

Order of Service for the Public Worship of God

Third Sunday in Lent ~ March 15, 2009
Eleven O'clock, A.M.

Pastor: Rev. Dr. James E. Swanson Liturgist: Tom Davidson
Organist & Choir Director: Miss Beverly Antis

THE SERVICE OF WORSHIP BEGINS WITH THE MUSIC OF THE ORGAN

THE PRELUDE *My Faith Looks Up To Thee* Robert Lau

THE CHORAL INTROIT *Surely the Lord Is In This Place* Robert Lau

*THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN 383 *My Faith Looks Up To Thee* OLIVET

*THE PRAYER OF ADORATION

PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 19:1-14 (*Pew Bible p. 481*)

THE CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor: The proof of God's amazing love is this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Because we have faith in Him, we dare to approach God with confidence. In faith and penitence, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

THE PUBLIC PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God of Infinite Mercy and Endless Compassion:

**We know well our misdeeds, and our sins are ever before us.
Wash away our guilt and cleanse us from our sin.**

**We confess, O God: our love of private comforts to which we cling,
even as others are in desperate need.**

**We confess, O God: our preoccupation with ourselves, our lustful
imaginings, our secret ambitions, and our sinful thoughts;**

**We confess, O God: the buried grudge, our half-acknowledged
hatreds and our prejudices against others;**

**We confess, O God: the fear of failure which saps our commitment
and drains us of initiative and of hope for a better tomorrow;**

**O Lord, we open now our hearts to your judgment. Hear our humble
prayers.**

A TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: We have opened our hearts wide in God's holy presence. Here and now we have offered our failures, our faults, and our secret sins, seeking divine mercy and forgiveness. Friends, this is the good news of the gospel:

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen!**

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *from: "A Brief Statement of Faith," PC (USA)*

**We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female,
of every race and people, to live as one community.
But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.
Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in
others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and
nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.**

**We deserve God's condemnation.
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.
Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake here nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death, we are never alone.
Thanks be to God!**

*THE GREETINGS OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

*Kindly pass your Prayer Requests to the center aisle so they may be
collected and forwarded to the Prayer Cordon for special attention.*

THE SHARING OF JOYS, CONCERNS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE CHORAL PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us David N. Johnson

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Exodus 20: 1-17 *(Pew Bible p. 64)*

Liturgist: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE ANTHEM *If ye love Me, keep my Commandments* Thomas Tallis

THE EPISTLE LESSON 1 Corinthians 1: 18-25 *(Pew Bible p. 156)*

Liturgist: Here ends the reading of the Epistle.

All: **Praise be to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL LESSON John 2: 13-22 *(Pew Bible p. 88)*

Pastor: The Gospel of our Lord.

All: **Glory to You, O Christ.**

*THE CONGREGATIONAL CANTICLE (Hymn # 396, vs. 1, CAITHNESS)

**O for a closer walk with God,
A calm and heavenly frame,
A light to shine upon the road
That leads me to the Lamb!**

THE SERMON "WHISTLEBLOWING" Dr. Swanson

*THE PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER (using "debts" and "debtors")

*THE THREE-FOLD AMEN Marty Haugen

THE PRESENTATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS, & GIFTS

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM *O Lord, Have Mercy* Alessandro Stradella
Nicholas Kochanov, Baritone Solo

*THE DOXOLOGY – Hymn No. 591 OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow:
Praise Him all creatures here below:
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

*THE UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

The light and truth you send upon us are the greatest gifts we can know, O God. How can we do less than rejoice, give thanks, and dedicate these tithes and offerings to you? Give us grace to reflect your glory, and use our gifts for the building of your kingdom here and now. Amen.

