

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Christ the Redeemer Presbyterian Church

December 16, 2007

The Third Sunday of Advent¹

Welcome and Silent Preparation

The Reverend Douglas 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 Rest Candle

Kinney Family

*Call to Worship

Isaiah40:3; 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.

*Song of Exultation (218)

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

REGENT SQUARE

*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

Song of Preparation (Insert)

“At the Name of Jesus”

Gilley²

Scriptural Call to Repentance

Isaiah 60:1-3

Rev. Warren

Minister: Arise, shine: for your light has come.

All: O God, we live as if the light had never defeated the darkness.

Minister: And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

All: We confess that we ignore the Christ You sent to be among us.

Minister: For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and His glory will be seen upon you.

All: We have kept the birth of Your Son confined to the Christmas season and do not yearn for His birth each moment in our waiting hearts.

Minister: Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

All: Lord, You came to us in the fullness of time. Forgive us for not opening our eyes to Your coming. It’s time that we prepare for Your coming. Let the earth ring with the song. Let the light break forth. Let us all rejoice in the miracle of Christ’s coming and extend that wonder to our neighbors, coworkers and friends.

Corporate Confession

Rev. Warren

Gracious Lord, we confess now that we dishonor You in our words and thoughts and deeds. Depending on our own strength we stumble; proclaiming our own goodness, we sin; glorying in our own righteousness we corrupt everything we touch. Turning our faces from You, Lord, we desire the things of this world to satisfy us. We pray now, Lord, for You to forgive all of our many sins; to cleanse the darkness from our lives, and to turn our faces and our hearts back towards You. We pray these things in the name of Your most precious son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silent Reflection/Confession

Please take a few moments to pray privately

Proclamation of Forgiveness

Romans 8:1

Rev. Warren

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Song of Renewal (644)

“May the Mind of Christ, My Savior”

ST LEONARDS

*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

Officer Nominations

Rev. Warren

Prayers for Christ’s Church and the World

Mr. Mansfield

Greeting and Announcements

Mrs. Kristen Warren

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

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

*Scripture Reading (insert)

Hebrews 7:4-28

Mr. Nathan Pillsbury

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

The Sermon

A Better Hope

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 Nicene Creed³

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 catholic⁴ 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.

*Gloria Patri

Greatorex

Glory be to the Father

Is now and ever shall be

And to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

World without end.

As it was in the beginning

Amen. 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: Behold, the Lamb of God⁵

People: Who takes away the sin of the world!

Words of Institution & Invitation

Minister: Believe in the Lord, and give Him eternal praise and thanks!

People: Lord Christ, help us to believe in You and always give You thanks and praise.

Minister: Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.

People: This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast.

Minister: Christ said, “I am the bread of life.”

People: He is our portion and our life.

Approaching Christ’s Communion 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 (585)

“Take My Life, and Let It Be”

HENDON

*Concluding Prayer

Rev. Warren

COMMISSIONING FOR SERVICE

*The Benediction

Second Corinthians 13:14

Rev. Warren

Minister: The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

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.**

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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.

⁴ The term “catholic” here means universal and does not mean any particular denomination.

⁵ This communion litany is based on the one used in Strassburg, Switzerland in the dawning of the Protestant Reformation. The Scriptural quotations are from Hebrews and the Gospel of John.

Reflections

“Praise God for Christmas. Praise Him for the incarnation, for the word made flesh. I will not sing of shepherds watching flocks on frosty nights, or angel choristers. I will not sing of a stable bare in Bethlehem, or lowing oxen, wise men trailing star with gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Tonight I will sing praise to the Father who stood on heaven's threshold and said farewell to his Son as he stepped across the stars to Bethlehem and Jerusalem. And I will sing praise to the infinite, eternal Son, who became most finite, a baby who would one day be executed for my crime. Praise him in the heavens, Praise him in the stable, Praise him in my heart.”

—Joseph Bayly

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, vocalist; Matthew Pillsbury, accompanist.
Serving Communion: Doug Warren and Jim Mansfield.

CHRIST THE REDEEMER

Highlights.....December 16, 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>	twice monthly Tuesdays at 5:00 PM
Home Fellowship Groups	
Casco, Windham, Gray Region- <i>Robert Crosby-657-2445</i>	varies Wednesdays at 6:30 PM
Gorham- <i>@ Marchand home-839-9877-teacher Dave Stewart 712-9826</i>	2 nd and 4 th Sundays at 5:30 PM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today

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

Officer Nominations

We are accepting nominations for candidates for elder and deacon through the end of this month. Please prayerfully consider who in the congregation has been demonstrating God's gifts in these areas of servant leadership, speak to them, and place their names in nomination. If you have any questions, please ask one of the pastors. Thank you.

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.

Gorham Home Fellowship

The next fellowship time will be TODAY after the worship service. Meet at the Marchand's home at 1:30 p.m. for lunch. Bring the whole family for this special time together.

Christmas Eve

On Monday December 24th at 5:00 p.m. we will have a Christmas Eve Service here at Breakwater School. Be sure to save this date to gather together in celebration of our saviors' birth.

Dates to Remember

Session Meetings First and Third Tuesday evenings- 6:00-9:00 p.m.

SERVICE AND OFFERINGS

	This Week	Next Week
Set Up	Perkins Team	Pillsbury Team
Nursery	Doug & Gwen Tedder	Joanne Crosby & Margaret Pearson
Kid's Q	Terry & Katherine Cosgrove	Joanne Crosby
Prayer	Jim Mansfield	Per Almquist

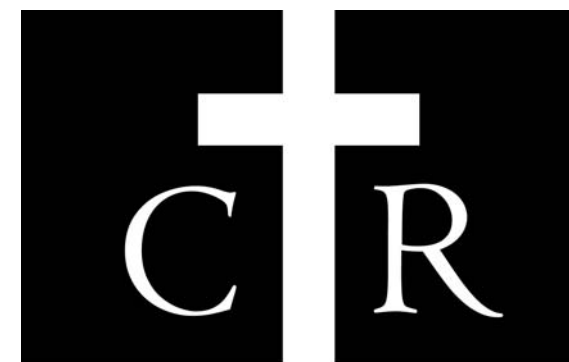
Finances: Last week our collection was \$9,295.00. Gifts to the Deacons Fund were \$705.00. Thank you for your gifts to the Lord.

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 16, 2007

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