

Service for the Public Worship of God

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ July 26, 2009
Ten O'clock, A.M.

Pastor: Rev. Dr. James E. Swanson
Choir Director/Organist: Beverly Antis
Liturgist: David Blewett

OUR SERVICE OF WORSHIP BEGINS WITH THE MUSIC OF THE ORGAN

THE PRELUDE Morning Has Broken Robert Lau

*THE RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Deep is God's love.

People: Wide is God's care.

Leader: God's joy flows through the valleys;

People: God's peace rests on the hills.

Leader: Holy is our God, and worthy of praise and adoration.

People: Mighty is our God! We praise God's Holy Name
and join our voices together in hymns and psalms and
spiritual songs!

*THE HYMN 487 When Morning Gilds the Skies LAUDES DOMINI

THE FIRST READING Psalm 63: 1-7 (Pew Bible p. 507)

THE INVITATION TO CONFESSION

THE PRAYER OF PUBLIC CONFESSION

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name.

A TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.
We are not alone!
Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH ---Contemporary creed by Nathan Nettleton

We believe in God—
creator and lover of the earth, origin and destiny of us all.

We believe in Jesus Christ—
the herald of hope,
God's laughter in the face of despair.
Plunged into death and hell, he broke free the captives,
and is leading the way to a land of promise
where justice and peace will flourish.

We believe in the Holy Spirit—
who plants the seeds of truth,
brings us to birth as the body of Christ,
and empowers us to confront and transform
all that is corrupt, degrading and deceitful.

We believe in the coming reign of God.
In that day all will be consummated
in the glorious marriage of earth and heaven.
In that day those who have passed through
the world's deep sorrow
will be raised from the waters, robed in righteousness,
and gathered into the joyous fulfillment of God's desire.

For the inbreaking of that day on this day,
we work and pray: Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

*THE GREETINGS OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN and
THE NOISY OFFERING OF LOOSE CHANGE (Last Sunday of each month)

THE SHARING OF JOYS, CONCERNS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING Psalm 33 (Pew Bible p. 489)

Liturgist: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE EPISTLE READING Philippians 2: 1-13 (Pew Bible p. 185)

Liturgist: Here ends the reading of the Epistle.

All: Praise be to you, O Lord.

*THE GOSPEL READING Luke 12: 1-12 (Pew Bible p. 70)

Pastor: The gospel of our Lord.

All: Glory to you, O Christ.

*THE CONGREGATIONAL CANTICLE - Hymn 321, vs. 1 SONG 13

Holy Spirit, truth divine, Dawn upon this soul of mine;
Word of God and inward light, Wake my spirit, clear my sight.

THE SINGING OF SELECTED HYMN FAVORITES

- ❖ HYMN 469 ~ Dorothy Hitchcock's Favorite
Morning Has Broken
- ❖ REQUESTS FROM THE CONGREGATION
- ❖ HYMN 326 ~ Fred Curran's Favorite
Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

THE PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER (using debts and debtors)

THE PRESENTATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS & GIFTS

*THE DOXOLOGY

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. Amen.

*THE UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Use us, O God of miracles, and the offerings we have
brought, to bring life and health and hope to your world.
Make us generous and faithful stewards of your
mysteries, as we share the bounty which you have
granted unto us. Through Christ we pray. Amen.

*THE CLOSING HYMN 525 Here I Am, Lord HERE I AM, LORD

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE - Hymn #599 Jacques Berthier

Jesus, remember me, when You come into Your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me, when You come into Your kingdom.

*THE TIME OF SILENCE

*THE CHARGE AND DISMISSAL

Pastor: Now may the blessing of God rest on our heads,
 And the Truth of God set us free from all dangers, real and perceived;
 So that in our labor and in our leisure,
 In our rising up and our sitting down,
 In hours of joy or in days of sorrow,
 We shall with gladness of heart
 Commend our lives wholly unto Him who keeps us from falling.
 Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!

*THE POSTLUDE Voluntary in E minor John Stanley

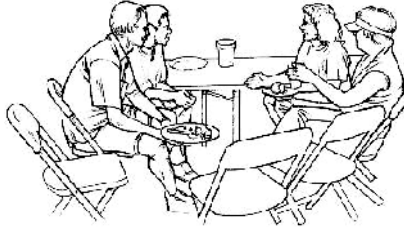
* Those who are able, please stand.

YOU WERE GREETED TODAY by Jeanne Schlicht.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR immediately follows this morning's worship service downstairs in the Assembly Room. Hosting today's Fellowship Hour is Leanne Heaton.

Wel come! Gr ace and Peace to All!

We are delighted to have you with us if you are visiting today! Please indicate your attendance by signing one of the cards in the pew rack, and kindly place it in the offering plate when passed.



Then following worship, linger a bit longer and join us for Fellowship Time in the Assembly Room downstairs.

Exit at the rear of the Sanctuary to take the stairways or at the front to take the elevator to the lower level.

NEXT SUNDAY



Covenant Church presents...

Michael Desnoyers, Tenor

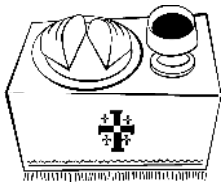
Sunday, August 2nd
@ 2:00 p.m. ~ Sanctuary

Michael has finished his first year of a two-year graduate program at San Francisco Conservatory, and is spending the summer in the Studio Program at Chautauqua Institute in New York. (His wife, Steph, is still on the West Coast because of her job.) He is excited to be able to sing at Covenant again and is looking forward to seeing lots of friends here.

