

## Service for the Public Worship of God

28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ October 11, 2009  
Eleven O'clock, A.M.

Pastor: Rev. Dr. James E. Swanson  
Choir Director/Organist: Beverly Antis  
Liturgist: Orville Nicholas

OUR SERVICE OF WORSHIP BEGINS WITH THE MUSIC OF THE ORGAN

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

THE PRELUDE                      *Christ, the Redeemer*                      Tom Birchwood

THE CHORAL INTROIT              *Surely the Lord is in This Place*              Robert Lau

\*THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN 379

*My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*                      SOLID ROCK

\*THE PRAYER OF ADORATION

THE INVITATION TO CONFESSION

THE PRAYER OF PUBLIC CONFESSION

**We confess, O God, that we have sinned against heaven and you, and are not worthy to be called your children. Wayward and disobedient, selfish and arrogant, we have forgotten you and have transgressed all that is holy and lovely.**

**We have neglected to welcome the stranger in our midst; we have given in to self-centered needs and self-serving ambition; we have not spoken out against prejudice, warfare, corruption and greed. Pardon our mistakes; make clean our hearts; forgive our sin; and grant us your peace in Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

A TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Hear and believe the Good News!  
Our past is finished and gone.  
In Christ everything and everyone is being made new.

People: **Praise God! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

\*THE GLORIA PATRI 579

GLORIA PATRI

\*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

PC (USA) Study Catechism, Questions 14-16

Leader: [ Question 14. ] If God's love is powerful beyond measure, why is there so much evil in the world?

People: **No one can say why, for evil is a terrible abyss beyond all rational explanation. Its ultimate origin is obscure. Its enormity perplexes us. Nevertheless, we boldly affirm that God's triumph over evil is certain. In Jesus Christ God suffers with us, knowing all our sorrows. In raising him from the dead, God gives new hope to the world. Our Lord Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is himself God's promise that suffering will come to an end, that death shall be no more, and that all things will be made new.**

Leader: [ Question 15. ] What do you believe when you say that God is "Maker of heaven and earth"?

People: **First, that God called heaven and earth, with all that is in them, into being out of nothing simply by the power of God's Word. Second, that by that same power all things are upheld and governed in perfect wisdom, according to God's eternal purpose.**

Leader: [ Question 16. ] What does it mean to say that we human beings are created in the image of God?

People: **That God created us to live together in love and freedom—with God, with one another, and with the world. Our distinctive capacities—reason, imagination, volition and so on—are given primarily for this purpose. We are created to be loving companions of others so that something of God's goodness may be reflected in our lives.**

\*THE GREETINGS OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

THE SHARING OF JOYS, CONCERNS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE CHORAL PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

*Abide, O Dear Redeemer*

Melchoir Vulpius

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING Psalm 22: 1-15 *(Pew Bible p. 483)*

Liturgist: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God**

THE EPISTLE READING Hebrews 4: 12-16 *(Pew Bible p. 205)*

2 Corinthians 4: 1-2, 4-11 *(Pew Bible p. 170)*

Liturgist: Here ends the reading of the Epistle.

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

THE GOSPEL READING Mark 10: 17-31 *(Pew Bible p. 44)*

Pastor: The gospel of our Lord.

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

THE CONGREGATIONAL CANTICLE (Hymn Tune # 310, ST. AGNES)

**Lord, let Thy Word illumine us, with truth and love divine,  
And make us faithful to the Christ, 'til we are wholly Thine. Amen.**

THE SERMON A PERSECUTED CHURCH: Dr. Swanson  
*Beaten Down and Raised Up*

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

THE TWO-FOLD AMEN Dresden

THE PRESENTATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS & GIFTS

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Where'er You Walk* G. F. Handel  
Larry Morrison, Flute Beverly Antis, Piano

\*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

**Gracious God, Giver of all good gifts: we dedicate these tithes  
and offerings to you. Teach us how to give so that our lives may  
also be an offering, holy and acceptable in your sight. In word  
and deed, through acts of service and love, may the work of  
your Kingdom be advanced here and in Heaven above. Amen.**

\*THE RECESSIONAL HYMN *I Gave My Life For Thee* (See Back Page)

\*THE BENEDICTION

\*THE CHORAL RESPONSE *A Clare Benediction* John Rutter

\*THE TIME OF SILENCE

\*THE CHARGE AND DISMISSAL

Pastor: In Christ we have been forgiven, freed, and made whole.  
Go now, giving witness to God's peace by sharing it with  
others, as we wait for, work for, and witness to salvation.  
Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God!**

\*THE POSTLUDE *All Glory Be to God on High* Joseph Prentiss

\* THOSE WHO ARE ABLE, PLEASE STAND

**YOU WERE GREETED TODAY** by Donna Hobaugh.



**THE FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY**  
are placed this morning by Larry Morrison  
In Honor of Ann & Larry Morrison's  
31<sup>st</sup> Wedding Anniversary on October 14<sup>th</sup>

