

# Order of Service for the Public Worship of God

Reformation Sunday ~ October 28, 2007

Eleven O'clock, A.M

Pastor: Rev. Dr. James E. Swanson    Liturgist: Mrs. Mary Lee Marten  
Organist & Choir Director: Miss Beverly Antis

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*On October 31st in the year 1517, a monk named Martin Luther posted 95 Theses (propositions) on the door of the Wittenberg Castle Church as an invitation to debate the sale of indulgences for forgiveness. That event sparked a reform movement that eventually led to the establishment of a Lutheran church and separate "reformed" denominations. While there is much sorrow in the disunity which the Reformation caused, Luther did establish the idea that the Church is always in need of reform in the light of the gospel. Luther's primary principal that Christians are justified by God's grace through faith in Christ has also found universal acceptance among Christian denominations. Today we pray for church unity, for the purity of God's word, and for a church that is always open to reform and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.*

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THE PRELUDE                      *A Mighty Fortress*                      Paul Manz

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

## \*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (please stand, if you are able)

Pastor:     Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
              God of power and might,  
              heaven and earth are full of your glory.

People:     **Hosanna in the highest.**  
              **Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**  
              **Hosanna in the highest.**

Pastor:     Know that the LORD is God! It is He who made us, and we are His;  
              we are God's people, and the sheep of His pasture.

People:     **We enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with**  
              **praise! We give thanks to God Almighty and bless God's holy**  
              **name!**

## \*THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN 260

*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

EIN' FESTE BURG

## \*THE PRAYER OF ADORATION

A FEW MOMENTS FOR REFLECTION on Reformation Sunday

## THE INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Pastor:     Essential to every confession is an inner conversion of the heart, with  
              sorrow for sin and intent to lead a new life. Relying wholly upon the  
              grace of God and not upon any merit of our own, let us confess our  
              sins, public and private, in full confidence of God's forgiveness.

## THE PUBLIC CONFESSION OF SIN

**Holy Father, you see us as we are, and know our inmost thoughts. We confess that we are unworthy of your gracious care. We forget that all life comes from you and that unto you all life returns. We have not sought to do your will with our whole hearts. We have not lived as grateful children, nor loved as Christ loved us. Apart from you, we are nothing.**

**Only your grace can sustain us. Lord, in your mercy, forgive us, heal us, and make us whole. Set us free from our sin, and restore us to the joy of your salvation now and forever. Amen.**

## THE PRIVATE CONFESSION OF SIN

### THE DECLARATION OF PARDON

Pastor: Hear what comforting words our Savior says to all who repent and surrender to Him:

People: **"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest.**

Pastor: This is a true statement and worthy of full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world not to condemn but to save sinners. If your faith is in Jesus Christ this morning, then I can assure you, based on the solid promise of the Word, that your sins are forgiven!

People: **This is good news, indeed: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

### \*THE GLORIA PATRI 579

GLORIA PATRI

### \*THE EXHORTATION

Liturgist: The Lord God in all goodness has seen fit to call us together as the Church of Jesus Christ in this place. In our history of being God's people in this family of faith, God has given us words of creation, redemption and blessing; words of acceptance and grace; words of outreach and mission.

Therefore, people of God, on this day I invite you to re-commit yourselves and your whole lives to God's holy word and to God's loving purpose for us as the people of Covenant Presbyterian Church, standing firm in the Reformed tradition, so that our lives may be filled with joy, and the work of our hands blessed and prospered.

