

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## Christ the Redeemer Presbyterian Church

December 7, 2008

*The Second 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

#### Lighting the Advent Candle

The Glory Candle

The Pillsbury Family

Leader: Why do we light the Advent candle?

**Family: Jesus said, “I am the Light of the world. He who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the Light of Life.”**

Leader: What is the meaning of the second lighted candle?

**Family: The second lighted candle is a reminder of the Glory that God has promised His people in Christ.**

Leader: What was God’s promise of glory to his children?

**Family: God’s promise to us who inherit such a great salvation through Christ is to make us co-heirs together with Him. For Jesus is not ashamed to calls us brothers and has delivered us from death to make us sons of glory.**

Leader: How has Christ secured this promised glory for His people?

**Family: He has delivered us from the fear of death that held us all captive through His entering into death itself on our behalf and fully bearing the judgment of the Father which we deserve. He is our faithful High Priest and the Father’s faithful Son to whom all glory, praise, and honor is due.**

### \*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.**

### \*Hymn of Exultation (195)

“Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come”

*Mason*

### \*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 (457)

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

*Nettleton*

### Corporate Confession

Rev. Warren

Holy Father, we long to have you change our hearts. We confess to You that we do not obey You as we should. We love little, speak not the truth, harbor resentment, and leave the oppressed with no defender. We break Your holy law, leave undone what You command, and delight in what You have forbidden. Merciful Lord, we humbly ask that You would forgive us and change our hearts. Conform us to the image of Your Son. Holy Spirit, work in us we pray, that we might be like You.

### 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 (198)

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!””

*TRURO*

### \*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. 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 (Page 117)

Numbers 31:1-20

Mr. Brian Cosgrove

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

### The Sermon

“Prone to Wander”

Rev. Warren

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

### The Offertory

### \*Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles’ Creed<sup>2</sup>

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 catholic<sup>3</sup> church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### \*Creedal Song

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

*NICAEA*

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!  
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

## 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 (Insert)

“Before the Throne of God Above”

*Bancroft/Cook<sup>4</sup>*

## 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

*Please stay and enjoy some refreshments and take a moment to get to know one another.*

<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. 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> The term “catholic” is used here in its generic sense of the universal church, not to refer to a denomination.

<sup>4</sup> Lyrics Charite Lees Bancroft, public domain. Music Vickki Cook©1997 PDI Worship. CCLI License No. 1958155

## *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

“Saving faith is the heartfelt conviction not only that Christ is reliable, but also that he is desirable. It is the confidence that he will come through with his promises *and* that what he promises is more to be desired than all the world.”

— John Piper

### 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; Elizabeth Noonan, accompanist.  
Serving Communion: Doug Warren, Per Almquist, Nathan Pillsbury, and Doug Tedder.

## CHRIST THE REDEEMER

# Highlights.....December 7, 2008

### OPPORTUNITIES TO PRAY TOGETHER

Sunday Morning Prayer-Breakwater School Library

Sundays at 8:30 AM

#### Home Fellowship Groups

Youth Group-@Kinney's home; Jolene Kinney 885-0100

*1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month-lunch and study*

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

*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month-lunch*

Gorham-@ Marchand home-839-9877

*2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at 5:30 PM*

*teacher Dave Stewart 712-9826-Study is on Hebrews*

Portland-@ Tedder home-774-2847

*2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays at 5 PM*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Today

Sunday School is held each Sunday at 9:15 a.m. There are classes for all ages. Plan to join a class this school year. Please stay for refreshments after the service and get better acquainted with one another. The Youth Group December Bible study and luncheon will be at the Kinney's TODAY.

#### A Place to Serve

There is a special opportunity to help with Setup teams. There are no regular teams for the fourth and fifth weeks of each month, so if you would like to help, please speak to Joan Perkins or call her at (799-7674). The teams meet at 8:30 am to set up the room and the food table, and then after the service to put things away.

#### Root Cellar Dinner

CTR will be serving the Root Cellar neighbors dinner THIS Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. Could you come and visit with the neighbors who come? We will be having some special music and a message after the meal. Come and join us in this fun event.

#### Officer Nominations

If you are a member of Christ the Redeemer Presbyterian you can now submit nominations for elder and deacon. Submit a written nomination indicating the individual's name and the office of elder or deacon. Be sure to ask permission of the person you want to nominate. Your signature is needed to verify that you are a member. If you have any questions, please speak to one of the pastors.

#### Dates to Remember

Session Meetings

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

Christmas Eve Service-here at Breakwater school

December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

Meeting of the Northern New England Presbytery

January 17, 2009

### SERVICE AND OFFERINGS

	This Week	Next Week
<b>Set Up</b>	Woodward Team	Lane Team
<b>Nursery</b>	April & Nathan Mathis	Wendy & Kaylie Stewart
<b>Kid's Q</b>	Linda and Noah Southwick	Paula & Alison Marchand
<b>Prayer</b>	Doug Tedder	Robert Crosby
<b>Sound</b>	David Cosgrove	Noah Southwick

Finances: June-November 2008	Projected	Actual	Difference
Income	\$101,339	\$88,782	(\$12,557)
Expenses	\$89,129	83,137	\$5,992

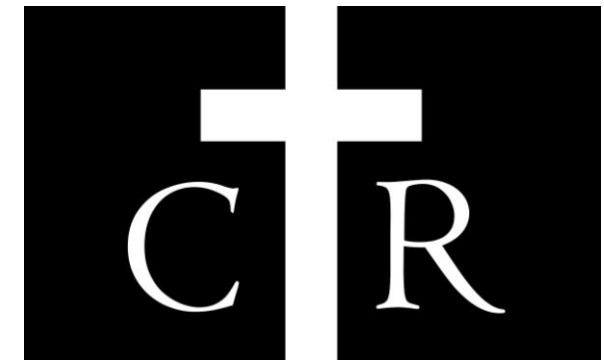
### MINISTRY STAFF

(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



S U N D A Y , D E C E M B E R 7 , 2 0 0 8

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