

Order of Service for the Public Worship of God

All Saints Sunday ~ November 2, 2008

Eleven O'clock, A.M

Pastor: Rev. Dr. James E. Swanson

Liturgist: Ann Morrison

Organist & Choir Director: Beverly Antis

Our Service of Worship begins with the Music of the Organ



THE PRELUDE *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind* Albin C. Whitworth

THE CHORAL INTROIT *Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song* Peter Cutts

*THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN 281

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah CWM RHONDDA

*THE PRAYER OF ADORATION

THE CALL 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

O God of grace and God of justice: we come before you as a people who have lost their way. We have taken your marvelous creation for granted and have been wasteful with the plenty you provide. We are short-sighted and selfish with your gifts; we seek comfort and security for ourselves at the expense of bare essentials for others; we squander opportunities for reconciliation; and we are lazy in our efforts to work for unity where there is division.

Forgive us, and show us your path to "shalom." Increase our desire to work for restoration, to do justice, and to preserve our natural resources, following where your Holy Spirit beckons. Help us to work for healing and wholeness in and of this world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

A TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: God has gifted us with an option to repent and turn aside from sin; God offers his assurance of pardon through Jesus Christ; and God gives to us a future unblemished by the sins of our past. Because of this, we are privileged to look differently upon the time that is now, to become wise in the use of our remaining days, and to live with the love we have been graced to receive. Friends, let us not only hear, but believe the good news of the gospel!

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

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *PC (USA) Study Catechism, Questions 20-21*

Leader: [Question 20.] Was the image of God lost when we turned from God by falling into sin?

People: **Yes and no. Sin means that all our relations with others have become distorted and confused. Although we did not cease to be *with* God, our fellow human beings, and other creatures, we did cease to be *for* them; and although we did not lose our distinctive human capacities completely, we did lose the ability to use them rightly, especially in relation to God.**

Having ruined our connection with God by disobeying God's will, we are persons with hearts curved in upon ourselves. We have become slaves to the sin of which we are guilty, helpless to save ourselves, and are free, so far as freedom remains, only within the bounds of sin.

Leader: [Question 21.] What does it mean to say that Jesus Christ is the image of God?

People: **Despite our turning from God, God did not turn from us, but instead sent Jesus Christ in the fullness of time to restore our broken humanity. Jesus lived completely for God, by giving himself completely for us, even to the point of dying for us. By living so completely for others, he manifested what he was — the perfect image of God.**

When by grace we are conformed to him through faith, our humanity is renewed according to the divine image that we lost.

*THE GREETINGS OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

Kindly pass your Prayer Requests to the center aisle so they may be collected. These will be included in the Pastoral Prayer of the Day and also forwarded to the Prayer Cordon for special attention.

THE SHARING OF JOYS, CONCERNS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE CHORAL PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Teach Me, O Lord Healey Willan

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Amos 5:6-15 (*Pew Bible p. 809*)

Liturgist: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE EPISTLE LESSON 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13 (*Pew Bible p. 191*)

Liturgist: Here ends the reading of the Epistle.

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

THE GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 23:1-12 (*Pew Bible p. 24*)

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 "PUBLIC PIETY" Dr. Swanson

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

THE THREE-FOLD AMEN Danish

THE PRESENTATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS & GIFTS

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM
How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place Johannes Brahms

*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 COMMUNION HYMN 513

Let Us Break Bread Together LET US BREAK BREAD

THE INVITATION & PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God! Believers will come from east and west, and from north and south, to sit at table in the kingdom of God. This is the Lord's Table. Our Savior invites all those who trust Him to share the feast which He has prepared.

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 to love and serve you, but we forgot your promises and abandoned your commandments. In your mercy, you did not reject us but still claimed us as your own.

People: **Around this table we gather: awed by the example of Christ, remembering His sacrifice, confessing our role in His continuing passion.**

Pastor: Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing 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 blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord... Accept this, our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.

Great is the mystery of faith:

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

THE CONSECRATION OF THE ELEMENTS

THE COMMUNION (*seated*)

A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

*THE UNISON PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

O God, who called us from death to life: we give ourselves to You, and with the church through all ages, we praise You for Your saving love in Jesus Christ, who makes us new and strong, who brings us life eternal.

Holy God, we came to this Table tempted to deny the pain of life, scarred from too many broken dreams, knowing that we are not immune to evil's lure... and you met us at this table, embracing us in our brokenness, naming us as your own and claiming us for all eternity.

We thank you, living, loving God. Now let your servants depart in peace. Amen and amen.

*THE RECESSIONAL HYMN 512

Living Word of God Eternal KOMM, O KOMM, DU GEIST DES LEBENS

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE CHORAL RESPONSE

The Lord Bless You and Keep You Peter C. Lutkin

*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 *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word* Paul Manz

*Those who are able, please stand.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR - Everyone is cordially invited to attend today's Fellowship Hour which immediately follows this worship service downstairs in the Assembly Room. Hosting today's Fellowship Hour is Connie Brown.