### \*THE UNISON PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

**Almighty God, help us to grow in faith and love toward you, so that we might always live in trust and hope. Center us in routines that keep us close to you, O Lord. Center us in weekly worship, daily prayer, and regular study of your Holy Word. Center us in the mission of the church. Center us in lives of thankful giving and generous loving for all the blessings which you have bestowed upon us. We commit our lives to you and your word, O God. Amen.**

### \*THE GREETINGS OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP

#### THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

#### THE NOISY OFFERING OF LOOSE CHANGE (Last Sunday of the month)

#### THE SHARING OF JOYS, CONCERNS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE CHORAL PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

*God be in my Head*

John Rutter

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalm 46:1-7

*(Pew Bible p. 498)*

Liturgist: This is the word of the Lord. All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE ANTHEM

*To Him Be Glory*

Austin C. Lovelace

THE EPISTLE LESSON

James 1: 22-27

*(Pew Bible p. 213)*

Liturgist: Here ends the reading of the Epistle. All: **Praise be to you, O Lord.**

\*THE GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 18: 9-14

*(Pew Bible p. 77)*

Pastor: The Gospel of our Lord. All: **Glory to You, O Christ.**

\*THE CONGREGATIONAL CANTICLE

(Hymn Tune #333 Seek Ye First)

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God  
And His righteousness,  
And all these things shall be added unto you.  
Al-le-lu, alleluia!**

**Ask and it shall be given unto you,  
Seek and ye shall find,  
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you.  
Al-le-lu, alleluia!**

THE SERMON

*“ DO SOMETHING ”*

Dr. Swanson

THE HYMN 343 (seated)

*Called As Partners in Christ's Service*

BEECHER

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

THE THREE-FOLD AMEN

Robert Lau

THE PRESENTATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS, AND GIFTS

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*How Firm A Foundation*

arr. John Rutter

\*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.*

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 420

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

CWM RHONDDA

\*THE BENEDICTION

\*THE CHORAL RESPONSE

*A Clare Benediction*

John Rutter

\*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.

People: **Through Christ, our Lord! His peace endures!**

THE POSTLUDE

*A Mighty Fortress*

Wilbur Held

\*Those who are able, please stand.

### *Invitation to Personal Prayer and Counsel*

“Be anxious for nothing but in everything by prayer and supplication  
with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”  
Philippians 4:7

*Dear members, visitors and guests: In these difficult times everyone struggles with overwhelming concerns. Give us the privilege of praying with you in complete confidence after any Sunday morning service. The Elders and Pastor welcome an opportunity to meet with you in the Pastor's Study (ask any member for directions) so that we may pray for your needs and extend a personal hand of friendship.*

**GREETINGS** to all this day who worship the God of past, present and future. We want to get to know you. Please introduce yourself to others sitting nearby during the passing of the peace.

**PASTOR JIM IS BACK IN THE SADDLE** - Pastor Jim is finally on the road to recovery after a few “detours” and we are extremely joyous to have him “home again” in our pulpit.

**THE FLOWERS** in the Sanctuary are provided by Mary Lee Marten in memory of Mary Lee's mother, Ethel Stover, whose birthday is October 31<sup>st</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 Rosamond Curry.

**YOU WERE GREETED TODAY** by Pat Foringer.

**THE USHERS:** Linda Peters and John Prichard

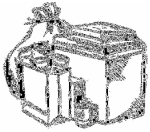
## *In The Life of Our Church*

**THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER** will be celebrated during the 11:00 a.m. worship service next Sunday, November 4.

*Prayer Concerns:* Bob and Joan Moore, Zachary Kupec, Dorothy Hitchcock, Brenda Keith, Tracey Schlicht (Chuck & Jeanne's daughter-in-law), Phyllis Thoma, Pastor Jim and the Swanson Family

### *Celebrating birthdays:*

Robert Thompson - November 1 and Susan Coulter - November 3



### **Covenant Cupboard: November - Peanut Butter or Jelly**

*Baskets for your donations are located in the front hallway.  
Monetary donations are always appreciated and needed.  
Please make checks payable to Covenant Cupboard.*



If you would like Bev's recipe for the "Curried Turkey, Grape, Almond Salad" served at Andy and Shari's wedding reception last Saturday, copies are available in the kitchen. (on bulletin board)



## **THIS AFTERNOON**

**A Service of the Blessing of the Pets**  
Offered for the entire Butler Community!  
**Sunday, October 28 at 3:00 PM**

*Front steps of Covenant Church*

*(in case of rain: use Franklin St. Entrance to the basement)*

Pastor Jim will officiate at this blessing service, assisted by Janice King & Rebecca. For our faithful animal friends that share the earth with us, provide us with their companionship, loyalty and unconditional love, and entertain us with their humorous antics, we offer this special service of blessing.

