

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## Christ the Redeemer Presbyterian Church

March 25, 2007

### Welcome and Silent Preparation

The Reverend Per Almquist

*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** “The Church’s One Foundation” *S. Stone*<sup>1</sup>

**\*Call to Worship** from Isaiah 48 and Psalm 148 The Reverend David Stewart

Minister: “Listen to me, O Jacob, and Israel, whom I called! I am he; I am the first, and I am the last. My hand laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand spread out the heavens; when I call to them, they stand forth together. Assemble, all of you, and listen!

**All: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights! Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his majesty is above earth and heaven.**

**\*Song of Exultation** (Insert) “Lord Most High” *Medema*<sup>2</sup>

**\*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** Isaiah 59:1-2 Rev. Almquist

Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.

**Song of Preparation** (Insert) “Jesus, With Thy Church Abide” *T. Pollock*<sup>3</sup>

### Corporate Confession<sup>4</sup>

O changeless God, under the conviction of your Spirit,  
I learn that the more I do, the worse I am; the more I know, the less I know;  
The more holiness I have, the more sinful I see that I am,  
The more I love, the greater the vastness of love.  
O Lord, I have a wild heart, and cannot stand before you;  
How little I love your truth and ways!  
I neglect prayer, by thinking I have prayed enough and earnestly,  
Of all hypocrites, grant that I may not be an evangelical hypocrite,  
Who sins more safely because grace abounds,

Who tells his lusts that Christ’s blood cleanses them,  
Who reasons that God cannot cast him into hell, for he is saved.  
Who loves evangelical preaching, churches, and Christians, but lives an unholy life.

My mind is a bucket without a bottom, with no spiritual understanding;  
Ever learning but never reaching the truth;  
Always at the gospel well but never holding water.  
My conscience is without conviction or contrition, with nothing to repent of.  
My will is without power of decision or resolution.  
My heart is without affection, and full of leaks.  
My memory has no retention, so I forget easily the lessons learned, and your truths seep away.

Holy Father, give me a broken heart that yet carries home the water of grace.

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

**Proclamation of Forgiveness** Isaiah 54:9-10 Rev. Almquist

“This is like the days of Noah to me: as I swore that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth, so I have sworn that I will not be angry with you, and will not rebuke you. For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed,” says the Lord, who has compassion on you.

**\*Song of Renewal** (498) “Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners” *HYFRYDOL*

**\*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 God’s Grace** Vicki & Danielle Woodward

**Prayers for Christ’s Church and the World** Mr. Richard Kurtz

*We desire to be praying with and for you. To this end, we encourage any who would like prayer to contact an elder of the church this morning or throughout the week, to fill out a prayer card and place it in the offering, or to contact the church office so that we may be praying with and for you.*

After each petition:

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

**People: Hear our prayer.**

### Greeting and Announcements

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

### PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

**\*Scripture Reading** (insert) Acts 15:22-35 Mr. Jim Mansfield

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

**The Sermon** The Church Catholic Rev. Almquist

#### The Essence of the Church

*Sermon Series on the Book of Acts*

**The Offertory** “The Gospel Song” *D. Jones*<sup>5</sup>

**\*Affirmation of Faith** The Westminster Confession of Faith<sup>6</sup>

**The catholic or universal Church, which is invisible, consists of the whole number of the elect, that have been, are, or shall be gathered into one, under**

**Christ the Head thereof; and is the spouse, the body, the fulness of Him that filleth all in all.**

**The visible Church, which is also catholic or universal under the Gospel (not confined to one nation, as before under the law), consists of all those throughout the world that profess the true religion; and of their children: and is the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ, the house and family of God, out of which there is no ordinary possibility of salvation.**

**\*Creed Song** (Insert- v1 & 2) “The Church’s One Foundation” *S. Stone*<sup>7</sup>

### 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: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>8</sup>

**People: And the second is like it: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” All the Law and Prophets hang on these two commandments.**

Minister: All who rely on observing the law are under a curse...Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us.

**People: He will save his people from their sins.**  
**All: Lord, have mercy on us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

### Words of Institution & Invitation

Minister: We come to this table as lawbreakers.

**People: For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.**

Minister: We come to this table as the holy people of God.

**People: Jesus the righteous One has made us a holy nation, God’s own people.**

### Drawing Near in Community of Faith

*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** (Insert) “At The Cross” *Butler*<sup>9</sup>

### COMMISSIONING FOR SERVICE

**\*Concluding Prayer** Rev. Almquist

**\*The Benediction** Ephesians 3:20-21

Minister: Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever.

**People: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**Postlude** “Lord Most High” *Harris/Sadler*

<sup>7</sup> Words by Samuel Stone, Music by Brian Moss, © 1996 Parson John Publishing CCLI License No. 1958155

<sup>8</sup> The Law of God has been used in conjunction with the Lord’s Supper for centuries. It is especially appropriate as we understand that it is only through Christ’s sustaining grace that we are able to keep God’s perfect law. May He strengthen us to walk in the light as He is in the light.. The communion litany is taken from the following passages: Matthew 22:37-40, Galatians 3:10, 13, Matthew 1:21, Romans 3:23, and 1 Peter 2:9-10.

<sup>9</sup> © 1993 Mercy / Vineyard Publishing (Admin. by Music Services) CCLI License No. 1958155

<sup>1</sup> Words by Samuel Stone, Music by Brian Moss, © 1996 Parson John Publishing CCLI License No. 1958155

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

<sup>2</sup> Copyright © 1973, Hope Publishing Co. CCLI License No. 1958155.