*THE RECESSIONAL HYMN 421 *The Church of Christ in Every Age* WAREHAM

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE CHORAL RESPONSE
God Be with You Till We Meet Again Ralph Vaughan Williams

*THE TIME OF SILENCE

*THE CHARGE AND DISMISSAL

Pastor: *Vaya con dios*, my friends! "Go with God"–
Who is above history, Who is active in our history,
And who will still be God at the end of history.
As you make your Lenten journey,
Be strong in witness to your faith;
Be diligent in your study of God's Word;
Seek the truth; and cultivate a humble heart.
Now go in Peace and serve the Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God!**

*THE POSTLUDE *Fugue in A Major* Friedrich Wilhelm Zachau

* THOSE WHO ARE ABLE, PLEASE STAND.



THE FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY are provided
by Orville and Edna Nicholas in memory of Beloved
Family Members.

YOU WERE GREETED TODAY by Linda Peters.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR - Everyone is cordially invited to attend today's Fellowship Hour which immediately follows this worship service downstairs in the Assembly Room. Hosting today's Fellowship Hour are Donna Hobough and Virginia Lokovich.

Welcome! Grace and Peace to All

If you are visiting today, please introduce yourself to others sitting nearby during the Passing of the Peace. Join us for Fellowship Time immediately following worship each Sunday in the Assembly Room downstairs. Exit at the rear of the Sanctuary, go down to the lower level, then past the Library to the entrance near the Sallman painting of "Christ, Knocking at the Door."

In The Life of Our Church

Prayer Concerns:

- Orville Nicholas Released from Butler Hospital, now home recovering from successful heart surgery
- John Towns In rehab at Concordia Home in Cabot
- Ellie Walchesky At home, recovering strength

For Continued Prayer: Julie & Bud Bruno; Marion Campbell;
Marian Curran; Joan Moore; Eleanor Ritts; Gladys Strobel; Bill Wilson

Birthdays this week:

Special Birthday Blessings to the following members celebrating their 80th and 90th (plus) birthdays in the next two weeks:

- March 17 - Betty Butler (Happy 80th birthday)
- March 20 - Herb Enyeart (Happy 93rd birthday)
- March 22 - Joe Davidson (Happy 92nd birthday)
- April 1 - Bob Heaton (Happy 80th birthday)

By their example, we have been inspired and encouraged; and by their longevity, blessed with their presence among us. May they continue to flourish and may God grant them good health, peace and contentment as they celebrate another joyful year with family and friends.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS THIS WEEK . . .

- √ Administration & Stewardship - tomorrow, Monday, March 16 @ 7 pm (Connell Room)
 - √ Session - this Tuesday, March 17 @ 7 pm (Assembly Room)
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SEEKERS CLASS

*New Starting Time: 9:30 a.m.
in the Assembly Room*



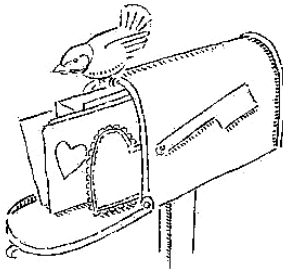
Revised Schedule for Sundays in March!

Next Sunday, March 22 -- JoAnn Rogers & Carol Untch

Our special guests will share their personal journeys of faith and speak of the joys and frustrations of living as committed partners in a time of challenge and change. Both JoAnn and Carol are active in the Pittsburgh chapter of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians and are willing to field questions and comments concerning proposed "Amendment B."

Sunday, March 29 -- Video Study & Discussion

The Weight of Gethsemane DVD from the "Walk As Jesus Walked" video series by Ray Vander Laan



Card Shower for our Out-of-Towners

Let's send a shower of congratulations and best wishes to three special guys, all celebrating eight decades or more of life's blessings. It will surely brighten their day and remind them that "out of sight" is not "out of mind" nor out of our hearts!

Herb Enyeart -- will be **93** on March 20 163 Wayzata Blvd W
Apartment 321
Wayzata MN 55391-1566

Joe Davidson -- will be **92** on March 22 2379 Finlandia Lane
Apartment 17
Clearwater FL 33763-3363

Bob Heaton -- will be **80** on April 1 7738 Gardner Dr. # 103
Naples, FL 34109-2608



FOCUS ON THE PHILIPPINES

Mission Luncheon for Becca Lawson

*Friday, March 27th at 11:00 am
in the Assembly Room
here at Covenant Church*



Please add this date to your calendar and make plans to attend. Let's make this an "each one ~ bring one" event... Invite a family member, a neighbor, or a member of one of the other churches in our community!

