

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Christ the Redeemer Presbyterian Church

September 21, 2008

The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost¹

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

*Call to Worship

Psalm 67

Rev. Warren

Minister: May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face shine upon us,

All: That Your ways may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations.

Minister: May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise You. May the nations be glad and sing for joy,

All: For You rule the peoples justly and guide the nations of the earth.

Minister: May the peoples praise You, O God; may all the peoples praise You. Then the land will yield its harvest, and God, our God, will bless us.

All: God will bless us, and all the ends of the earth will fear Him.

***Song of Exultation** (7) “From All That Dwell below the Skies” *DUKE STREET*

*Prayer of Adoration *(concluded by praying together):*

Mr. Nathan Pillsbury

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 (257) “Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted” *Paderborn*

Scriptural Call to Repentance

Hebrews 4:14-16

The Reverend Per 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 96) Numbers 6:1-21

Mr. Dana Perkins

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

***Song of Renewal** (343) “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”

REGENT SQUARE

*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

Rev. Almquist

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 97) Numbers 6:22-27

Mrs. Kristen Warren

Reader: These are the commands and regulations the Lord gave through Moses . . .

People: To the Israelites on the plains of Moab by the Jordan across from Jericho.

The Sermon

“Blessed by God”

Rev. Warren

Sermon Series on Numbers: In the Wilderness with God’s Perfect Presence

The Offertory

*Affirmation of Faith

The Nicene Creed²

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 catholic³ 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.

*Barocha

Numbers 6:24

Card⁴

The Lord bless you and keep you

The Lord make His face shine upon you

And give you peace

And give you peace

And give you peace, forever

The Lord be gracious to you

The Lord turn His face towards you

And give you peace

And give you peace

And give you peace, forever.

CELEBRATION OF 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** (384) “Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing” *Sicilian melody*

*Concluding Prayer

Rev. Warren

COMMISSIONING FOR SERVICE

*The Benediction

Numbers 6:24-27

Rev. Warren

Minister: *The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace. So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.*

People: Thanks be to God for He has put His name on us and in us. Amen.

Postlude

You have heard the Word of God read, sung, prayed, and preached.

You have seen the glory of Christ put on display for all the world at His feasting table.

Now you must decide if you will live this Word out in your thoughts, words, and actions.

There is a community of believers here to assist you, stay after the service to get to know some of them.

Make plans to get together with one another this week and encourage and strengthen one another.

Determine to tell others in your circle of friends and associates with whom you will share this good news.

This same Word we have participated in today will not return to Christ void, but will accomplish either blessing or curse.

Pray that He works it in you and us for blessing and let us praise Him for it together.

¹ Pentecost originated as the feast of weeks as a celebration and offering to God at the conclusion of the grain harvest. It served as the primary occasion for covenant renewal and God used this time to renew His promises to His people through the gift of the Holy Spirit recorded in Acts 2:1-13.

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

² 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.

³ The term “catholic” here means universal and does not mean any particular denomination.

⁴ Adapted from the Lutheran Book of Prayer.

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

“Complacent people, never attempting anything except that which they are sure they have the resources easily to accomplish, become spiritually stagnant and tasteless. Complacent people aim for the safe line, never leaving their ‘comfort zones.’

“The alternative is to consider Jesus, who was constantly being ‘poured out’ and so avoided stagnation. He was in tears, wrestling and always being poured out because He lived moment by moment as if God were immediately present to bless and to judge. As a result, He was like the best wine of all—delicious, invigorating, live-giving. And so we can be.”

— Tim & Kathy Keller

“I expect more goodness from Kate my wife, from Philip Melancthon, and from other friends, than from my sweet and blessed Savior Jesus Christ, and yet I know for certain that neither she nor any other person on earth will or can suffer that for me which he has suffered; why then should I be afraid of him?! This—my foolish weakness—grieves me very much....Fie on our unbelieving hearts, that we should be afraid of this man, who is more loving, friendly, gentle, and compassionate towards us than our kindred, our brothers and sisters, yea, than parents themselves are towards their own children.”

— Martin Luther

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 is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), a denomination committed to the historic Christian faith.

Musicians: David Stewart, vocalist; Johnathan Bauer, accompanist.
Serving Communion: Doug Warren, Per Almquist, Robert Crosby, and Nathan Pillsbury.

CHRIST THE REDEEMER

Highlights.....September 21, 2008

OPPORTUNITIES TO PRAY TOGETHER

Sunday Morning Prayer-Breakwater School Sundays at 8:30 AM
Home Fellowship Groups
Casco, Windham, Gray Region-Robert Crosby-657-2445 *Varies*
Gorham-@ Marchand home-839-9877-teacher Dave Stewart 712-9826 *2nd and 4th* Sundays at 5:30 PM
Portland-@ Tedder home-774-2847 *2nd and 4th* Saturdays at 5 PM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today

Sunday School is held each Sunday at 9:15 a.m. There are classes for all ages. Please stay for refreshments after the service and get better acquainted with one another.

The Church Retreat has been cancelled.

We will not have our annual retreat this year due to lack of participation. Please pray with us on how we can come together in meaningful ways. If you have ideas please, let your elders know.

Youth Group Plans

The Youth Group will be meeting on the **first** Sunday of each month. The first meeting will be on **October 5th**, a lunch and Bible study at the Kinney’s home after the worship service. On Friday **September 26th** we will have a Mall Scavenger Hunt. Meet at the Kinney’s home at 6:30 pm.

Truth Project Leadership Training

On Saturday, September 27th there will be a one-day training program for those who would like to lead the Truth Project curriculum in their home-fellowship or Bible study small group. The training consists of a morning and afternoon simulcast at First Baptist Church in Portland, led by Dr. Del Tackett who is on the staff of Focus on the Family. For further information: www.truthproject.org.

Dates to Remember

Session Meetings First and Third Tuesday evenings- 6:00-9:00 p.m.
Crop and Craft night for the CTR Ladies & friends at Becca Ballada’s home. 4-8 pm October 4, 2008
Root Cellar Annual Banquet at Keeley the Katerer’s-6:30 p.m. October 17, 2008
ABBA Walk Fair November 1, 2008

SERVICE AND OFFERINGS

	This Week	Next Week
Set Up	Third Week Team	Fourth Week Team
Nursery	Joanne Crosby & Terry Cosgrove	Kristen & Karis Warren
Kid’s Q	Doug & Gwen Tedder	Donnelly Warren & Kevin Kidd Jr.
Prayer	Nathan Pillsbury	Richard Kurtz

Finances: Last week our collection was \$3,206.51. 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 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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2008

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