

Order of Service for the Public Worship of God

December 20, 2009
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Eleven O'clock, A.M

Pastor: Rev. Dr. James E. Swanson Liturgist: Nancy Moorhead
Organist /Choir Director: Miss Beverly Antis



PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP:

- + Please turn off your cell phone during worship
- + Our worship begins with the music of the organ

PRELUDE *The Angel Gabriel* Robert Lau

CHORAL INTROIT

*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: To you, O Lord, we lift up our souls.

People: **In you, O God, we put our trust.**

Leader: Help us to know your ways, dear Lord.

People: **Teach us your paths.**

Leader: For you are the God of our salvation,

People: **and for you we wait all the day long.**

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 13 *Prepare the Way* BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE Bill & Nancy Rice
and Darla Peterson

(As the fourth candle is lighted, those lighting will say,)

“On this fourth Sunday of Advent, all four candles are now burning: the candles of hope, peace, joy and love. Now is the season for greeting others with the love of Christ - a love which is deep and wide.”

The congregation will say,

As it was written: “The Lord will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name Him Emmanuel—God with us.” Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

***O come, thou Key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.***

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being: cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ, the Lord of Light, the Lord of Life.

Forgive us for ever doubting that you will accomplish your will and your desire, for even now we see the advent of a new day, the birth of a new age, the coming of a kingdom which is the perfection of your love and peace upon earth and in heaven above.

Hear us, as in silence we offer our personal prayers, then remake us in the image of Christ, our coming Lord.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: The God of all mercy and consolation has reconciled the world through Jesus Christ, offering us true forgiveness for all our sins. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

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

*GLORIA PATRI 579

GLORIA PATRI

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles' Creed (Traditional)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS by Re-Affirmation of Faith *(insert)*

Bill Rice, Nancy Rice, and Darla Peterson

*GREETINGS OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP *(nod, bow or bump!)*

CHILDREN'S SERMON "Mele Kaliki Maka" David Blewett

SHARING OF JOYS, CONCERNS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION *Kyrie* 15th C. Gregorian Chant
Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Micah 5: 2-4 *(Pew Bible p. 820)*

Liturgist: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING Hebrews 10: 5-10 *(Pew Bible p. 208)*

Liturgist: Here ends the reading of the Epistle.

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

GOSPEL READING Luke 1: 39-55 *(Pew Bible p. 54)*

Pastor: The gospel of our Lord.

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

CONGREGATIONAL CANTICLE Hymn #327, vs. 1 MUNICH

*O Word of God, incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:
We praise You for the radiance That from the hallowed page,
A lantern to our footsteps, Shines on from age to age.*

THE SERMON "GREAT EXPECTATIONS" Dr. Swanson

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

THREE-FOLD AMEN Martyr Haugen

PRESENTATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS & GIFTS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Song of Mary* William Crotch
ed. By Robert Wetzler

*My soul doth magnify the Lord :
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth : all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me : and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him :throughout all generations.*

*He hath showed strength with his arm :
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat :
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things :
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel :
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be;
world without end. Amen.*

*DOXOLOGY ~ Hymn 36, vs. 4

CRANHAM

***What can I give Him, Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part.
Yet what I can I give Him, Give my heart.***

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

O God, accept these offerings, and use us to prepare the way for the coming of our Savior. Make us generous and faithful stewards of your mysteries, doing your will and proclaiming your word; through Christ we pray. Amen.

*RECESSIONAL HYMN 11

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE CHORAL RESPONSE *Go Now In Peace* Natalie Sleeth

*Go now in peace, go now in peace;
May the love of God surround you
Everywhere, everywhere you may go.*

*A TIME OF SILENCE

*THE CHARGE AND DISMISSAL

Pastor: Let us go in eager expectation of the in-breaking day of the Lord with all its fullness and peace.
Wait and watch, pray and work,
for such is the calling of faith.

People: **We will not grow weary, but urge one another on with words of hope and encouragement.**

Pastor: Then go in peace! Serve the Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God!**

*THE POSTLUDE

The World's Desire

Raymond H. Haan

* THOSE WHO ARE ABLE, PLEASE STAND

YOU WERE GREETED TODAY by Jane Hall.



