

Order of Service for the Public Worship of God

November 11, 2007

Eleven O'clock, A.M

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

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THE SERVICE OF WORSHIP BEGINS WITH THE MUSIC OF THE ORGAN
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THE PRELUDE *O Beautiful for Spacious Skies* Wayne L. Wold

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

*THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN 564 *O Beautiful for Spacious Skies* MATERNA

*THE RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Can the peace of God be known in a world of war and violence? Can the love of God be known in a world of strife?

People: **We know the world is not perfect, but neither is the world hopeless. God is our history and our future... and that makes us confident and secure.**

Leader: As Christians, let us gather for worship: honoring the sacrifice of others, seeking peace, and proclaiming God's love for a troubled world.

People: **With faith that is strong, we embrace the possibilities of life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness for every one of God's people. Come, Holy Spirit! Make all things new!**

THE INVITATION TO CONFESSION

THE CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God of the past, the present and the future; God of the covenant, faithful and true: have mercy upon us as we make our confession. The afflicted await good tidings. The brokenhearted would have their wounds bound. The captives still yearn for freedom, and those who mourn remain to be comforted. Forgive us for failing to accomplish your peace and for failing to establish your kingdom here on earth. Forgive us who fail to follow Christ's call to ministries of justice and love. Restore us and make us worthy to serve in his name.

A TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Hear what the apostle Paul writes concerning the assurance we have in Christ: "May the God of peace... sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The One who calls you is faithful, and will do it."
Friends, hear and believe the Good News of the gospel:

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

*THE GLORIA PATRI 579

Gloria Patri

*THE THREE PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE

CHRISTIAN FLAG

**I pledge allegiance to the Christian Flag,
and to the Savior for whose kingdom it stands,
one Lord, crucified, risen and coming again,
with life and liberty to all who believe.**

BIBLE

**I pledge allegiance to the Bible, God's Holy Word.
I will make it a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.
I will hide its words in my heart that I might not sin against God.**

AMERICAN FLAG

**I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America
and to the Republic for which it stands,
one nation under God, indivisible,
with liberty and justice for all.**

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (to be read responsively)

L: In the midst of hunger and war
P: **We celebrate the promise of plenty and peace.**
L: In the midst of oppression and tyranny
P: **We celebrate the promise of service and freedom.**
L: In the midst of doubt and despair
P: **We celebrate the promise of faith and hope.**
L: In the midst of fear and betrayal
P: **We celebrate the promise of joy and loyalty.**
L: In the midst of hatred and death
P: **We celebrate the promise of life and of living.**
L: In the midst of sin and decay
P: **We celebrate the promise of salvation and renewal.**
L: In the midst of death on every side
P: **We celebrate the promise of the living Christ.**

*THE GREETINGS OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP

THE RECOGNITION OF VETERANS (see insert)

*THE HYMN 561 *My Country, 'Tis of Thee* AMERICA

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

At the conclusion of the Children's Sermon, a "helper" will walk down the center aisle with a basket to collect Prayer Requests. Kindly pass your notes to the center so they may be placed into the basket. These will be included in the Pastoral Prayer of the Day and also forwarded to the Prayer Cordon for special attention. Thanks.

THE SHARING OF JOYS, CONCERNS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE CHORAL PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

God be in my Head John Rutter

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Genesis 1:23-28 (*Pew Bible p. 1*)

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

THE ANTHEM *Jerusalem, My Happy Home* arr. Lloyd Pfautsch

THE EPISTLE LESSON Romans 8:8-25 (*Pew Bible p. 148*)

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

*THE GOSPEL LESSON John 3:16-21 (*Pew Bible p. 89*)

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 “ *FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD* ” Dr. Swanson

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 *God So Loved the World* John Stainer

*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

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 RECESSIONAL HYMN 435

We All Are One In Mission ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN

*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

God Bless Our Native Land

Wilbur Held

*Those who are able, please stand.

GREETINGS TO ALL this day who have come to worship. We want to get to know you, especially if you are a visitor!

Please introduce yourself to others sitting nearby during the passing of the peace. Following the worship, everyone is invited to share a time of coffee, tea and fellowship downstairs in the Assembly Room. (exit at the rear of the sanctuary, go down the stairs and past the Library to the entrance near the Sallman painting of Christ knocking at the door.)

THE FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are provided by Ann Morrison in honor of her daughter, Sarah Jane's 17th birthday on November 14.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR immediately follows this worship service downstairs in the Assembly Room. Everyone is cordially invited to attend. Hosting today's Fellowship Hour are Connie Brown, Helen Ferguson and Romaine MacDonald.