At the last meeting of Beaver-Butler Presbytery, UCCP Mission Worker Rebecca (Becca) Lawson was introduced to the presbyters, who were told that she was back in Pennsylvania on "Interpretation Assignment" (*furlough* was the old term often used) and that she would be available in late March to speak at area churches. During her time back in the states, Rebecca is living in Saxonburg. While on assignment in the Philippines, she serves as the site coordinator for the Young Adult Volunteers (YAV) program in Manila. (*A side note*—you may remember hearing from Jimmy Wells on his visit to Covenant Church last October that he first went to Peru as a "Young Adult Volunteer" from his home Presbyterian Church in Arizona, a life-changing one-year assignment which convinced him to become active in full-time mission work for the denomination).

*Please Call Elsie in the Church Office (724-287-7731)
to Sign up (this will help us to get a count for lunch)*



**THE ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
OFFERING will be received on
Palm Sunday, April 5th**

Your gift of \$10 can help start a small Moringa tree nursery with 10 seedlings. Your gift of \$20 will provide mosquito nets for a family, helping them avoid malaria. Just \$12 can provide training in community gardening to help a poor woman in the U.S. feed herself. A gift of any size is a blessing!

Calvin Study Group Begins this Week

Wednesday, March 18th at 1:00 pm

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As we celebrate the 500th anniversary of Calvin's birth in 2009 (July 10, 1509 - May 27, 1564), we Presbyterians have an opportunity to reintroduce ourselves to Calvin's legacy—his contributions to theology, church government, education, music and politics.

Instead of a another "Bible Study" for Spring/Summer, the pastor will be leading a "Calvin Study" (which will obviously draw upon the Bible, as well.) There will be lots of hand-outs and plenty of discussion, as together we re-discover the teachings of this theologian-pastor and apply them to our day. For those who may be reticent to tackle the works of such a one as John Calvin, be assured that the intent of this study is to keep it on a level for us mere mortals... think of it as "Calvin Lite." Our sister Presbyterian churches (as well as any other guests) are invited to join us.



The Calvin Study will be held for five sessions on Wednesday afternoons bi-weekly, at 1:00 pm in the Assembly Room of Covenant Church. Pastor Jim will be the convener and leader of the study, with occasional help from a few other pastors.

Dates and times (subject to change, if necessary) are as follows:

- Wednesday, March 18 1:00 pm**
- Wednesday, April 1 1:00 pm**
- Wednesday, April 15 1:00 pm**
- Wednesday, April 29 1:00 pm**
- Wednesday, May 13 1:00 pm**

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Discovery Trip: Sunday, April 26

"Calvin Festival Worship Service"

We will leave after church for a trip to Pittsburgh (with lunch on the way) to join others who will be gathering in Heinz Chapel on the University of Pittsburgh Campus in Oakland at 3:00 PM for a "Calvin Festival Worship Service" sponsored by the Pittsburgh Chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians. This service will honor the 500th anniversary of the birth of John Calvin. Guest Preacher will be Charles Partee, P.C. Rossin Professor of Church History at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. The worship service will be designed in a 16th century format (but no need to dress in 16th century garb, thank goodness!) The program is free and open to the public. Call Elsie in the church office to add your name to the list of Discovery Trippers; car pooling will arranged.



March 15, 2009
Third Sunday in Lent

“In the modern world, temples have often degenerated into chat rooms, not with God but with each other.”

-- Rev. Dr. Edward F. Markquart

“St. Augustine wrote that Hope has two beautiful daughters: Anger, so that what must not be, cannot be; and Courage, so that what can be, will be. In the cleansing of the temple, Jesus demonstrated both anger and courage; he acted out of hope for a better day.”

-- Meister Eckhart

The Reverend Dr. James E. Swanson, Pastor

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