YOU WERE GREETED TODAY by Helen Ferguson.

Grace and Peace to All

*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. Fellowship Hour will be in the Assembly Room downstairs. (exit at the rear of the sanctuary, go down to the lower level, past the Library to the room near the Sallman painting of Christ knocking at the door.)

GUEST PREACHER NEXT SUNDAY

Reverend Dr. William A. Jamieson will be in our pulpit next Sunday, filling in for Pastor Jim while he recovers from his surgery. November 9th is also the first of two Stewardship Sundays scheduled by Session. Rev. J. has graciously agreed to present the first stewardship sermon of our campaign this year. As always, when Bill has something to say, it is well worth listening!

THANKS FOR REMEMBERING !

from Pastor Jim (& Karen):

I was very surprised and truly delighted to receive from “the flock” last Sunday a gift of appreciation to mark *Pastor Appreciation Week*. Karen and I look forward to using our Gift Certificate at Shakespeare’s Restaurant at Olde Stonewall in Ellwood City. Thanks, as well, for the cash we found tucked inside the card that was given.

We hope you know what a “mutual appreciation” exists, and how dearly we love you for all that you do and for the many ways you express your care and concern. (Question: My calendar does not seem to list “Congregation Appreciation Week”... when is that, exactly? I want to send you a card, at least!

SEEKERS’ CLASS NEXT SUNDAY

*always provocative speakers, interesting
topics & lively discussions*

9:45 a.m. in the Connell Room



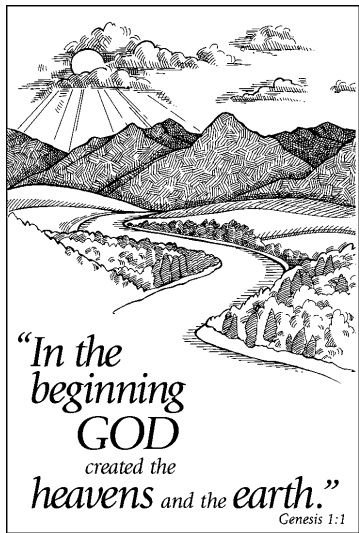
November 9, 16 and 30: Professor Ron Tappy

You’ll want to be on hand again to hear renowned Biblical archaeologist and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary professor, Dr. Ron Tappy, who will present a series entitled *Jacob, Esau, and the Kinship Ties that Bind*.

November 23 - Will Pollock (Meridian Presbyterian Church)

Topic: Presbyterian Mission Trip to South Africa

“Stewardship of God’s Green Earth, II”



Stewardship Sundays

November 9 at 11 a.m.

Rev. Dr. William A. Jamieson, Preaching

November 16 at 11 a.m.

Rev. Dr. James E. Swanson, Preaching

Stewardship Emphasis, plus

Recognition of Veterans during worship

Pledge Dedication Sunday

November 23 at 11 a.m.

Members of the church will be invited to come forward with their completed pledge cards for a Service of Blessing & Dedication

Please watch the mail! You should be receiving a correspondence containing your pledge card in a couple of weeks!

In The Life of Our Church

Prayer Concerns:

- Pastor Jim Surgery at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Ohio tomorrow, Monday, November 3rd
- Eddie Butler III Recovering from surgery at Presbyterian Hospital in Pgh. (son of Eddie Butler, Jr. / grandson of Betty Butler)
- Joan Moore Skilled Nursing, Concordia at Rebecca
- Mary Elizabeth Goehring. . Now receiving hospice care at Concordia, Cabot, PA
- Eleanor Ritts Now at the home of her daughter, Mary Hammonds
- Shari Swanson Visiting her family in Manila until 11-20

For Continued Prayer:

Julie & Bud Bruno; Marion Campbell; Marian Curran;
Brenda Keith; Gladys Strobel; Bill Wilson

Birthdays this week:

Cole Patterson - November 6
Andrew Swanson - November 8

FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP

Rebecca Doyle, our floral designer and arranger, is taking a leave of absence during the winter to spend more time with her husband, Gary. Flowers for the sanctuary or the Assembly Room will be provided by the Butler Florist. Elsie, our secretary, will order flowers on your behalf unless otherwise instructed. The cost currently is \$25. *(please make checks payable to Covenant Presbyterian Church)*

P.T.S. SPEAKER TO ADDRESS CRISIS IN MIDDLE EAST

Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian, President of Haigazian University in Beirut, Lebanon, will speak at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary from 4:30-5:30 PM on Monday, November 10th. A pastor in the Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East, Dr. Haidostian will address the current crisis for Christians on the topic "The Future for Christians in the Troubled Middle East." World Mission Initiative is sponsoring this event held in Room 2 of the Administration Building at the seminary.



