

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Christ the Redeemer Presbyterian Church

March 16, 2008
*Palm Sunday*¹

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

*** Call to Worship** Matthew 21 Rev. Warren

Minister: Say to the daughter of Zion, “Behold your king is coming to you,”

All: Humble and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.”

Minister: And the crowds went before him and followed him shouting,

All: “Hosanna to the Son of David!

Minister: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

All: Hosanna in the highest!”

***Song of Exultation** (8) “Mighty God, While Angels Bless You” *Love*

Children with their parents’ permission may come forward during the singing to lay their palm fronds at the front.

***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 (597) “Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire” *Hopson*

Scriptural Call to Repentance Hebrews 4:14-16 Rev. Almquist

Knowing that we have a great High Priest who has entered the inmost heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us therefore approach the throne of grace with fullest confidence, that we may receive mercy for our failures and grace to help in the hour of need. *In the strength of this assurance, let us confess our sins to God.*

Corporate Confession Rev. Almquist

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. Almquist

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

***Scripture Reading** (page 385) Psalm 24:1-10 Mrs. Kristen Warren

Reader: This is God’s Word.

People: His Word is Holy and true!

***Song of Renewal** (131) “Children of the Heavenly Father” *Swedish melody*

***The Peace of God** *This is an opportunity to extend the grace of Christ to one another.*

Minister: The King has made His peace with His people. May the peace of the Lord be always with you!

People: *And also with you!*

Prayers for Christ’s Church and the World Rev. Warren
Praise Requests

Greeting and Announcements Mrs. Kristen Warren

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

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

***Scripture Reading** (page 836) Hebrews 13:1-9 Mr. Nathan Pillsbury

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

The Sermon “Seeking the City to Come” Rev. Warren
The Life of Faith—Rooted in God’s Promises, Running to the New Jerusalem

The Offertory

***Affirmation of Faith** The First Catechism²

Minister: How is Christ your King?

People: He rules over me and defends me.

Minister: Why do you need Christ as your King?

People: Because I am weak and helpless.

***Gloria Patri** *Greatorex*

Glory be to the Father
And to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning

Is now and ever shall be
World without end.
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: The crowds rightly declared Jesus the King.

People: But they refused to submit to His reign.

Minister: So too have we as we continue in our sin and rebellion.

People: Lord, help us to submit to Your righteous reign. Grant us grace that we may love and obey You as we ought.

Words of Institution & Invitation

Minister: You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.³

People: Once we were not a people, but now we are the people of God;

Minister: Once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

People: To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

Minister: Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.”

People: We do repent and return to Christ, our glorious King and Savior.

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** (429) “Let Thy Blood in Mercy Poured” *Cruiger*

***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 observance of Palm Sunday originated in the fourth century based on the Scriptural account of the gospels regarding the triumphant entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem. This begins what has been historically called Holy Week. We encourage all followers of Christ to join with us in a special time of prayer and fasting this week and especially on Good Friday.

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

² Catechisms are teaching tools using a question and answer format to commit Biblical truths to memory. The First Catechism is based on the Westminster Shorter Catechism which is part of our church’s doctrinal standards.

³ Litany adapted from First Peter chapter two to remind us of the connection between Christ’s Lordship and our obedience. We do not obey first and then receive God’s blessing, but the gospel calls us to celebrate the wonder that we have been made God’s people so that we might declare His praises in holy living. This is a reaffirmation of what we have been learning in Hebrews. Let us not just read it, but live it as well.

Reflections

“If the crowds’ identification of Jesus as the Davidic king was correct, they missed the paradoxical character of that kingship. The irony was that the king, who really was the promised Messiah, came to Jerusalem not as a warrior upon a stallion but humbly as a servant – indeed, as the servant who had come to die. The goal was a more fundamental salvation and a kingdom that was universal in scope, one that far transcended the limited horizon of the crowds.”

— Donald Hagner

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: Cynthia Setchell, vocalist; Johnathan Bauer, accompanist.
Serving Communion: Doug Warren and Jim Mansfield.

CHRIST THE REDEEMER

Highlights.....March 16, 2008

OPPORTUNITIES TO PRAY TOGETHER

Friday Prayer-Eggspectation Restaurant So Portland

Fridays at Noon

Sunday Morning Prayer-Breakwater School

Sundays at 8:30 AM

Home Fellowship Groups

Casco, Windham, Gray Region-Robert Crosby-657-2445

2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 6:30 PM

Gorham-@ Marchand home-839-9877-teacher Dave Stewart 712-9826

2nd and 4th Sundays at 5:30 PM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today

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

NNE Missions Conference

The Manchester Church of the Redeemer will be hosting our presbytery’s mission’s conference on **April 18-19, 2008**. **Donald A. Carson** will be speaking about Missions in the 1st and 21st centuries. We will hear from a missionary to Spain and reports from our mission trips to Romania and New Orleans. Housing in Manchester is available. There will be a special program for the children. It will be a great time of learning, and a great time of fellowship with folks from the churches in our presbytery. Brochures are available on the greeter table. **Please register this month.**

Aletha Silvester Camp Scholarship

Aletha was a member of CTR and upon her death a fund was set up in her memory. Aletha loved summer camp and wanted to provide a way for other young ladies to attend Christian Camps. If you or someone you know is a young lady interested in this scholarship let us know at the church office. There is a one page application to complete to be considered for this scholarship.

Dates to Remember

Session Meetings

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

NNE Presbytery Meeting

April 12, 2008

VBS-Sports Camps

July 28-Aug 1, 2008

Church Retreat

September 19-20, 2008

SERVICE AND OFFERINGS

	This Week	Next Week
Set Up	Perkins Team	Pillsbury Team
Nursery	Doug & Gwen Tedder	Joanne Crosby & Margaret Pearson
Kid’s Q	Steve & Katya Harmon	Joanne Crosby
Prayer	Jim Mansfield	Dick Kurtz

MINISTRY STAFF

(207) 878-1211 www.MainePCA.org

Douglas Warren

Pastor

Per Almquist

Associate Pastor

David Stewart

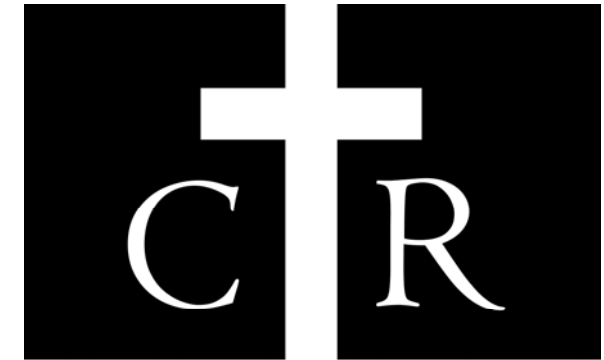
Associate Pastor

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, MARCH 16, 2008

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