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

**WELCOME! GRACE 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.*

## **SEEKERS' SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS**

*always provocative speakers, interesting  
topics & lively discussions*

**Sundays at 9:30 a.m. ~ Assembly Room**

**October 18th, October 25<sup>th</sup> & November 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Dr. Steven S. Tuell**

Associate Professor of Old Testament,  
Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

*Topic:*

**“In The Beginning: What Genesis Says  
and What it Doesn't Say”**

*Coffee, tea, juice and a snack are available before class—  
served from the small kitchen beginning at 9 a.m.*



## **Reminder: Peacemaking Offering**

If you did not have an opportunity to contribute to the Peacemaking Offering last Sunday, extra envelopes are available in the narthex. Please make checks payable to Covenant Presbyterian Church, marked with *Peacemaking* in the memo portion. You may place your contribution on this morning's offering plate, mail it to the church or drop it off at the church office. *Thank you for your support.*

**PREMIERING THIS FRIDAY!**



**MOVIE NIGHT...**

**Friday, October 16**

**6:30 p.m (Assembly Room)**



***Faith Like Potatoes*** -- the moving journey of a man who, like his potatoes, grows his faith, unseen until the harvest. This 2006 South African drama film is based on a book written by Angus Buchan of the same title which was published in 1988 and tells the true story of Angus Buchan and the Buchan family.

This film is about a Zambian farmer who leaves his farm in the midst of political unrest and travels south with his family to start a better life in KwaZulu Natal, South Africa. Faced with ever mounting challenges, hardships and personal turmoil, Angus struggles with his faith in God and his trust in God's providence.

**Invite Friends & Bring Snacks to Share!**

**TWO UPCOMING DISCOVERY TRIPS!**

**# 1 ~ Sunday, October 18**

We will depart immediately following worship for an afternoon outing to Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center (Villa Maria, Pa.) On the way there, we'll stop for lunch. Then at the Villa we will "Walk The Labyrinth: The Path of Gratefulness." Walking the labyrinth is an experience in quiet prayer with musical accompaniment including harp, cello and flute. (Villa Donation: \$7 ea.) We'll return to Butler by 6:00 pm. Car pooling/rides provided. Please call the church office if you want to go.

**# 2 ~ Wednesday, October 28**

Here's a mid-week opportunity to re-visit one of our favorite sacred spaces in Pittsburgh – Temple Rodef Shalom in Oakland. We will depart Butler at 9:00 am to arrive in time for the 75th Annual Freehof Book Review Series (beginning at 10:30 am). Rabbi Aaron B. Bisno will review *The Evolution of God* by Robert Wright. Following the program, depending upon the interests of the group, we may decide to stop by East Liberty Presbyterian Church or Pittsburgh Seminary... and of course "do lunch" before heading home. Car pooling/rides provided. Please call the church office if you want to go.

**Committee Meetings—**

- ✓ *Worship & Music:* Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 pm (Connell)
- ✓ *Admin. & Stewardship:* Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup> @ 7 pm (Connell)
- ✓ *Session:* Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> @ 7 pm (Assembly)



## FALL BIBLE STUDY

Led by Pastor Jim &  
Rev. Merry Meloy



**BEGINS Wednesday,  
October 21 at 1:00 p.m.**

*(Every other Wednesday—same time, here at Covenant)*

**October 21, November 4, November 18, December 2**

**We will be studying materials by John J. Pilch entitled  
“Introducing the Cultural Context of the Old Testament”**

Our next Joint Bible Study (with Saint Andrews and Faith Presbyterian churches) is an invitation to learn the Mediterranean culture of our ancestors in the faith as a means of better understanding and appreciating the Bible. The lessons will concentrate on Wisdom literature and guide the participants through a cross-cultural comparison of middle-class U.S. cultural values with those of the Mediterranean world.

There is no charge for study materials... and no “prerequisite” of Bible knowledge required. Come, join us as we explore God’s Word together!

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### *In The Life of Our Church*

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#### Prayer Concerns:

Chuck Schlicht . . . . . Now at Sunnyview (Rm. 103) for rehabilitation following surgery last week at Butler Memorial  
John Johnston, Sr. . . . . At Butler Memorial Hospital, Room 5101

#### For Continued Prayer:

Minnie Anderson; Julie & Bud Bruno; Marion Campbell; Marian Curran;  
Eleanor Ritts; Gladys & Ken Strobel; John Towns; Bill & MaryLou Wilson

Birthdays this Week: (October 14) - Karen Swanson / Joseph Salisbury

#### Anniversaries:

**Larry & Ann Morrison**

Married October 14, 1978  
Celebrating their 31<sup>st</sup> Wedding Anniversary (Wednesday)

**Robert & Mary Lee Marten**

Married October 15, 1955  
Celebrating their 54<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary (Thursday)

**ON VACATION NEXT WEEK:**



*Our secretary Elsie will be taking a week's vacation:  
October 12 - October 16.*

Romaine MacDonald will be filling in at the office  
(half days) while Elsie is away.

**Office Hours Next Week Only:  
9 a.m. to 12 noon**

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*TEXT FOR TODAY'S RECESSIONAL HYMN*

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**I Gave My Life for Thee**

Original: Frances R. Havergal, 1858.  
(Recast in 1871)

I gave My life for thee, My precious blood I shed,  
That thou might ransomed be, and raised up from the dead  
I gave, I gave My life for thee, what hast thou given for Me?