*\*For safety, please keep your pet on a leash or in a carrier.*



## *“A Time of Prayer and Thanksgiving”*

Noon organ recital series at St. Peter's Episcopal Church continues  
Wednesdays at 12:15-12:45 p.m. through November 21<sup>st</sup> featuring:

October 31	Karen Krenitsky	November 14	Beverly Antis
November 7	John C. Davey	November 21	George Armstrong

*A time for silent prayer follows each recital.*



## *Stewardship Campaign*

November is a very important month in the life of the church. It is the month in which our stewardship campaign is launched.

+ **Stewardship** is about making choices, as individuals and in community. It is more than giving money to the church.

+ **Stewardship** is about being faithful disciples, caring for and managing all that God has given us.

+ **Stewardship** is not just one part of Christian discipleship; it involves every aspect of life in all the stages of life.

+ **Stewardship** is the grateful response to God's grace and goodness. It requires a consideration of how our choices affect us and others, of how we can be good caretakers of the created world, and of how we can best serve God as disciples of Christ.

A packet of information will be mailed out the week of November 12<sup>th</sup> to include pledge cards and suggestions with ways in which we can conserve the valuable resources of our planet earth.

*Some important dates to keep in mind:*

November 11 – Stewardship Sunday  
November 18 – Pledge Dedication Sunday

## **WHAT IS THE LITURGICAL COLOR FOR REFORMATION DAY?**

Red is the liturgical color for this day. Red reminds us of the Holy Spirit who descended on Christ's followers in tongues of fire on Pentecost. It was by the power of the Holy Spirit that Martin Luther came to learn the gospel. The same Spirit moved him to post his Ninety-five Theses and inspired him and his colleagues to work toward the Reformation of the Christian church.

## WHY IS REFORMATION DAY SUCH AN IMPORTANT CHRISTIAN FESTIVAL?

Although "Reformation Day" is October 31<sup>st</sup> each year (commemorating October 31, 1517 when Martin Luther posted his 95 theses on the door of the church in Wittenberg) the Christian community celebrates Reformation Sunday on the last Sunday of October.

Martin Luther and his colleagues came to understand that if we sinners had to earn salvation by our own merits and good works, we would be lost and completely without hope. But through the working of the Holy Spirit, the reformers rediscovered the gospel -- the wonderful news that Jesus Christ lived, died, and rose again to redeem and justify us. As Luther wrote in his explanation of the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed:

*I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, even as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.*

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### Reformation on the Web

If you would like to read the "original document" posted by Luther, you will find the complete text of his Ninety-five Theses (in English translation) at the Project Wittenberg web site:

<http://www.iclnet.org/pub/resources/text/wittenberg/luther/web/ninetyfive.html>

Richard P. Bucher has posted some very interesting *Facts About the Ninety-five Theses*, available on the web site of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Lexington, Kentucky. The web address is:

<http://www.orlutheran.com/html/facts95.html>

The Presbyterian Historical Society has posted a special online exhibit, *Foundations of the Faith*, drawing on images and objects from PHS's rich collections in reformation history. It includes materials relating to such early humanists as Bernard of Clairvaux and Erasmus; the early reformers Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli and Philipp Melancthon; and the founders of the Presbyterian tradition, John Calvin, Theodore Beza, and John Knox. Go to:

<http://www.history.pcusa.org/exhibits/reform/index.html>

October 28, 2007  
Covenant Presbyterian Church



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