

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Christ the Redeemer Presbyterian Church

December 2, 2007

The First 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

Advent Candle Lighting

The Warren Family

*Call to Worship

Isaiah 6

Rev. Warren

Minister: I saw the Lord, seated on a throne, high and exalted,

All: And the train of his robe filled the temple.

Minister: Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: with two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another:

All: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.”

*Hymn of Exultation (195)

“Joy to the World”

Handel

*Prayer of Adoration

(concluded by praying together):

Mr. Doug Tedder

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 30:15-18

Rev. Warren

In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it. Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; He rises to show you compassion. For the Lord is God of justice. Blessed are those who wait for Him!

Song of Preparation (Insert)

“God Be Merciful To Me”

Miner²

Corporate Confession

Rev. Warren

Holy Father, we want to rest in You and know the peace found only in trusting You for all Your promises. Please forgive us for our restlessness. Have mercy on us for the manifold ways in which we distrust You and strive in our own efforts to accomplish

that which You alone are able to do. We confess that we are a faithless people and You alone are Faithful. Teach us to trust You and to obey You as we should.

Silent Reflection/Confession

Please take a few moments to pray privately

Proclamation of Forgiveness

Hebrews 2:18

Rev. Warren

Because Jesus Himself suffered when He was tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted.

*Song of Renewal (283)

“I’ll Praise My Maker While I’ve Breath”

Watts

*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

Requests

Rev. Warren

Greeting and Announcements

Mrs. Terry Cosgrove

Children ages 3-6 are excused to **Kids’ Quest** at this time.

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

*Scripture Reading (insert)

Hebrews 5:1-6:3

Mr. Brian Cosgrove

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

The Sermon

Rest Can Only Come through Redemption

Rev. Doug Warren

Sermon Series on the Book of Hebrews

The Life of Faith—Rooted in God’s Promises, Running to the New Jerusalem

The Offertory

*Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles’ Creed³

Minister: Christian, what do you believe concerning God, the Father?

People: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

Minister: What do you believe concerning Jesus?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and buried; He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

Minister: Christian, what do you believe concerning the Holy Spirit and His work?

People: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic⁴ church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

Amen

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 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: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up unto the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Words of Institution & Invitation

Minister: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Minister: O Lamb of God, that takes away the sin of the world,

People: Have mercy upon us!

Minister: O Lamb of God, that takes away the sin of the world,

People: Grant us your peace!

Minister: Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.

People: Therefore, let us keep the feast.

Minister: The gifts of God for the people of God.

Approaching the King’s Feast

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 (535)

“O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus!”

Williams

COMMISSIONING FOR SERVICE

*Concluding Prayer

Rev. Warren

*The Benediction

Hebrews 13:20-21

Rev. Warren

Minister: Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Postlude

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 © 1997 Christopher Miner Music. Words by Richard Redhead, music by Christopher Miner. CCLI No 1958155.

³ The Apostles’ Creed is a concise summary of the teachings of the apostles. Originally used as a baptismal confession in the second century, it was developed into its current form by the sixth or seventh century.

⁴ The term “catholic” is used here in its generic sense of the universal church, not to refer to a denomination.

Reflections

“The gospel produces rest; restlessness is always a sign of unbelief. Knowing the love of God sets you free to work hard with a restful heart.”

— C. John (Jack) Miller

“How [do we make every moment count for God]? Not by frenzied rushing to pack a quart of activity into a pint of time (a common present-day error), but by an ordered life-style in which, within the set rhythm of toil and rest, work and worship, due time is allotted to sleep, family, wage-earning, homemaking, prayer, recreation, and so on, so that we master time instead of being mastered by it.”

— J.I. Packer

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: Eric Mathis, vocalist; Johnathan Bauer, accompanist.
Serving Communion: Doug Warren and Doug Tedder.

CHRIST THE REDEEMER

Highlights.....December 2, 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> Day Varies at 5:00 PM
Word and Deed Ministry- <i>Jeanne Mansfield 647-8487</i>	<i>every other Thursday at Noon</i>
Home Fellowship Groups	
Casco, Windham, Gray Region- <i>Robert Crosby-657-2445</i>	<i>varies</i> Wednesdays at 6:30 PM
Gorham- <i>@ Marchand home-839-9877-teacher Dave Stewart 712-9826</i>	<i>2nd and 4th</i> Sundays at 5:30 PM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today

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

Welcome to Christ the Redeemer Class

This is a class for those who want to learn more about CTR. It is being held on Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. and will run for four weeks (12/2-23). This is required for all new members, but open to all. Questions? Talk to Pastor Warren.

Teen Home Fellowship Today

The next meeting will be today after the worship service. The meeting will be at the home of Nate and Sharie Pillsbury. If you have any questions speak to Nate or Sharie.

Root Cellar Dinner

On December 6th we will be the host church to serve dinner at The Root Cellar. There are sign up sheets on the back table. Please consider cooking part of the meal or buying part of it. There is also opportunity to help serve the food or sit at the tables and visit with the neighbors who come.

Installation Service

Next Sunday, December 9th, there will be a special service to install David Stewart as an Associate Pastor at CTR. Please plan to attend this special service of celebration. It will be at 4:00 p.m. A dinner will follow the service.

Dates to Remember

Session Meetings	First and Third Tuesday evenings- 6:00-9:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Service	Monday Dec 24 th at 5:00 p.m.

SERVICE AND OFFERINGS

	This Week	Next Week
Set Up	Woodward Team	Warren Team
Nursery	April and Nathan Mathis	Wendy & Kaylie Stewart
Kid's Q	Linda and Noah Southwick	Paula & Alison Marchand
Prayer	Doug Tedder	Robert Crosby

Finances: Last week our collection was \$2,388.00. Thank you for your gifts to the Lord.

MINISTRY STAFF

(207) 878-1211 www.MainePCA.org

Douglas Warren	Pastor
Per Almquist	Associate Pastor
David Stewart	Associate Pastor
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, DECEMBER 2, 2007

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