My Father's house of light, My glory circled throne  
I left for earthly night, for wanderings sad and lone;  
I left, I left it all for thee, hast thou left aught for Me?

I suffered much for thee, more than thy tongue can tell,  
Of bitterest agony, to rescue thee from hell.  
I've borne, I've borne it all for thee, what hast thou borne for Me?

And I have brought to thee, down from My home above,  
Salvation full and free, My pardon and My love;  
I bring, I bring rich gifts to thee, what hast thou brought to Me?

Long years I spent for thee, in weariness and woe,  
That through eternity My glory you might know.  
Long years, long years I spent for thee;  
Hast Thou spent one for Me?

O let my life be giv-en, my years for Thee be spent,  
World fetters all be riv-en, and joy with suffering blent!  
Thou gave, Thou gave Thyself for me; I give myself to Thee.

## **The United Church of Christ in the Philippines 2009**

2,746 local churches  
20 church related schools and colleges  
5 church related hospitals  
1.2 million members

Since Presbyterians first came to the Philippines in 1898, our mission approach has undergone a “re-definition” ~ 3 Different Approaches

1. 1898 – 1948 “Missionaries”  
Authority: Missionary has primary authority over host country  
Task: Start Churches: Evangelize.  
Role: Landscape Architect: Take control, Make decisions
2. 1948 – 1988 “Fraternal Workers”  
Authority: Missionary shares authority with host country  
Task: Transform Churches: Contextualize.  
Role: Landscape Specialist: Observe, Negotiate change
3. 1988 – 2007 “Mission Co-Workers”  
Authority: Host country has primary authority over missionary  
Task: Serve Churches: Vitalize, Encourage & Support  
Role: Gardener to serve at the direction of the Local Church

## **Philippine Cultural/Political Climate Today under the leadership of President Gloria Macapagal -Arroyo**

*A Great Lack...* of opportunity & essentials  
*A Great Injustice...* of oppression, abuse and greed

### **Education ...** of all children in the Philippines

90% will enter Elementary School  
52% will graduate from High School  
13% will finish College

### **Health Trends...**

- 1 doctor per 12,000 patients in urban centers
- 1 doctor per 42,000 patients in rural areas
- About 15,000 nurses will leave during 2009.  
1998 – 2008: Philippines has sent some 110,000 nurses overseas;  
2005 – 2008: 3,500 doctors have left the country for nursing jobs.  
2005 – 2008: 230 hospitals closed due to loss of medical staff

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**The Killing of Church Workers (2003-2009)  
United Church of Christ in the Philippines only**

*does not include Roman Catholic priests  
or other denominations other than UCCP*

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1. Jose Buendia UCCP Pastor November 19, 2003
2. Isaias Manano UCCP Youth Leader April 28, 2004
3. Joel Baclao UCCP Lay Leader November 10, 2004
4. Juancho Sanchez UCCP Youth Leader Nov. 16, 2004
5. Vicente Olea Lay Leader UCCP November 23, 2004
6. Alfredo Davis Lay Leader UCCP April 15, 2005
7. Edison Lapuz Pastor UCCP May 12, 2005
8. Raul Domingo Pastor UCCP September 4, 2005
9. Junico Halem Lay Leader UCCP December 6, 2005
10. Nestor Arinque Lay Leader UCCP March 7, 2006
11. Jemias Tinambacan Pastor UCCP May 9, 2006
12. Andy Pawican Pastor UCCP May 21, 2006
13. Noli Capulong Lay Leader UCCP May 27, 2006
14. Renato Pacaide Lay Leader UCCP March 2, 2007
15. Filomeno Catambis, UCCP Pastor January 23, 2008
16. Loreto Macalangan UCCP Pastor March 14, 2008
17. Abe Sungit Lay Leader April 11, 2008
18. Madonna Castillo Lay Leader June 16, 2008
19. Ray Mon Guran Lay Leader June 27, 2008
20. Ray Corbin Lay Leader August 4, 2008

**Assault on progressive organizations, churches & selected  
political parties since 2001...**

- 964 extrajudicial killings
- 249 enforced disappearances, 387 assassination attempts
- 197 cases in court

**Economics, compared to other Asian Neighbors...**

	<b>Philippines</b>	<b>Indonesia</b>	<b>Thailand</b>	<b>Malaysia</b>
Unemployment	10.2%	6.1%	3.6%	3.1%
Poverty Level	42%	8.2%	12.9%	8.0%



**October 11, 2009**

“International statistics show that an estimated 150,000 Christians are martyred every year. More than 200 million Christians are restricted from the full practice of their faith. Increasingly, countries are passing legislation which limits free assembly and makes it more difficult for congregations to enlarge, expand and strengthen their work.”

-- Published at [www.globaldayofprayer.com](http://www.globaldayofprayer.com)

“We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.”

-- 2 Corinthians 4: 8-9

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***The Reverend Dr. James E. Swanson, Pastor***

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