<sup>3</sup> Words by Thomas Pollock, Music by Christopher Miner, © 1997 Christopher Miner Music, CCLI License No. 1958155.

<sup>4</sup> A Puritan prayer taken from *The Valley of Vision* edited by Arthur Bennett

<sup>5</sup> Words: Drew Jones, Music: Bob Kauflin, © 2002 Sovereign Grace Praise. CCLI License No. 1958155.

<sup>6</sup> Chapter 25 – The Westminster Confession of Faith was written in London in 1647 as a statement of belief for the church. It is both careful in its theology and deeply pastoral in its discussion of that theology.

# Reflections

Unity and diversity, and never one without the other...

—Albert Camus

"What is a drop of rain, compared to the storm? What is a thought, compared to a mind? Our unity is full of wonder, which your tiny individualism... cannot even conceive."

—The Many, *System Shock 2*

We must assert that there *can* be only one Christian family, only one Christian faith, hope and baptism, and only one Christian body, because there is only one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You can no more multiply churches than you can multiply Gods. Is there only one God? Then he has only one church...The unity of the church is as indestructible as the unity of God himself. It is no more possible to split the church than it is possible to split the Godhead.

— John R.W. Stott, *The Message of Ephesians*

## 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: Evan and Kathryn Pillsbury, vocalists; Mike Marchand, bass, Jake Paris, hand percussion; Matthew Pillsbury, accompanist.  
Serving Communion: Dave Stewart and Richard Kurtz.

## CHRIST THE REDEEMER

# Highlights.....March 25, 2007

### OPPORTUNITIES TO PRAY TOGETHER

Friday Morning Prayer- <i>Park Ave Church of God-Portland</i>	Fridays at 6:30 AM
Sunday Morning Prayer- <i>Breakwater School</i>	Sundays at 8:30 AM
Women's Bible Study- <i>Margaret Pearson-774-0524</i>	<i>twice monthly</i> Thursdays at 5:00 PM
Home Fellowship Groups	
Casco, Windham, Gray Region- <i>Robert Crosby-657-2445</i>	<i>weekly</i> Wednesdays at 6:30 PM
South Portland-@ <i>Ballada home-767-6002-teacher Dave Stewart 221-2784</i>	<i>1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup></i> Sundays at 5:30 PM
Gorham-@ <i>Marchand home-839-9877-teacher Dave Stewart 221-2784</i>	<i>2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup></i> Sundays at 5:30 PM

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Today

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

#### Palm Sunday

Next Sunday Pastor Warren will be back and ready to preach. He also wants a time to speak to us about his Sabbatical. There will be lunch type snacks served after the service so that we can get together with Pastor Warren and let him share with us at that time. Please make an effort to stay. It will mean a great deal to him to see you and talk with you.

#### Tenebrae Service

There will be an American Tenebrae Service here at Breakwater on Thursday April 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. This will be a service of scripture and song based on the passion according to St. Luke. There are postcards on the welcome table available for you to take and give out to those you want to invite.

#### Easter Sunday April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007

There will be **no Sunday School** on Easter Sunday. This is not more time for us to primp in front of the mirror that morning but a time to encourage us to take the extra time to remember that we are people broken by our sin and in need of the promise of God guaranteed by the resurrection of Christ. Our friends, family, and neighbors around us are also broken and need to hear the good new of Easter-so invite someone to celebrate with us that morning.

#### Dates to Remember

CTR Prayer Meetings	Fridays at 6:30 AM
Session Meetings	First and Third Tuesday evenings- 6:00-9:00 PM
<b>Weekend to Remember-see brochures on welcome table.</b>	<b>May 4-6th, 2007</b>
Vacation Bible School	July 23-27, 2007
Church Retreat	September 21-22, 2007

### SERVICE AND OFFERINGS

	This Week	Next Week
Set Up	Pillsbury	Woodward
Food	Team	Team
Usher		
Nursery	Margaret Pearson & Joanne Crosby	Sarah Peters, Trisha Scribellito
Kid's Q	Kathryn Pillsbury	Linda & Noah Southwick
Sound	Jordan Stewart	Jordan Stewart
Prayer	Dick Kurtz	Doug Tedder

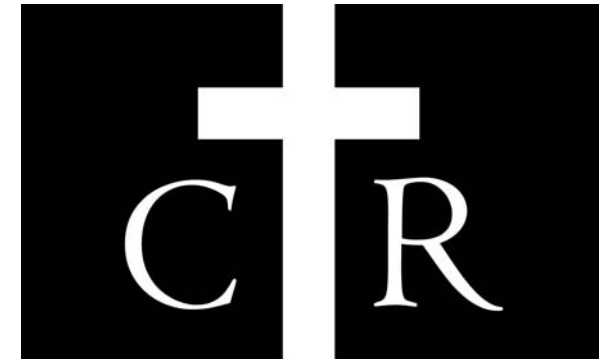
Finances: Last week our collection was \$2,130.00. Thank you for your gifts to the Lord.

### MINISTRY STAFF

(207) 878-1211 [www.MainePCA.org](http://www.MainePCA.org)

Douglas Warren	Pastor
Per Almquist	Associate Pastor
Evan Pillsbury	Musician-in-Residence
Joanne Crosby	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, MARCH 25, 2007

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