EQUAL EXCHANGE FAIRLY TRADED GOURMET COFFEE will be available again this week in the Assembly Room during today's Fellowship Hour. Each sample packet (1.5 ounces) of *Café Salvador* contains enough coffee to make one (64 fluid oz.) pot of coffee. The cost is \$1 per packet.

YOU WERE GREETED TODAY by Grace Sechler.

THE USHERS: Ann Morrison and Grace Sechler

THE CHURCH OFFICE will be closed tomorrow, Monday, November 12th in observance of Veteran's Day.

EVERYBODY LOVES A PARADE! - If you are planning to attend Butler City's Veterans Day Parade downtown on Main St. tomorrow, look for our sexton, Larry Morrison and "The Lion and Thistle" Highlanders (Bagpipers), who will be making their Butler parade debut. The Veterans Day Parade begins at 10:50 a.m.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

- Covenant Cupboard Board Meeting – Tuesday, November 13, 10:30 am (Fellowship Hall)
- Administration & Stewardship - Wed., Nov. 14, 7 pm (Connell Room)
- Session - Tuesday, November 20, 7 pm (Assembly Room)



Stewardship Challenge

November is a very important month in the life of the church. It is the month in which our stewardship emphasis 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 THIS WEEK** and will include pledge cards and suggestions with ways in which we can conserve the valuable resources of our planet earth.

Next Sunday, November 18 is Pledge Dedication Sunday

Please remember to bring your completed pledge card(s)
with you to worship next Sunday.



"A Time of Prayer and Thanksgiving"

(Beverly Antis, our choir director and organist, is the featured artist for this Wednesday's noon organ recital at St. Peter's Episcopal Church.)

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

November 14

November 21

Beverly Antis

George Armstrong

A time for silent prayer follows each recital.



A Memorial Service will be held for the former organist of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, **Carl Hollenbaugh, on Sunday, November 18, at 4:00 PM.** An Evening Vesper Service of Sacred Music and the Service of the Word will be held at that time. Carl served as organist at St. Mark's for forty years. He held the position of Organist Emeritus for a year before his death on September 14, 2007. A reception will be held immediately following the service.

In The Life of Our Church

Prayer Concerns: Betty Anderson, Bob and Joan Moore, Dorothy Hitchcock, Brenda Keith, Tracey Schlicht (Chuck & Jeanne's daughter-in-law), Phyllis Thoma, Ellie Walchesky

Celebrating birthdays:

T. Thomas Burkley - November 11
Katie Hitchcock - November 13
Nancy Jo Moorhead - November 13
Sarah Morrison - November 14
Dorothy Hitchcock - November 17
Marcia Forbes - November 17



Happy Birthday to Bev Antis!

Beverly Antis, our Choir Director and Organist, celebrated a birthday yesterday, November 10th! We celebrate Bev—her talent, her energy, her generosity of spirit—and wish her many blessings.

Congratulations to the Burkleys!

Tom and Linda Burkley will celebrate their 10th wedding anniversary this Thursday, November 15th. May God continue to bless their union and bring them joy and peace.



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.*

Our Apologies to Mary Elizabeth Goehring for an error that was repeated in last Sunday's worship bulletin. On the back page, Leona M. Moyer who died on August 29, 2005 was incorrectly identified as Mary Elizabeth Goehring's sister. Mrs. Moyer is not related to Mary Elizabeth.

Quotables

Macrina Wiederkehr: “You are enough”

A scripture passage found me ... and has been a help in my struggle. It is the text of Philippians 4:11: “... I have learned to be content with whatever I have.” Though this Word of God has not yet become a reality in my life, I often allow those words to move through me, singing in my heart. Repetition is good for the soul. I am reminded again of that text as I hear the words of Jesus, “Take nothing on your journey.” As feelings of fear and resistance stir in my heart, the seed of this Word of God cracks open. I hear the song of One who believes in the good soil of my soul saying to me, You are enough! Poor, little, broken, sinful, wounded! Joyful and sorrowful! You are enough!

Compassionate, idealistic, fearful! Restless, seeking, anxious! You are enough. Go simply, then, dancing the gift of yourself into my world.

(from *The Song of the Seed*, pp. 58-59)

The Dalai Lama’s answer to world hunger

After the Dalai Lama delivered a lecture, a member of the audience asked him what the answer to world hunger is. He responded, "Sharing."

