

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## Christ the Redeemer Presbyterian Church

December 17, 2006

*The Third 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 Redemption Candle

The Hoehner 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 (208)

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

*ADESTE FIDELES*

#### Prayer of Adoration

*(concluded by praying together):*

Rev. David Stewart

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 (193)

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

*French melody*

#### 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.**

#### Silent Reflection/Confession

*Please take a few moments to pray privately*

#### Proclamation of Forgiveness

Isaiah 40:1-2

Rev. Warren

Minister: Comfort, comfort, my people, says our God. Your sins are pardoned. The penalty is paid.

**All: Thanks be to God. Amen**

#### \*Songs of Renewal (227)

“On Christmas Night All Christian Sing”

*SUSSEX CAROL*

(207)

“Good Christian Men, Rejoice”

*German 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

*Praise*

*Requests*

Rev. Warren

#### Greeting and Announcements

Ms. Margaret Pearson

Children ages 3-9 are excused to **Kids’ Quest** at this time.

### PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

#### \*Scripture Reading (insert)

Deuteronomy 31:9-29

Mr. Nathan Pillsbury

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

#### The Sermon

“A Witness Against Us”

Rev. Warren

Awaiting Our Covenant-Keeping King

#### The Offertory

#### \*Affirmation of Faith

The Nicene Creed<sup>2</sup>

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 catholic<sup>3</sup> 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.**

#### \*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: Behold, the Lamb of God.

**People: Who takes away the sin of the world!**

#### Words of Institution & Invitation

Minister: Prepare the way for the King of glory is coming quickly.<sup>4</sup>

**People: Let us tear down the hill of our pride and fill in the valleys of poverty, let us make straight the crooked ways of our own self-indulgence.**

Minister: Repent for the kingdom of heaven is breaking upon us!

**People: Let us produce fruit in keeping with repentance.**

Minister: What are we to do? We fail at all these things so often.

**All: Jesus, help us. We cannot even do this simple thing of turning back to You from our sin. Our efforts to prepare the way falter; our repentance is half-hearted. Feed us now at Your table that we might have the strength to repent and believe in You. Nurture us in faith and repentance.**

#### 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 (211)

“God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen”

*English melody*

#### \*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

*Please stay and enjoy some refreshments as you get to know someone better.*

<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 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.

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

<sup>4</sup> This communion litany reflects both the perfection required by our King of glory born out in Matthew 3:1-12 and the grace that He extends to His children through the work of Christ.

## 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: Cynthia Setchell and Evan Pillsbury, vocalists; Kathryn Pillsbury, violin; Joyce Moulton, piano.  
Serving Communion: Doug Warren and David Stewart.

### CHRIST THE REDEEMER

## Highlights.....December 17, 2006

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Today

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

#### Home Fellowship

Home Fellowship Groups are one of the most vital parts of life here at CTR. We have four groups meeting regularly. This is a great way to get better acquainted with each other. If you are interested, please contact the following: Portland-@ Warren's home-phone 797-6384, Teen group @ Pillsbury's home-phone 883-2460; Gorham-Marchand's home-phone 839-9877, Gray,Windham,Casco region-Crosby phone 657-2445.

#### Christmas Party Today

Teens, College students and their families are invited to attend a Christmas Party **today**, at the Hoehner's home, 83 Pleasant St in Norway. Please come enjoy lunch, skating, caroling and a time of fellowship with us today, following the service. Driving directions on the back table.

#### Christmas Choir

If you would like to be a part of a Christmas Choir come to practice on Monday December 18<sup>th</sup>. The practice will be at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Evan and Kathryn Pillsbury. They live at 77 Grant St Apt B24 in Portland. The choir will sing at both the morning and evening services on December 24<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions speak to Evan.

#### Christmas Eve Service

There will be a 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service here at Breakwater School. Come and bring your family and friends to this service of lessons and carols.

#### Sunday School

Sunday School will be suspended on 12/24 and 12/31 and resume on 1/7/07. Beginning in January we will have a new adult class using the Truth Project materials. For details see Dick & Ginny Kurtz.

#### Pastor Sabbatical

We as a congregation are delighted to offer our pastor, Doug Warren, a sabbatical rest for three months starting in January. If you have questions, please see one of the elders. Thank you.

#### Dates to Remember

CTR Prayer Meetings  
Session Meetings (*monthly*)

Park Avenue Church of God, Fridays, **6:30-7:30 am**  
*First and Third Tuesday nights* 6:00-9:00

### SERVICE AND OFFERINGS

	This Week	Next Week
Set Up	Perkins	Pillsbury
Food	Team	Team
Usher		
Nursery	Joanne Crosby & Pat Grosser	Becca Ballada & Margaret Pearson
Kid's Q	Kathryn Pillsbury	Steve & Katya Harmon
Sound	Jordan Stewart	Jordan Stewart
Prayer	David Stewart	Robert Crosby

**Finances:** Last week our collection was \$3,844.00. Thank you for your gifts to the Lord.

### MINISTRY STAFF

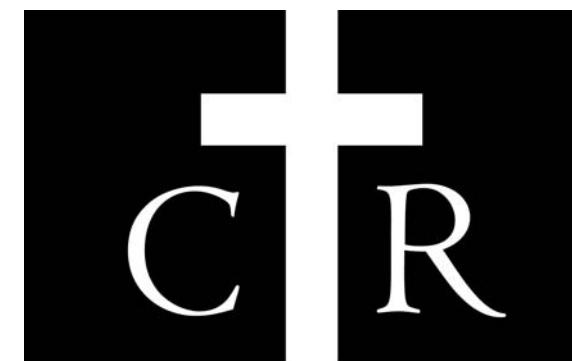
(207) 878-1211

[www.MainePCA.org](http://www.MainePCA.org)

Douglas Warren  
Per Almquist  
Evan Pillsbury  
Joanne Crosby

Pastor  
Associate Pastor  
Musician-in-Residence  
Office Manager

Service at Breakwater School 856 Brighton Ave Portland, ME. @ 10:30 AM



# CHRIST *the* REDEEMER

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2006

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