THE POINSETTIA PLANTS
are placed by Members and Friends
“*In Honor / In Memory of Loved Ones.*”

A complete list of donors will be printed in the
Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols bulletin.

THE CHURCH OFFICE will be closed this Friday, December
25th (Christmas) and Monday, December 28th for the Christmas
Holiday.

WE BID WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS AND GUESTS !

We're delighted to have you in worship with us today!

*Please indicate your attendance by signing one of the cards in
the pew rack, then place it in the offering plate when passed.*

*Following worship, please join us for Fellowship Time
in the Assembly Room downstairs,
hosted today by Nancy Jo Moorhead.*

*A “Simple Winter Fellowship Time”
to celebrate the Winter Solstice and warm your hearts!*



The Christmas Joy Offering

**... will be received TODAY, December
20th during the 11 a.m. Worship
Service.**

Presbyterians have long celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ
by giving generously to an Advent offering. The Christmas Joy
Offering (dating back to the 1930s) is one of the four special
offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian
Church (U.S.A.) to provide congregations direct ways of
supporting specific causes that help those in need.

Please read the enclosed pamphlet to see how your
contribution works. A remittance envelope is included. Please
make checks payable to Covenant Presbyterian Church, marked
“Joy Offering” in the memo section and place your offering on
this morning’s offering plate.

TODAY FOLLOWING WORSHIP

*A Rehearsal for Christmas Eve Readers
& The Covenant Choir*

IN PREPARATION FOR THE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
OF LESSONS & CAROLS

Christmas Eve

This Thursday, Dec. 24

7:00 p.m.

Pre-Service Christmas Music

7:30 p.m.

Service of Lessons & Carols

BASED ON THE TRADITIONAL SERVICE
OF KINGS COLLEGE, ENGLAND

**Sacrament of Communion
& Candlelighting**



**Next Sunday, December 27th
@ 11:00 am ~ Sanctuary**

An Informal Service of...

**“Christmas Customs,
Legends & Carols”**

Dress casually for church as we sing Christmas carols and hear stories of Christmas legends and customs from all over the world. It's a great family time - invite visiting relatives, friends and neighbors to come along too as we *journey* to other countries!

We will also celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism during the service and baptize Margaret Caroline Bradrick, infant daughter of Suzie (Hammonds) & Sean Bradrick, granddaughter of Mary Hammonds and great-granddaughter of Eleanor Ritts.



Our *journey* culminates in the Assembly Room following worship where Nancy Jo Moorhead prepares and hosts “A Family Tea for Christmastide,” a custom still celebrated in England.

Please remember to bring your Noisy Offering of Loose Change (last Sunday of each month) with you to worship on December 27th and “*make a joyful noise unto the Lord!*”

OUR SEXTON, LARRY MORRISON will be on vacation beginning this Saturday, December 26th, 2009 and returning Monday, January 4th, 2010. “Little Larry” (aka Nancy Jo Moorhead) will be filling in while BIG LARRY is away.



In The Life of Our Church

Prayer Concerns:

- Mary Lee Marten At Concordia for rehabilitation with her new knee replacement (Rm. 2424)
- Helen Ferguson Broken foot as the result of a fall last Monday, now at Concordia (with cast) for rehabilitation (Rm. 2039)
- Gregory Stokes Recovering from back surgery last Tuesday

For Continued Prayer:

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

Birthdays:

Helen Ferguson (Dec. 15)	Virginia Thompson (Dec. 22)
Samantha Drohan (Dec. 16)	Robert Marten (Dec. 24)
Kathy Martynuska (Dec. 21)	Marylou Wilson (Dec. 24)

A PRAYER FOR PEACE

Father of all, what have we to offer compared to the glorious gift of your Son to our broken world? Even so, help us to call to mind those who are suffering, those who are hungry, those who are cold, those who are hurting. Fill our hearts with steadfast love, compassion and peace – the peace that passes all understanding.

Amen.

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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