

Order of Service for the Public Worship of God

November 18, 2007

Eleven O'clock, A.M

Pastor: Rev. Dr. James E. Swanson Liturgist: Enid Dunmire
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 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* Robert Lau

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

*THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN 559 *We Gather Together* KREMSER

*THE PRAYER OF ADORATION

THE INVITATION TO CONFESSION

THE CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Father God, through the resurrection of Jesus you free us from the powers of darkness and evil and death. In Christ, you open the way for us to enter your Holy Kingdom of peace and to enjoy fellowship with you forever.

Forgive us for the times when we failed to walk where you were sending us, to love when our loving could have made a difference, or to speak words of reconciliation and healing where the gifts of grace were needed.

Give us courage to move beyond our failures and to be your people in the world today. Help us to thirst for the new wine of your radical love, and to relinquish our old, brittle wineskins of pettiness, bitterness and greed.

Now as we pray with penitent hearts, O God, embrace us and give us hope through the power of your Holy Spirit in union with the risen, ruling Christ, our Savior and Lord.

A TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Here and now we have offered our failures, our faults, and our secret sins, hoping for some assurance of God's grace. Have we indeed been heard and forgiven?

Friends, let us proclaim the great good news:

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

*THE GLORIA PATRI 579

Gloria Patri

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Confession of 1967 (PCUSA)
Sections 921-9.23, Inclusive Language Version

The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind. His cross and resurrection become a personal crisis and present hope for women and men when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. In this experience, the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to all, moves people to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ.

The new life takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God's grace.

The new life does not release people from conflict with unbelief, pride, lust, and fear. They still have to struggle with disheartening difficulties and problems. Nevertheless, as they mature in love and faithfulness in their life with Christ, they live in freedom and good cheer, bearing witness on good days and evil days, confident that the new life is pleasing to God and helpful to others.

*THE GREETINGS OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP

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 PRESENTATION OF A PRAYER SHAWL to Karen Swanson



Prayer Shawl Blessing

*May God's Grace be upon this shawl,
warming, comforting, enfolding and embracing.*

*May this mantle be a safe haven...
a sacred place of security and well being...
sustaining and embracing in good times
as well as difficult ones.*

*May you in receiving this gift be cradled in hope,
kept in joy, graced with peace,
and wrapped in love.*

Be warm, be safe, and be assured of God's love. Amen.

THE CHORAL PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

God be in my Head

John Rutter

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 65:17-25

(Pew Bible p. 659)

Liturgist: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE ANTHEM *I Will Arise* arr. Shaw-Parker

THE EPISTLE LESSON 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 (*Pew Bible p. 194*)

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

*THE GOSPEL LESSON Luke 21:5-19 (*Pew Bible p. 80*)

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 “YOUR LIFE’S WORK” Dr. Swanson

THE CONSECRATION OF GIFTS & DEDICATION OF PLEDGES FOR 2008

THE HYMN 428 *We Give Thee but Thine Own* SCHUMANN

(As the hymn is sung, please come forward with your pledges
and place them in the plate.)

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Following the petitions voiced by the pastor, a time will be given for worshipers to pray aloud. You are encouraged to speak the name of a loved one in need, share a joy, lift up a concern, or offer a short phrase (“for peace in our land; healing for Jane, etc.) to be heard by the assembly and lifted up by the church. Please participate without fear of embarrassment – Christ invites us to pray together!

*After each voiced prayer, the people respond: **Hear our prayer, O Lord.***

THE LORD’S PRAYER (using “debts” and “debtors”)

THE THREE-FOLD AMEN Robert Lau

THE PRESENTATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS, AND GIFTS

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Sing To the Lord of Harvest* David Peninger

*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 525 *Here I Am, Lord* HERE I AM, LORD

*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 *Now Thank We All Our God* 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

- **Sanctuary Flowers** are provided by Ann Morrison in honor of her mother, Ruth Faulkner's 81st birthday on November 13.
- **Assembly Room Flowers** are provided by the Family of Robert Moore in honor of his 91st birthday today, November 18.

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

YOU WERE GREETED TODAY by Grace Sechler.

THE USHERS: Ann Morrison and Grace Sechler

PLEDGE DEDICATION - During this morning's worship service, all members of the church are invited to bring their completed pledge forms forward for a special service of blessing and consecration. Extra pledge forms and envelopes are available in the narthex if you have forgotten yours. Your pledge signifies the importance of your participation in the support of Covenant Church.

THE SESSION meets this Tuesday, November 20, at 7 p.m. in the Assembly Room for their stated meeting.

NO CHOIR REHEARSAL this Thursday, November 22nd, Thanksgiving Day. A warm-up rehearsal will be held the usual time on Sunday morning, November 25th.

THE CHURCH OFFICE will be **closed this Thursday, November 22nd and Friday, November 23rd** for the Thanksgiving Day holiday. If you have an emergency and need to reach Pastor Jim, you may contact him at his home, 724-752-8383 or cell phone, 724-712-1407.

REMINDER: The Noisy Offering (last Sunday of each month) will be held next Sunday, November 25th during the 11 a.m. worship service. Remember to bring in your collected change from the month and be prepared to make "a joyful noise unto the Lord!"

"A Time of Prayer and Thanksgiving" - The finale of the Noon organ recital series at St. Peter's Episcopal Church will be held this Wednesday, November 21st at 12:15-12:45 p.m. with Mr. George Armstrong, St. Peter's Organist and Music Director. A time for silent prayer will follow.