(Christian Century, 7/12/05)

Marj Carpenter

“One of the best mission talks I have ever heard.”

Once I visited a presbytery in Mississippi. Presbyterians there had just completed a mission trip to Mexico. Several of them rose and gave detailed reports of helping with construction, Bible school, and other projects. A young teenager was the last one to speak. He rose and quickly and said simply, “I found out while on this trip that Americans have too much stuff,” then he sat down. It was one of the best mission talks I have ever heard.

(*Presbyterian Outlook* 8/29/05)

Ashleigh Brilliant’s sure-fire way to get more of what you want

“Want less.”

(from a postcard by Ashleigh Brilliant – yes, that’s his real name.)

“It makes me want too much.”

A young girl was explaining to a schoolmate why she was not allowed to watch Saturday morning television. “It makes me want too much,” she said.

(Source unknown)

Having Dominion by Shiao Chong

A Reflection on the implications of Genesis, Chapter One

(published in Comment Magazine, "Life's Big Question:
Where Am I?" September, 2007)

Forty years ago historian Lynn White Jr. published a provocative article titled, "The Historical Roots of Our Ecologic Crisis" (*Science*, 155, March 10, 1967), which suggested that Christianity, following the command in Genesis 1:28, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth," (NRSV) was responsible for our current environmental crisis.

How did Genesis 1:28 cause the environmental crisis? In this article, I want to explore our relationship to the earth from a reformed Christian perspective, taking into consideration the environmentalist charge against Christianity. In the Babylonian creation myth, the *Enuma Elish*, human beings were created from the blood of an executed rebellious god as slave-labor to do the dirty work of the gods on the earth. Thus, this mythology reinforced the position of slaves and peasants as lowly laborers, set apart from the king and the ruling class (images of the gods. Therefore, when Genesis 1 claims that *all* humankind, both male and female, is created in God's image, it directly attacks the Babylonian mythology's hierarchy among humankind. In Genesis, all of humanity is equally in God's image, from the king to the peasant, from the oldest to the youngest, both male and female. All of us are rulers exercising dominion over the earth. Notice that Genesis 1:28 says nothing about exercising dominion over each other, over other human beings, but only over creation. Thus the original intent of Genesis was to critique the oppressive, hierarchical worldview of the Babylonian empire (which was very influential in the ancient near east) and to shape ancient Israel's worldview as one that is different, one that is egalitarian, where no one is naturally a slave or naturally a ruler.

We are all, without exception, in the image of God and are called to exercise dominion over creation. But if the functional aspect of the *Imago Dei* is dominion or ruling over creation, then does not this support the environmentalists' accusation that this is the root of all environmental evils? Well, let's take a closer look at dominion. The word dominion currently gives us all sorts of negative connotations, such as tyranny, oppression, exploitation, and so on. However, if Genesis sees humankind as ruling on God's behalf, then it is fair to see how Genesis portrayed God's own ruling. In Genesis 1, prior to the creation of humankind, we see God in control, ruling by royal pronouncements ("Let there be . . .," for example). But God's rule here is peaceful, not violent. God created the heavens and the earth by simply pronouncing them to be, unlike the *Enuma Elish* where the heavens and the earth were created from the dismemberment of a rebel monster goddess's slain body.

The Babylonian myth suggests that the material world is inherently violent, evil, and tragic. The victorious Babylonian gods rule viciously, vindictively, and violently. In contrast, God's creation and ruling of the cosmos in Genesis is peaceful, harmonious, and orderly, and the whole creation, rather than the tragic result of conflict, is "very good" (Genesis 1:31). In addition, the context of Genesis 2 also undermines the notion of "dominion" and "subduing" as exploitation. In Genesis 2:15, God created Adam and "put him in the garden of Eden to *till it and keep it*." To till and keep a garden is not the same as exploiting and ravaging the earth. The very vocation of a gardener totally goes against that of exploiting the earth. Good gardeners do their best to make the garden as beautiful as it can be, to bear flowers and fruits, to maintain the health and life of the plants in the garden. We also know that God is love (1 John 4:16). As seventeenth-century poet George Herbert puts it: "Love rules his kingdom without a sword." In other words, God's loving rule is neither tyrannical nor based on violence or coercion.

Humanity, created to be God's agents to rule and have dominion over creation, then must be seen as exercising a dominion that is loving, harmonious, caring, and nurturing. We rule on God's behalf, not in place of God. We are more like caretakers of the world because the world belongs not to us, but to God. To read dominion (and subduing) as giving humanity *carte blanche* freedom to do whatever it desires with creation is to misread dominion in Genesis 1.

