbury, vocalists; Nathan Kolosko, guitar; Mike Marchand, bass; Jake Paris, hand percussion; Matthew Pillsbury, accompanist.
Serving Communion: Doug Warren and Richard Kurtz.

CHRIST THE REDEEMER

Highlights.....December 10, 2006

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today

Please stay for refreshments after the service and get better acquainted with one another.

Home Fellowship

Home Fellowship Groups are one of the most important parts of life at Christ The Redeemer. We have four groups meeting regularly. If you are interested and need information here is some basic contact information. This is a great way to get better acquainted with each other.

Portland-@ Warren's home- 797-6384, Teen group @ Pillsbury's home-phone 883-2460
Gorham-Marchand's home- 839-9877, Gray, Windham, Casco region-Crosby phone 657-2445.

Christmas Party

Ladies of CTR, you are invited to a Christmas Party being hosted by Sarah Peters at her new home at 109 Narragansett St Gorham. It will be held this coming Wednesday evening, **December 13th**, at 6:30 pm. A cookie swap is planned so choose your favorite recipe and bring them along.

Teen/Young Adult Event

Jr. High, Sr. High and College students and their families are invited to attend a Christmas Party on Sunday, **Dec. 17th**, at the Hoehner's home, 83 Pleasant St Norway. The party will include lunch and ice-skating. Please RSVP by Wed. 12/14 to either Sherly Hoehner at 743-0304, or Sharie Pillsbury at 883-2460. There are sign up sheets in the back to help with the food needs.

Root Cellar Dinner

On Thursday, **December 14th** we will be the host church to serve the dinner for the neighbors. There are sign up sheets in the back. If you can help serve the meal, cook or buy something for the dinner please indicate this on the sign-up sheet. Keep this ministry in your prayers that we might be a blessing and be pleasing to God.

Pastor Sabbatical

We as a congregation are delighted to offer our pastor, Doug Warren, a sabbatical rest for three months starting in January. If you have questions, please see one of the elders. Thank you.

Dates to Remember

CTR Prayer Meetings Park Avenue Church of God, Fridays, **6:30-7:30 am**
Session Meetings (*monthly*) *First and Third Tuesday nights 6:00-9:00*
Sunday School will be suspended on 12/24 and 12/31 and resume on 1/7/07.

SERVICE AND OFFERINGS

	This Week	Next Week
Set Up	Soyster	Perkins
Food	Team	Team
Usher		
Nursery	Wendy & Kaylie Stewart	Gwen Tedder & Pat Grosser
Kid's Q	Paula & Alison Marchand	Steve & Katya Harmon
Sound	Jordan Stewart	Jordan Stewart
Prayer	Robert Crosby	Jim Mansfield

Finances: Last week our collection was \$7,907.00. Thank you for your gifts to the Lord.

MINISTRY STAFF

(207) 878-1211

www.MainePCA.org

Douglas Warren
Per Almquist
Evan Pillsbury
Joanne Crosby

Pastor
Associate Pastor
Musician-in-Residence
Office Manager

Service at Breakwater School 856 Brighton Ave Portland, ME. @ 10:30 AM
Sunday School for all ages at 9:15



CHRIST *the*
REDEEMER

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2006

*Worshipping Christ in Community
As We Celebrate and Extend His Grace
To Portland, New England and the World*