

O R D E R O F W O R S H I P

Christ the Redeemer Presbyterian Church

December 31, 2006

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

***Call to Worship¹** Deuteronomy 6:4-9 Rev. Warren

Minister: Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

All: Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

Minister: These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.

All: We will impress them on our children talking about them when we sit at home, when we walk along the road, when we lie down, and when we get up.

***Song of Exultation** (225) “Once in Royal David’s City” Gauntlett

Prayer of Adoration (concluded by praying together): Mr. Jim Mansfield

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. Warren

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 (216) “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” Polish Melody

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, O Lord, I have sinned, and done what is evil in Your sight. So that You are justified when You speak, and blameless when you judge.

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.

Public Profession of Faith in Jesus as King²

Garrett Kinney, Bretton Kinney

Of those who were baptized in infancy as members of the Church of God by birthright, and as heirs of the covenant promises, the session has examined and approved these who come now to assume for themselves the full privileges and responsibilities of their inheritance in the household of faith.

Vows for the Communicant members:

Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope save in His sovereign mercy?

Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?

Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?

Do you promise to support the church in it worship and work to the best of your ability?

Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the church, and promise to promote its purity and peace?

Vow for the congregation:

Do you, members of Christ the Redeemer Presbyterian Church, acknowledge your need for these brothers and sisters in Christ and commit yourselves to their growth in holiness by the grace of God?

Prayer for Communicant Members

Mr. Dick Kurtz

***Song of Renewal** (229) “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child” MacMillan

***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

Praise

Rev. Warren

Requests

Greeting and Announcements

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

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

***Scripture Reading** (insert) Deuteronomy 6:4-9 Mr. Robert Crosby

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

The Sermon “Renewing Vows” Rev. Warren

The Offertory

*Affirmation of Faith

Minister: Christian, what is it that we believe?

People: **We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God

of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us and for our

salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also

for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third

day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*Barocha

Numbers 6:24

The Lord bless you and keep you

The Lord be gracious to you

The Lord make His face shine upon you

The Lord turn His face towards you

And give you peace

And give you peace

And give you peace, forever

And give you peace, forever.

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 feast on Him. 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 & Words of Institution

Minister: Take care and listen closely, for the Lord Himself speaks to His people.

People: **We will love the Lord our God.**

Minister: Love Him with all that you are.

People: **We will love the Lord our God with all our hearts and with all your souls and with all our strength.**

Minister: These commands from the Lord are your life and health.

People: **We will keep them before us at all times, morning and night, at work and play, and be careful to keep the law of our Lord for He alone is God.**

Words of Institution & Invitation

Minister: Our righteousness is only in the careful obedience of Christ our Redeemer.

People: **Our obedience now is a joyous declaration of our dependence on Him and our love for the God who alone has saved us.**

Partaking the Means of Grace Together

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** (210) “Silent Night! Holy Night!” Gruber

***Concluding Prayer** Rev. Warren

***The Benediction** John 14:27 Rev. Warren

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

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

² These young people took a class to discuss God’s means of grace and have spent months preparing to stand before you today declaring their need for Jesus to save them and their faith in Him to do so.

³ The Nicene Creed originated at the Council of Nicea (325). It was formulated to answer heresies that denied the biblical doctrine of the Trinity and of the person of Christ.

¹ The “Shema” is recited twice daily in Judaism. The name is from its first Hebrew word which means “listen.”

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

⁴ Adapted from the Lutheran Book of Prayer.

Reflections

“If we are to better the future we must disturb the present.”

— Catherine Booth

“Reading God’s hand into circumstances can be an evasion of genuine commitment to being His person in them. It can be an insidious alternative to giving Him your heart—because it keeps your attention directed outward rather than inward, where His chisel bites.... We have elevated coincidence to the status of miracle, and the interpretation of coincidence to gospel. We can routinely ask God to intervene in our circumstances while hoping He’ll keep His nose out of inner things like our spiritual indifference and pride.”

— John Boykin

Q. Why is the Lord’s body represented by bread and his blood by wine?

A. To teach us that such power as bread has in nourishing our bodies for the support of the present life, the same is in the body of the Lord for the spiritual nourishment of our souls; and that as by wine the hearts of men are exhilarated, their strength refreshed, and the whole man invigorated, so our souls receive like benefits from the Lord’s blood.

— John Calvin

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.

Musicians: David Stewart, vocalist; SarahBeth Pillsbury, violin; Meredith Bolton, Harp;
Matthew Pillsbury, piano.

Serving Communion: Doug Warren and Jim Mansfield.

CHRIST THE REDEEMER

Highlights.....December 31, 2006

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today

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

Next Sunday

Calling all College, High School, and Teen Students (and any adults who like to pay basketball). On January 7th join us for lunch and then play basketball together, following the worship service. Bring either chips or drinks and we’ll take donations towards buying a big Subway sandwich. For more information see Nate or Sharie Pillsbury.

Home Fellowship

Home Fellowship Groups are one of the most important parts of life here 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- @ Ballada’s home- 767-6002, Teen group @ Pillsbury’s home- 883-2460 Gorham-Marchand’s home- 839-9877, Gray, Windham, Casco region-Crosby phone 657-2445.

The Truth Project

Beginning January a new Sunday morning study class will be offered. The Truth Project is an audio-visual curriculum with Dr. Del Tackett. It consists of thirteen, one hour, class sessions and offers training on how to understand the truth claims of the Bible over/against the claims of the popular culture. The sessions move rapidly and also feature R C Sproul, Ravi Zacharias and Oz Guinness. It is interesting and appropriate for mature young people as well.

SERVICE AND OFFERINGS

Set Up

Food
Team

Usher

Nursery
Kid’s Q
Sound
Prayer

Jake & Monique Paris
Sarah & Katherine Cosgrove
Jordan Stewart
Jim Mansfield

Sarah Peters & Trisha Scribellito
Linda & Dan Southwick
Jordan Stewart
Doug Tedder

Finances: Last week our collection was \$9,983.00. Thank you for your gifts to the Lord.

MINISTRY STAFF

(207) 878-1211

www.MainePCA.org

Douglas Warren
Per Almquist
Evan Pillsbury
Joanne Crosby

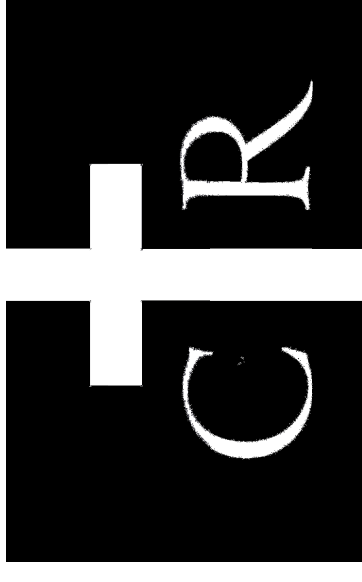
Pastor
Associate Pastor
Musician-in-Residence
Office Manager

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 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.



CHRIST the REDEEMER

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2006

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