The recital will include art songs from a performance he gave at Chautauqua, an aria or two, and probably a couple of Covenant favorites.

The Public is invited!

There will be a cookies and punch reception afterwards in the Assembly Room



The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated during the 10 a.m. worship service next Sunday, August 2nd (seated communion).

COVENANT CUPBOARD DONATIONS

Current Need:

Luncheon Meat (Spam)
Instant Mashed Potatoes

Thank-you for your support.



Baskets for your donations are located in the front hallway at the E. Jefferson St. entrance.

RUMMAGE SALE



RUMMAGE SALE!
Don't want it? WE DO!

Start gathering your treasures for the **AUGUST 8TH SALE**

Saturday, August 8th ~ 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
(Basement - Fellowship Hall)

Reminders-

Please check that the electrical appliances you are donating are in working condition.

Please limit clothing donations to one bag per family unit.

Volunteers- If you would like to help with the Rummage Sale, please fill out the insert in today's bulletin and place it on the offering plate.

Bake Sale- If your talent is baking, sign-up sheets for the Bake Sale are in the Assembly Room.

In The Life of Our Church

Prayer Concerns:

JoAnn Honneffer (Danny Swanson's caregiver) now in Rehab.
at HealthSouth, Sewickley, following a stroke

Ellie Walchesky Now home, scheduled for knee surgery on
August 3rd

Pat and Dick Wright Mary Lee Marten's good friends in Evans
City both of whom are in need of prayer

For Continued Prayer: Minnie Anderson; Rev. Wayne Bell; Julie &
Bud Bruno; Marion Campbell; Marian Curran; Joan Moore; Eleanor Ritts;
Gladys Strobel; John Towns; Bill and MaryLou Wilson

Special Prayer Request

Emailed from: Mary Clow, in the Beaver-Butler Presbytery Office
To: All Churches and Ministers in the Presbytery

Please keep Jim and Donna Rimer, elders at New Sewickley, in your prayers. The Rimers were notified on July 22 that their son, Josh was killed in combat while serving in Afghanistan. Also pray for the wife Josh leaves behind, Anna Lisa in Colorado Springs (where Josh was stationed.) Let us keep all of our servicemen/women and their families in our prayers, thanking God that they are willing to serve our nation with the sacrifice of their very lives.

Birthdays this Week:

Gail Arvay - July 27
Robert Soule - July 28
Nancy Rettig - July 30
David Daugherty - July 30
Thomas Butler - July 31

Anniversaries this week:

Kyle & Dana (Blewett) Reitz --- Married July 26, 1997
Celebrating their 12th Wedding Anniversary (Today)

David & Jean Lloyd - July 29th (Wednesday)

Remember BECCA LAWSON in your hearts and prayers !

Becca has returned safely to Manila to continue her work with our PC(USA) mission partner in the Philippines. If you are an "emailer" please drop her a note to say "Hi" and "We miss you at Covenant." Her address is: becca_lawson@yahoo.com

(Note: Use the underline character, or the MAILERDAEMON will get you!)

“Don’t trade away the right to food”

by Stephen Brown (Ecumenical News International)

GENEVA — Church-linked campaigners in the fight against hunger have urged new approaches to trade policies that uphold people’s right to food. “Food cannot be treated like any other commodity,” said José Pablo Prado Córdova, vice-chairperson of an international Food Strategy Group. “Many current trade policies undermine food systems,” he said.

The Geneva-based WTO’s trade report published on July 22 warned against protectionism as a response to the global economic crisis, noting that governments are facing pressures to adopt measures which may restrict trade, and as a consequence lead to greater incidence of hunger worldwide. “This report focuses on trade in the midst of the global economic downturn but doesn’t differentiate food from any other commodity,” stated Ester Wolf, a policy advisor with Bread for All in Switzerland, a church-linked group. “Yet with a billion people now facing chronic hunger we need a different analysis that recognizes that all people have a right to food, not just a right to eat but the right to have the means to buy or produce their food.”

On July 10 the U.S.-based Bread for the World welcomed the stated commitment of the G8 industrial nations at their meeting in L’Aquila, Italy, on reducing world hunger by increasing agricultural support and development in the world’s poorest countries. G8 leaders pledged to contribute \$20 billion over three years to a new initiative to combat global hunger as a sign of hope for tens of millions of the world’s most vulnerable people.

The global economic collapse has been especially hard on poor people. An additional 150 million people have been pushed into extreme poverty and more than a billion people are struggling to feed themselves and their families. Let us pray that the leaders of the world’s richest nations make and keep a commitment to help hungry and poor people lift themselves out of poverty.”

World Pilgrims

Judaism, Christianity, Islam and other world religions hold many values in common, but those who practice these religions are rarely encouraged to have meaningful contact with one another. World Pilgrims seeks to change this by providing people of our great religions a shared faith experience. World Pilgrims sponsors interfaith pilgrimages. Jews, Christians, Muslims and adherents of other faiths travel together. The participants deepen their personal faith by visiting some of the most sacred sites of their religious traditions; gain an appreciation of the shared elements of their faith, as well as respect for their differences; and establish transformative personal friendships.

Visit their Web site — <http://www.worldpilgrims.org/>



July 26, 2009

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God." –Colossians 3:16

In the early nineteenth century, African Americans were involved in the "Second Awakening." They gathered at camp meetings and sang without any hymnbooks — songs composed extemporaneously on the spot. These were called "spiritual songs" and the term *sperichil* (spiritual) appeared for the first time.

--from *Slave Songs of The United States*
by Allen, Ware & Garrison, 1867)

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