

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## Christ the Redeemer Presbyterian Church

December 23, 2007

*The Fourth Sunday of Advent<sup>1</sup>*

### 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 New Jerusalem Candle

Kinney Family

### \*Call to Worship

Hebrews 1:1-3

Rev. Warren

Minister: In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.

**All: The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.**

Minister: After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

**All: Let us praise and worship our Lord Jesus who is the promised Christ.**

**\*Song of Exultation** (207) “Good Christian Men, Rejoice” *ADESTE FIDELES*  
(203) “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” *Wesley*

**\*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. 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** (221) “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

*German melody*

### Corporate Confession

Luther<sup>2</sup>

O Lord, merciful and mighty, we unworthy sinners, come to Thee 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. Warren

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** (211) “God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen”

*English melody*

**\*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

Mr. Crosby

*Praise*

*Requests*

### Greeting and Announcements

Ms. Cynthia Setchell

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

## PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

### \*Scripture Reading (insert)

Hebrews 8:1-13

Mr. Dana Perkins

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

### The Sermon

**Tabernacled with Us**

Rev. 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 Heidelberg Catechism<sup>3</sup>

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-Smith<sup>4</sup>*

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: God spoke these words, and said, “I am the Lord thy God:<sup>5</sup>

**People: You shall have no other gods before Me.**

Minister: You shall not make for yourself any graven image . . . you shall not bow down to them nor serve them: for I the Lord your God am a jealous God.

**People: You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that takes His name in vain.**

Minister: Remember the Sabbath-day to keep it holy.

**People: Honor your father and mother, that your days may be long in the land which the Lord your God is giving you.**

Minister: You shall not kill.

**People: You shall not commit adultery.**

Minister: You shall not steal.

**People: You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.**

Minister: You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

**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

*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”

*French melody*

## COMMISSIONING FOR SERVICE

### \*Concluding Prayer

Rev. Dave Stewart

### \*The Benediction

John 14:27

Rev. Stewart

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.**

<sup>1</sup> 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.

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

<sup>2</sup> Adapted from the Lutheran Book of Prayer.

<sup>3</sup> Catechisms are a question and answer format used for teaching in the church. The Heidelberg Catechism was written in 1563 and approved by the Church at the Synod of Dort (1618-1619).

<sup>4</sup> USA©1978 by Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188. CCLI License No. 1958155.

<sup>5</sup> The Ten Commandments have 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.

## Reflections

“The angel described the new-born Savior as ‘Christ’. There is His manhood, for it was as man that He was anointed. But the angel also rightly called Him ‘Christ the Lord.’ There is His Godhead. This is the solid truth upon which we plant our foot. Jesus of Nazareth is ‘very God of very God.’ He who was born in Bethlehem's manger is now, and always was, ‘over all, God blessed for ever.’

“There is no God at all if Christ be not God. It is no news to me to tell me that a great prophet is born. There have been great prophets before; but the world has never been redeemed from evil by mere testimony to the truth, and it never will be. But tell me that God is born, that God Himself has espoused our nature, and taken it into union with Himself, then the bells of my heart ring merry peals, for now may I come to God since God has come to me.

“God has sent an Ambassador who inspires no fear. Not with helmet and coat of mail, not with sword or spear, does Heaven's Herald approach us; but the white flag is held in the hand of a Child, in the hand of One chosen out of the people, in the hand of One who died, in the hand of One who, though He reigns in glory, wears the nailprints still.”

—Charles Spurgeon, Christ's Incarnation

### 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: Cynthia Setchell, vocalist; David Stewart, trumpet; Zack Stewart, trumpet; Matthew Pillsbury, accompanist.

Serving Communion: Doug Warren and Robert Crosby.

## CHRIST THE REDEEMER

# Highlights.....December 23, 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> Tuesdays at 5:00 PM
<b>Home Fellowship Groups</b>	
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.

#### 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.

#### 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

#### Sunday School

There will be no Sunday School on December 31<sup>st</sup>. We will resume classes January 6<sup>th</sup>.

### SERVICE AND OFFERINGS

	This Week	Next Week
Set Up	Pillsbury Team	Fifth Week Team
Nursery	Margaret Pearson & Joanne Crosby	Doug & Gwen Tedder
Kid's Q	Joanne Crosby	Terry & Katherine Cosgrove
Prayer	Doug Tedder	David Stewart

**Finances:** Last week our collection was \$550.00. Thank you for your gifts to the Lord.

### MINISTRY STAFF

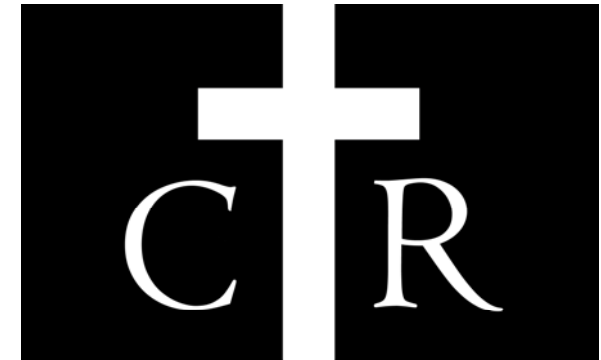
(207) 878-1211 [www.MainePCA.org](http://www.MainePCA.org)

Douglas Warren	Pastor
Per Almquist	Associate Pastor
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 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



S U N D A Y , D E C E M B E R 2 3 , 2 0 0 7

*Worshipping Christ in Community  
As We Celebrate and Extend His Grace  
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