Yesterday was "All Saints Day," November 1. Our Covenant Church family has in the previous three years (2006, 2007, 2008) commended a number of friends and relatives into God's eternal care, and we await with eagerness that day when we shall be reunited again. On this Sunday, let us give thanks for their memory and for the blessing of knowing and loving each of these dear companions who have walked with us on our individual and collective journeys of faith.

Members and friends who have departed:

Norman F. Voelker January 24, 2006
(Nancy Hitchcock Rettig's father)

Charlotte L. Davidson March 16, 2006
(Tom Davidson's mother)

Roberta Drake Ruff March 30, 2006

Sarah Jane L. Thomas April 5, 2006

Laverne Wilson April 19, 2006
(Dr. Bill Wilson's stepmother)

Martha Tinker Blewett June 30, 2006

James Wilson September 5, 2006
(Marylou Wilson's brother)

Catherine "Kay" Pia Henninger September 21, 2006

Marilyn Forcht October 10, 2006

Sanford Marshall "Sam" Peters December 22, 2006

Elizabeth "Betty" Jane Graves February 3, 2007

Mary Jane Blaine February 19, 2007
(Dr. Ray Blaine's wife)

Frances I. Morrison April 21, 2007
(Larry Morrison's mother)

Mary B. Schweppe Hoffman May 3, 2007

Mary Trenchard Timmons May 5, 2007

James E. Neff August 11, 2007
(Grace Sechler's brother)

LaRose Jaffe Black August 23, 2007

Muriel L. Taylor Thompson September 11, 2007

Florence M. LeRoy..... May 14, 2007
(Virginia Maust Thompson's sister)

Dorothy B. Hitchcock November 15, 2007

Eddie Butler, Sr. November 19, 2007
(Betty Butler's husband)

Ola E. Vensel..... March 24, 2008
(former member who died in Lewistown, PA)

Donald Eugene Bronder..... April 25, 2008
(Ellie Walchesky's brother)

Jeffrey Laidlaw..... May 20, 2008
(Edna Nicholas' son)

Tracy Jo Schlicht July 2, 2008
(Chuck & Jeanne Schlicht's daughter-in-law)

Norvin D. Davidson..... July 7, 2008
(Tom Davidson's father)

Robert W. Moore, Sr..... July 9, 2008

David D. Soule July 12, 2008
(Robert Soule's brother)

Carl G. Butler..... August 24, 2008
(Betty Butler's son)

Raymond P. Welling..... September 8, 2008
(community friend)

Vernon Alfred Swanson September 17, 2008
(Pastor Jim's father)

Frederick Lorenzo Curran..... September 22, 2008

Rogelio Guimong October 12, 2008
(Shari Swanson's father in Manila, Philippines)

Edith L. Groves October 17, 2008
(Amanda Gilliland and Katie Sybert's great grandmother)

**AN APPEAL FOR SUPPORT
TO FIGHT MS**

from Linda Harvey-Burkley



Dear Covenant Friends:

I have been selected by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society to become a member of the 2008 Harrisburg MS Leadership Class, a group of Central Pennsylvania professionals who have made an outstanding contribution to the business, civic and cultural betterment of our community. With this honor, I have accepted the responsibility of raising money to support the programs of the Central PA Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. I have a very ambitious personal goal of \$1,500 that I want to raise for the MS cause. Please help by making a donation - large or small - to fight MS.

As you know, Andrew continues to struggle with the effects of being born far too early. And while he does not have MS, I am heartened by the incredible work and research the MS Society is doing that will help all those afflicted with debilitating neurological disorders, including little Andrew. The National Multiple Sclerosis Society is the only national voluntary health agency in the U.S. supporting research to find the cause of, a cure for, and the means to prevent multiple sclerosis. It invests more money in MS research than any other private funder in the world. This investment is paying off as we now have six treatments to help slow the course of this unpredictable disease. Locally the Central PA chapter provides vital programs and services to over 5,500 persons living with the challenges of MS and their families.

Whatever you can give will help! Together we can make a world of difference. Thanks!

Linda

If you have internet access,

go to Linda's personal page and make a secure, online donation.

http://main.nationalmssociety.org/site/TR?px=5531269&pg=personal&fr_id=9970

Or, to send a donation:

Make all checks payable to: National MS Society

Mail to: Linda Harvey-Burkley

Ardis Communication Strategy & Training

6159 Randolph Ct

Harrisburg, PA 17111-4282

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

November 2, 2008

Deceit, not just ambiguity, plagues the world of the Gospels. Jesus relentlessly exposes the 'hypocrisy' of the scribes, Pharisees, and Sadducees, people credited with knowledge of the law and boastful of their observance of it. Jesus resolves the problem of their ambiguity by penetrating their disguise and revealing their hidden corruption. Things have not changed much in 2,000 years. The task of the church today is still that of exposing imposters who preach a false gospel of piety and goodness not grounded in acts of kindness and love.

--John Pilch, *Handbook of Biblical Social Values* (1998)

The Reverend Dr. James E. Swanson

Home: 724-252-8383

Church Office: (724) 287-7731

Website: <http://covenantbutler.org>