

A TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

*THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. [1 John 1:9]

Let us declare the good news of the gospel:

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

*THE GLORIA PATRI 579

Gloria Patri

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

-- from A Contemporary Creed

**We believe in God, creator and lover of the earth,
origin and destiny of us all.**

**We believe in Jesus the Christ, the herald of hope,
God's laughter in the face of despair.
Plunged into death and hell, he broke free the captives,
and is leading the way to a land of promise
where justice and peace will flourish.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, who plants the seeds of truth,
brings us to birth as the body of Christ
and empowers us to confront and transform
all that is corrupt, degrading and deceitful.**

**We believe in the coming reign of God.
In that day, all will be consummated
in the glorious marriage of earth and heaven.
In that day those who have passed through the world's deep sorrow
will be raised from the waters, robed in righteousness,
and gathered into the joyous fulfillment of God's desire.**

**For the inbreaking of that day on this day,
we work and pray: Come, Lord Jesus, Come!**

*THE GREETINGS OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

THE SHARING OF JOYS, CONCERNS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE CHORAL PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Bless the Lord, O My Soul

Robert Lau

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Leviticus 26: 14-22, 38-42 (*Pew Bible p.112*)

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

THE ANTHEM

We Beseech Thee

Robert Graham

THE EPISTLE LESSON

Ephesians 5:8-14

(*Pew Bible p. 183*)

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

THE GOSPEL LESSON

John 9:1-41

(Pew Bible p. 97)

Pastor: The Gospel of our Lord.

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

*THE CONGREGATIONAL CANTICLE Hymn 574

Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

Kyrie

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

THE SERMON

“ *WHO IS TO BLAME?* ”

Dr. Swanson

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

THE CHORAL AMEN

Danish

THE PRESENTATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS, AND GIFTS

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

O Lamb of God Most Lowly

Gordon Young

*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

Gracious and loving God, you have given us so much, especially the gift of reconciliation through your Son Jesus Christ. You, the God of peace, have promised that you will always be with us. Now in gratitude, we present our tithes and offerings to you. Bless these gifts and also our lives, so that your peace and justice may be furthered in our world. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN 171

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

ST. COLUMBA

THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Friends, this is the joyful feast of the whole 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.

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts!

People: **We lift them up to the Lord!**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right give our thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

God of all times and all places, God of the infinite and infinitesimal,
in the blazing splendor of your glory, you called forth light from
darkness, day from night, land from oceans, and life in all its
dazzling array from lifeless matter.

Among the living you made and called humankind,
imprinting upon us your image, to be bearers of your glory in the
world. Though we failed to shine, and hid your image within us,
you continued to call us into fellowship with you and to fulfill
your mission for us through prophets, scriptures, priests, and a
people you redeemed for yourself.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

People: **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!**

Pastor: Let us pray. Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.
In him we see the fullness of your glory revealed in human
form. . .

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE RECEIVING OF THE SACRAMENT (come forward)

A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

*THE UNISON PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

**O God, who called us from death to life, we thank you for this meal and
praise you for your saving love in Jesus Christ, who makes us new and
strong, who brings us life eternal. By your Spirit, make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes
in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet. With the Holy Spirit
in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and
forever. Amen.**

*THE RECESSIONAL HYMN 280

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound AMAZING GRACE

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE CHORAL RESPONSE

Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said Harm. John Leon Hooker

*A 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

Fugue in e minor

Thomas Sanders Dupuis

*Those who are able, please stand.

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.

**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.)

YOU WERE GREETED TODAY by Linda Peters.

 **LifeLine Screening**

LifeLine Screening will be conducted in the Assembly Room of Covenant Church tomorrow, Monday, March 3rd beginning at 8:30 am. Pre-registration is required.

Hosanna! A Spiritual Journey through Holy Week

Kerygma Bible Study for Lent

Next class Wednesday, March 12 at 1:00 p.m.

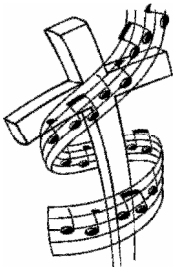
Covenant Cupboard:

March - soda or graham crackers

Baskets for your donations are located in the front hallway.



