

Service for the Public Worship of God

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ September 6, 2009
Ten O'clock, A.M.

Pastor: Rev. Dr. James E. Swanson
Choir Director/Organist: Beverly Antis
Liturgist: Larry Morrison

OUR SERVICE OF WORSHIP BEGINS WITH THE MUSIC OF THE ORGAN

*** PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONE DURING WORSHIP ***

THE PRELUDE Variations on "America" Austin C. Lovelace

*THE RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Friends, we have gathered as children of God's promise, yet we come as sinners and strangers to the truth.

People: It is an awesome thing to stand in the presence of God, to call God's holy name.

Leader: As far as the heavens are above the earth, God's ways are above our ways.

People: But we come with confidence, because in Christ we are called to be God's people.

Leader: Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before God our Maker!

*THE HYMN 458 Earth and All Stars DEXTER

THE PSALM OF THE DAY -- Psalm 125 (Pew Bible p. 548)

THE INVITATION TO CONFESSION

THE PRAYER OF PUBLIC CONFESSION

O God, we confess how hard it is to choose your way of holiness and resist temptation daily. Free from our shelter of denial and delusion, we come before you in honest recognition of who we really are and how we have neglected to do your will.

Though we are weak, we pretend to be strong. Though we are confused and conflicted, we claim to have clear moral vision. Though we champion the cause of justice and peace, we choose not to confront those powers and principalities that harm and destroy your creatures and your creation.

Forgive us, Gracious God, for our arrogance and blind confidence. Help us to grapple with the tensions of Christian living and to challenge our fears and prejudices in the light of your grace and love; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

A TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Because of the cross and the love of Christ demonstrated there, we are assured that there is no sin too horrible to forgive.

People: Even before we could know it or earn it, we were surrounded by grace.

Pastor: God, in Christ, will never fail us. His mercy is certain. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

*THE GLORIA PATRI 579

GLORIA PATRI

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed (Ecumenical)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body
and the life everlasting. Amen.

*THE GREETINGS OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

THE SHARING OF JOYS, CONCERNS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING Proverbs 22: 1-9, 22-25 (P. B. p. 577)

Liturgist: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

SPECIAL MUSIC

God Bless America

Irving Berlin

Leanne Heaton, Vocal Soloist

Beverly Antis, Piano Accompanist

THE EPISTLE READING James 2: 1-10, 14-17 (Pew Bible p. 213)

Liturgist: Here ends the reading of the Epistle.

All: Praise be to you, O Lord.

*THE GOSPEL READING Mark 7: 24-37 (Pew Bible p. 40)

Pastor: The gospel of our Lord.

All: Glory to you, O Christ.

*THE CONGREGATIONAL CANTICLE - Hymn 321, vs. 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 SERMON " A DIRTY ÉCLAIR " Dr. Swanson

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

THE PRESENTATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS & GIFTS

SPECIAL OFFERTORY MUSIC The House I Live In Allan/Robinson

Leanne Heaton, Vocal Soloist
Beverly Antis, Piano Accompanist

*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 COMMUNION HYMN

Christ Breaks the Bread (See Back Page) Words by Rev. Elizabeth Wallace

THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Pastor: Lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them to the Lord!

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you honor and praise,
O God. You formed us in your image . . .

. . . Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels, with prophets and apostles and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name, saying:

People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!

Pastor: You are holy, O God of majesty, and we give you thanks for Jesus, your Son, our Lord. . .

. . . We praise you that Christ now reigns with you in glory, and will come again to make all things new. Great is the mystery of faith.

All: Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE DISTRIBUTION OF BREAD AND CUP (please, come forward)

A TIME OF SILENCE

*THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us in this Sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in your eternal kingdom. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*THE CLOSING HYMN 564 O Beautiful for Spacious Skies MATERNA

*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: Go out into the world in peace; have courage;
hold on to what is good; return no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted;
support the weak, and help the suffering;
honor all people; love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!

* THOSE WHO ARE ABLE, PLEASE STAND

YOU WERE GREETED TODAY by Connie Brown.



THE FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY
are placed this morning by the Moore Family
With Gratitude and In Honor of
Our Covenant Church Family

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.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR immediately follows this worship service
downstairs in the Assembly Room. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.
Hosting today's Fellowship Hour is Nancy Jo Moorhead.

