

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Christ the Redeemer Presbyterian Church

December 24, 2006

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT¹

Welcome and Silent Preparation The Reverend Douglas D. Warren

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.

Prelude “Primi Toni from Two Magnificats” *J. Pachelbel²*

Advent Candle Lighting The Glory Candle Steve & Katya Harmon

Leader: Why do we light the Advent candles?
Family: Jesus said, “I am the Light of the world. He who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the Light of Life.”

Leader: What is the meaning of the fourth lighted candle?
Family: The fourth candle is the revelation of God’s glory to his people.

Leader: How does Moses describe the appearance of the glory of God to his people?
Family: Moses describes the glory of the LORD as having the appearance of a pillar of fire or as a pillar of cloud. He tells us that the pillar of fire or cloud led them through the Red Sea, was present on their journey through the desert in the giving of God’s law at Mount Sinai, and then continued with them in the Tabernacle God instructed them to design. Moses also says that when he went into the cloud to speak with God that Aaron and the Israelites were afraid to come near him because his face was radiant.

Leader: What do the Gospels say concerning the glory of Jesus in his Transfiguration?

Family: According to the book of Mark, after six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.) Then a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and a voice came from the cloud: “This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!” (Mark 9:2-7)

***Call to Worship** Isaiah 40:3; Malachi 3:1, Psalm 24 Rev. Warren

Minister: A voice of one calling, “In the desert prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God.

All: He said, “See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come.”

Minister: Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty.
All: We will worship the King. Let us together sing His praises and rejoice together that He reigns above all realms in matchless glory.

***Songs of Exultation** (218) “Angels, from the Realms of Glory” *REGENT SQUARE*
(203) “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” *MENDELSSOHN*

Prayer of Adoration (concluded by praying together): Mr. Robert Crosby

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 First John 1:8-9 Rev. Per Almquist

God’s Word warns us, “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.” It also provides the wonderful truth found only in Christ saying, “If we confess our sins, He who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” In humility and faith let us confess our sin to God.

Song of Preparation (221) “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” *German melody*

Corporate Confession Luther³

O Lord, merciful and mighty, we unworthy sinners, come to You in humble repentance and confess how we have transgressed Your holy Law. We are guilty of sins of omission and commission, evil thoughts, improper words, and wrong deeds. Forgive our iniquity and short-comings for the sake of the suffering and death of our Savior Jesus Christ. Let His obedience cover our disobedience, let His righteousness atone for our unrighteousness. Great God and Helper, You alone can forgive. With all our hearts we thank You for Your boundless mercy. Grant us grace with which we might accept Your gift of forgiveness with true faith and look upon the word of pardon as a message coming from You, assuring us and consoling our hearts before You. Let us treasure Your forgiveness and freely extend it to others by the power of Your resurrection. We pray in the name of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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

Proclamation of Forgiveness Jeremiah 33:8 Rev. Almquist

I will cleanse them from all the guilt of their sin against me, and I will forgive all the guilt of their sin and rebellion against me.

***Song of Renewal** (162) “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” *C. W. Douglass*

***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!*

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

Greeting and Announcements Mrs. Joanne Crosby

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

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

***Scripture Reading** (insert) Deuteronomy 34:1-12 Rev. Per Almquist

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God!

The Sermon “Hope for a Savior” Rev. Warren
Awaiting Our Covenant-Keeping King

The Offertory “When God’s Time Had Ripened” *Daw/Fedak*

***Affirmation of Faith** The Heidelberg Catechism⁴

Minister: What is your only comfort in life and in death?
People: That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of

the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven: in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to Him, Christ, by His Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for Him.

Minister: What must you know to live and die in the joy of this comfort?

People: Three things: first, how great my sin and misery are; second, how I am set free from all my sins and misery; third, how I am to thank God for such deliverance.

***Creed Song** Rev 4 & 5 *Dudley-Smith⁵*

Heavenly hosts in ceaseless worship
Holy, holy, holy’ cry;
He who is, who was and will be,
God Almighty, Lord most high.
Praise and honour, power and glory,
Be to him who reigns alone;
We, with all his hands have fashioned,
Fall before the Father’s throne.

All creation, all redemption,
Join to sing the Saviour’s worth;
Lamb of God, whose blood has bought us
Kings and priests, to reign on earth.
Wealth and wisdom, power and glory,
Honour, might, dominion, praise,
Now be his from all his creatures
And to everlasting days.

CELEBRATING HOLY COMMUNION

A Word About Communion: This is a time for all people to seek the Lord. For Christians, communion is a time to meet with Christ by faith to be strengthened and renewed as they eat bread and drink wine. All those who trust in Jesus 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 participating, we invite you to consider the prayers found below.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Minister: Prepare the way for the King of glory is coming quickly.⁶

People: Let us tear down the hill of our pride and fill in the valleys of poverty, let us make straight the crooked ways of our own self-indulgence.

Minister: Repent for the kingdom of heaven is breaking upon us!

People: Let us produce fruit in keeping with repentance.

Minister: What are we to do? We fail at all these things so often.

All: Jesus, help us. We cannot even do this simple thing of turning back to You from our sin. Our efforts to prepare the way falter; our repentance is half-hearted. Feed us now at Your table that we might have the strength to repent and believe in You. Nurture us in faith and repentance.

Words of Institution & Invitation

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** (214) “Angels We Have Heard on High” *Traditional French melody*

COMMISSIONING FOR SERVICE

***Concluding Prayer** Rev. Warren

***The Benediction** John 14:27

Minister: Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Postlude “Quarti Toni from Two Magnificats” *J. Pachelbel*

Please stay for refreshments and to get to know one another better.

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.

² Previous selections from Three Dances by T. Susato (1551).

³ **Please stand, if you are able. Thank you.**

⁴ Adapted from the Lutheran Book of Prayer.

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⁶ This communion litany reflects both the perfection required by our King of glory born out in Matthew 3:1-12 and the grace that He extends to His children through the work of Christ.

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