THE COVENANT CHOIR REHEARSAL SCHEDULE:



No Rehearsal this Thursday, March 6th

Rehearsals resume in the Sanctuary on:

- Thursday, March 13 at 7 p.m.
- WEDNESDAY, March 19 at 7 pm
- ***Maundy Thursday Service, March 20***
- Thursday, March 27 at 7 p.m.

ATTENTION: UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

- Administration & Stewardship - Monday, March 10 at 7 pm (Connell)
- Session - Tuesday, March 11 at 7 pm (Assembly Room)

In The Life of Our Church

Prayer Concerns:

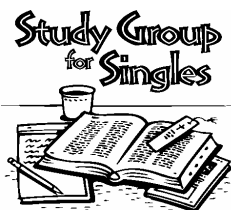
- Marion Campbell Re-admitted to Butler Memorial Hospital, Medical Intensive Care, Rm. 5212
- Grace Sechler Currently at Concordia Homes in Cabot (Bldg 4, Room 2524) for rehabilitation, following successful hip replacement surgery
- Mary Lee Marten Eye surgery scheduled for March 13
- Dr. Thomas Stover Mary Lee's brother in Euless, TX, recently diagnosed with cancer
- Bill Wilson. At St. John's Specialty Care Center in Mars, PA
- Bob and Joan Moore In the nursing home (Concordia at Rebecca)
- Mary Elizabeth Goehring In the nursing home (Concordia)
- Julie and Bud Bruno For improved strength and health (at home)
- Karen Swanson At home recuperating from successful gall bladder surgery - scheduled for Knee Replacement on March 13th
- Ray Welling Recent surgery and other health concerns

- Birthdays:* *March 5* - Douglas Forbes (Art's son)
March 7 - Kaiden James Rommel (the Wetzels' grandson)
March 8 - Phyllis Chappell Thoma

New Singles Ministry Launched at Calvin Presbyterian Church

Singles Caf  Bible Study will be held each Sunday evening at Calvin Presbyterian Church, 415 E. Grandview Ave., Zelienople, in the conference room, from 6 PM until 7:30 PM. Please bring a Bible, paper and pen.

The Singles Cafe @ Calvin Church is a newly formed non-denominational social networking ministry, open to all.



For more information please email, lghering@zoominternet.net or call (724) 452-0942.

Plan to Come Early on
MAUNDY THURSDAY
MARCH 20, 2008

6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
In the Assembly Room



Passover
Seder

This year during Holy Week we will again be privileged to hear the Covenant Choir's presentation of Dale Wood's *Service of Darkness* (beginning at 8:00 pm on Maundy Thursday). This Tenebrae Service is a powerful and moving experience, one that will set the stage for Good Friday and give you a true appreciation for the passion of Christ before jumping ahead too quickly to the festive joy of Easter morn.

For 2008 the Worship and Music Committee has planned *something new...* to precede the worship. Beginning at 6:30 pm *downstairs in the Assembly Room*, you are invited to gather for an "Instructional Seder Meal" conducted by Pastor Jim and Mike Desnoyers, our "resident expert" in all things Jewish ☺

You will have an opportunity to eat some of the traditional foods on a Passover Seder Plate, each with a special significance to the retelling of the story of the Exodus from Egypt, which is the focus of this ritual meal. As Michael leads us through the Haggadah (an order for the celebration of Passover) you will be able to ask questions (and get answers) in order to better appreciate this special meal which our Lord himself ate with his disciples the night before his crucifixion.

KINDLY HELP US TO PLAN FOR THIS EVENT
BY CALLING IN YOUR RESERVATIONS IN ADVANCE,
IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. WE NEED AN IDEA OF
HOW MANY TABLES TO SET AND HOW MANY
INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS TO PRINT.

**TO MAKE RESERVATIONS,
CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE**

(724) 287-7731

SPEAK TO ELSIE,

OR LEAVE A MESSAGE AT ANY TIME

PLEASE MARK THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR,
and invite friends and neighbors to join you also.

All are welcome !



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS:

Sunday, March 9th

(Turn your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday,
March 8th before bedtime!)

March 2, 2008
The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That sav'd a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

--the first verse of the well-known hymn
"Amazing Grace," written by John Newton in
1772, recalling his own conversion to
Christianity while commanding the slave ship
Greyhound, in 1748.

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