A Memorial Service will be held this afternoon for the former organist of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, **Carl Hollenbaugh, 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: Bill Wilson, Betty Anderson, Bob and Joan Moore, Brenda Keith, Tracey Schlicht (Chuck & Jeanne's daughter-in-law), Phyllis Thoma, Ellie Walchesky

Celebrating birthdays:

Robert Moore - November 18
Grace Sechler - November 19
Danny Swanson - November 21

Celebrating anniversaries:

Ken & Gladys Strobel - November 21
Joseph & Eileen Davidson - November 21
Fred & Marian Curran - November 23



With Deepest Sympathy

IN MEMORIAM

Dorothy B. Hitchcock

November 17, 1922 - November 14, 2007

The love, prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to the Family of Dorothy B. Hitchcock: Lawrence W. Hitchcock and his wife, Sharon Sinclair of Omaha, NE; Roger Alan Hitchcock of Butler; her daughter, Alison Ruth and her husband, Troy Schmidt of Wooster, OH; 6 grandchildren; Brian, Katherine, and Mark Hitchcock, Emily Pitorak and her husband, Bryan, Troy and Geoffrey Schmidt. We also extend our condolences to Nancy Hitchcock and Betty Anderson, who each shared a special relationship with Dorothy.

Dorothy was born in Columbus, Ohio, the daughter of the late George K. Barney and Elizabeth P. (Remington) Barney. She was a graduate of Evanston High School in Illinois and of the University of Illinois in 1945.

She was a member of Covenant Presbyterian Church where she served as a former Deacon and Elder and had belonged to the Seekers Class and Prayer Cordon. She was a member of the Butler Country Club, Butler Garden Club, Literary Club and League of Women Voters. She enjoyed playing bridge and golf, knitting, and reading.

A Memorial Service for Dorothy Hitchcock will be held here at Covenant Church in the Sanctuary on Saturday, December 8 at 11 a.m. with Rev. Dr. James E. Swanson, officiating. The Reception Committee will host a catered lunch by Chef George Schroth in the Assembly Room following the memorial service. (Private Interment) Memorial donations can be made to Covenant Presbyterian Church.

Covenant Cupboard:

December - noodles or tuna

*Baskets for your donations are located in the front hallway.
Monetary donations are always appreciated and needed.*

Please make checks payable to Covenant Cupboard.



Dear Covenant Members,

Thank you for the cards and letters. I am adjusting to living at St. Barnabas Retirement Village. I have four charming nurses who I see at different times during the week. I call them "my daughters" and they call me "a character!" My real daughter Christine who lives in Oregon flew in to be with me for a day.

Happy Holidays!
John Henninger

If you wish to send holiday greetings or letters to John, his address is provided below:

Mr. John Henninger
c/o St. Barnabas Retirement Village
5850 Meridian Rd., Apt. 516B
Gibsonia, PA 15044-4808

Biblical Stewardship: The Truth About Money

Biblical stewardship requires that a Christian view money differently from the way the secular world views it. The world equates affluence with success and happiness. Therefore, society constantly struggles to acquire as much wealth as possible. The Bible, however, exposes the worthlessness of such a struggle by revealing the truth about money. The Psalms proclaim, "But man, despite his riches, does not endure; he is like the beasts that perish" (Psalm 49:12). No matter how much one struggles for wealth, death still awaits because money cannot add anything to one's life.

One could argue that, although money does not keep death away, it is still worth pursuing because it brings happiness and satisfaction in life. Solomon, a wise and rich man, argues, "Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income ... the abundance of a rich man permits him no sleep" (Ecclesiastes 5:10-12). Money can never satisfy those who love it and, instead, offers nothing of lasting value.

Biblical stewardship does not require that a Christian despise money or shun earning it. Money is, after all, a necessity for basic living. The Bible does warn, however, that the *love* of money is the source of evil (1 Timothy 6:10). It is important not to allow money to become the center of one's life.

Good stewardship encourages a Christian to find true value in life. If money does not satisfy, what does? The Bible states, "Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf" (Proverbs 11:28). The righteous, not the rich, thrive. The righteous have character. Proverbs 22:1 states, "A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold." Character lasts. Money does not.

Believing in God offers the righteous a lifetime of wealth (Romans 11:33). Knowing God and living in God's love are the true eternal riches. The author of Hebrews writes, "Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you'" (Hebrews 13:5). Money does not love, and it does not linger. It is God who stands by and blesses his children. It is God, and God alone, which truly satisfies all hearts.



Happy Thanksgiving!

TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY

FROM THE
STAFF OF COVENANT CHURCH

Pastor Jim

Elsie, Larry, Mindy, Bev

Pledge Dedication Sunday
November 18, 2007

Be present at our table, Lord,
Be here and everywhere adored;
Thy creatures bless and grant that we
May strengthened for thy service be. Amen.

*A Table Blessing, often sung to the tune
DOXOLOGY OLD 100th*

God of goodness, bless our food,
Keep us in a cheerful mood.
Bless the cook and all who serve us.
From indigestion, Lord, preserve us.

*From an Anglican monastery kitchen
at Brisbane, Australia*

The Reverend Dr. James E. Swanson

Home Phone: 724.752.8383

Church Office: 724.287.7731

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