

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Christ the Redeemer Presbyterian Church

November 30, 2008
*The First Sunday of Advent*¹

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 in room #11. 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

Micah 5:2-5

Rev. Warren

Minister: But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.

All: And he shall be their peace.

Minister: Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel.

All: And he shall be their peace.

Minister: And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

All: And he shall be our peace.

*Song of Exultation (30)

“Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”

Watts

*Prayer of Adoration

(concluded by praying together):

The Rev. Per Almquist

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 53:6

Rev. Almquist

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned – every one – to his own way.

Song of Preparation (193)

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

French Melody

Corporate Confession

Psalms 51

Rev. Almquist

Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against You, You only, I have sinned, and done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak, and blameless when you judge.

Silent Reflection/Confession

Please take a few moments to pray privately

Proclamation of Forgiveness

Ezekiel 34:11-12

Rev. Almquist

Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered...

*Song of Renewal (599)

“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”

Bradbury

*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

Mrs. Joanne Crosby

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

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

*Scripture Reading (Page 115)

Numbers 27:12-23

Mr. Robert Crosby

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

The Sermon

“Sheep Without A Sheherd”

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 catholic 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.

* Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3

*Prince*³

Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of Hosts (*sing 2x*)

The whole earth is full of His Glory (*sing 3x*)

Holy is the Lord

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 & Words of Institution

Minister: Believe in the Lord, and give Him eternal praise and thanks!⁴

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.

Words of Institution & Invitation

Minister: Christ said, “I am the bread of life.”

People: He is our portion and our life.

Partaking the Means of Grace 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 (87)

“The Lord’s My Shepherd, I’ll Not Want”

Irvine

COMMISSIONING FOR SERVICE

*Concluding Prayer

Rev. Warren

*The Benediction

Hebrews 13:20-21

Rev. Warren

Minister: Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Postlude

¹ 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.**

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.

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⁴ 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.