The Church Office will be closed tomorrow,
Monday, September 7th in observance of Labor Day.

Special Music 

We thank Leanne Heaton for her lovely vocals this morning. Leanne is the
soprano section leader of the Covenant Choir. Beginning next Sunday,
Leanne and the full choir will return to sing for the 11 am worship service.



**Choir Rehearsals Resume
This Thursday, September 10th**

The first choir rehearsal will be held this
Thursday, September 10th at 6:30 p.m. to
rehearse the Fauré Requiem and at 7:15 p.m.
for the regular choir rehearsal.

The Covenant Choir will sing during the 11
a.m. worship services beginning next Sunday,
Welcome Back Sunday, September 13th.

You are invited to attend the September 10th rehearsal or
any Thursday rehearsal. Please contact Beverly Antis,
Choir Director, at 724-991-8240, or any choir member for
more information.

A Memorial Donation to the Music Department
from Betty Butler & Family



In Loving Memory of:

Frederick L. Curran
Robert W. Moore, Sr.
Joan Moore (Mrs. Robert W., Sr.)
Vernon A. Swanson

Committee Meetings:

- ✓ WORSHIP & MUSIC - this Tuesday, September 8th @ 6:00 pm (Connell Room)



The Elders of Session have voted to change the day of their stated monthly meetings. Unless noted otherwise, the Session will now meet the third Wednesday of each month.

NEXT SESSION MEETING: Wednesday, September 16th @ 7 pm

In The Life of Our Church

Joys:

- Ellie Walchesky Released from Concordia, now at home & doing very well
- Don Park Successful knee surgery (Betty Butler's brother-in-law, her sister Pearl's husband)
- Gina Butler Successful gall bladder surgery (wife of Betty Butler's grandson Ed)
- JoAnn Honneffer Making progress now, following her stroke; currently at Friendship Ridge Nursing Home, New Brighton

For Continued Prayer:

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

Birthdays this Week:

Amy Canard Bole - September 8
Kenneth Strobel - September 9
Sophie Sproat - September 10 (2 yrs. old!)

DID YOU KNOW?

The latest jobless figures show that 7.6% of Butler County's workforce was jobless in July. That compares to 4.6% a year ago (July 2008).

Christ Breaks The Bread

A Communion Hymn,
Words by Rev. Elizabeth Wallace
Knox Presbyterian Church (Beaver-Butler Presbytery)

Tune: AZMON 8.6.8.6
(Hymn # 466 "O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing")

Christ breaks the bread and shares with us
In his communion feast;
Christ sheds his blood for one and all:
The greatest and the least.

"I am the bread of life," he says,
"Emmanuel, the Lord;
The first, the last, the Lamb of God,
I am the Living Word."

And at the table of the Lord,
Our Savior welcomes all
To eat the bread and drink the cup,
To listen to his call.

These earthly signs encourage us
Along the path we tread;
We share the presence of the Lord
Each time we break the bread.

Our gifts, our talents, and our lives
Should all be freely giv'n.
Small gifts of love when in his hands
Can do the work of heaven.



It is with great sadness that we report news of Rev. Dr. Wayne Bell's recent death. Wayne lost his battle with cancer last Thursday night, and our deepest sympathy is extended to his wife Debbie and their family. Rev. Bell has actively served our presbytery and has most recently been ministering to the congregation at West Sunbury Presbyterian Church.

Visitors were received at Young's Funeral Home (127 W. Jefferson Street) yesterday. The funeral service will be held this afternoon, September 6th at 4 pm at the West Sunbury Church, 215 E. Church Street, West Sunbury, PA



September 6, 2009

Steel and machines, Loud pounding hammers
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Limestone and beams, Loud building workers
Sing to the Lord a new song!
God has done marvelous things.
We will sing praises with a new song!

from "Earth and All Stars," a hymn by
Herbert Frederick Brokering (1964)

"All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity
and importance and should be undertaken
with painstaking excellence."

~ Martin Luther King Jr.

"Heaven is blessed with perfect rest, but the
blessing of earth is toil."

~ Henry van Dyke

The Reverend Dr. James E. Swanson, Pastor

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