The Bible says that we live in a reality that is created by God. Everything that exists, physical or spiritual, exists because God brought it into being. God not only created all things but also sustains them. This means that the whole universe is in some way dependent on God to continue existing and functioning. We can say that the world is created as being-in-relationship with God. Being somehow related to God is part of the basic make-up of the cosmos. This being-in-relationship is not characterized by a fusion or union of things; it is not as if each individual thing in reality is like a drop of water in an ocean. Neither is it like a beach with pebbles of sand lying next to each other; being-in-relationship means more than mere proximity. It means that each individual unit is interdependent on each other and on God (God is the only one not dependent on anything or anyone else). It is like a spider's web: each strand is uniquely individual yet all are related to other strands and affect each other.

Dominion does not mean that we can exploit creation in any way we like. Rather, dominion means we have a duty to explore, develop, and enjoy nature's potentials in kind, responsible, and loving ways. All our relationships are defined by love, a love that privileges the interests of others over self-interest. Thus, we must exercise our stewardship authority over creation in loving and care-full ways.

Stewardship means caring for something that belongs to another. In the case of the natural world, scripture makes it quite clear that we are to care for it on behalf of the God who created it.

Stewardship Sunday & Veteran Recognition

November 11, 2007

Webster's Dictionary defines a steward as "one who acts as a supervisor or administrator, as of finances and property, for another or others." Under this definition, everyone is a steward of the environment around us. We do not own the environment—no one can. We are simply caretakers of the resources that we use in our daily lives, and it is our responsibility to administer those resources to the best of our abilities so they are available for the use and enjoyment of others, including future generations. Stewardship is what we *do* (not just what we promote or what we encourage).

(Source: Statement by the Regents
of The University of Michigan, 2002)

The Reverend Dr. James E. Swanson

Home Phone: 724.752.8383

Church Office: 724.287.7731

Website: <http://covenantbutler.org>

IN RECOGNITION OF VETERANS' DAY



WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

We recognize and salute the men from our congregation, past and present who have served (or who are presently serving) our country.

May God Bless the following:

David C. Blewett

U.S. Army - Map Service Far East
29th Engineer Battalion, Oji Camp,
Tokyo, Japan
Served October 1959 - January 1961

Fred L. Curran

Served 1941-1944
Troop Transport - 16th Armored
Division
Europe

James P. Curry

U.S. Air Force
8th Division
1943-1945

Lester A. Dunmire

Army Medical Corp
Served 1951-1953 in Germany

Christopher A. Foringer

U.S. Army - 82nd Airborne Division
Served July 15, 2002 - July 15, 2005

John Keasey

Corporal in the U.S. Army
Served in the South Pacific
Drafted Dec. 28, 1942
Discharged Jan. 10, 1946

Robert A. Marten

U.S. Air Force
Honor
1954-1959

Robert W. Moore

U.S. Army - Captain
Served in Europe - WW II

Orville Nicholas

U.S. Army
Korean War

Cole R. Patterson

U.S. Air Force
Served 2003 - 2006

Joseph L. Salisbury

U.S. Air Force - Captain
1957-1960

Vernon A. Swanson

12th Air Force Ordnance
1943-1945
Tech. Sgt.
N. Africa and Italy

John W. Towns, Jr.

U.S. Air Force - Staff Sergeant
Served 1950-1953

Douglas VanDeusen

U.S. Marine Corp
Platoon Sgt.
Served Jan. 1942 – October 1945

William E. Wilson

U.S. Navy - Ensign
Served June 1943 - middle of 1946
(served at the end of WW II)

Those present in spirit and in our hearts:

James Otis Anderson

U.S. Navy - Captain

Richard H. "Bud" Campbell

U.S. Army Paratrooper WWII
Recalled for Korean Conflict
Engineer on the Railroad

William L. Chappell

Staff Sergeant, 8th Air Force
Served 1943-1945 (WW II)
B-24 bombers in Germany

Charles D. Foringer

U.S. Army - Supply
Convoy Commander
Served during Vietnam War
Bronze Star, Army Commendation
Medal

Richard W. Hobaugh

U.S. Navy
Seaman 1st Class
Served 1945-1947

Sanford M. Peters

U.S. Army - Private 1st Class
Served 1956-1960
Electrician

William R. Walchesky

U.S. Army - Staff Sergeant
Served 1944-1946 (WW II)