

# Order of Service for the Public Worship of God

July 1, 2007

Ten O'clock, A.M.

Pastor: Dr. James E. Swanson

Liturgist: Enid Dunmire

Organist: Miss Beverly Antis

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THE PRELUDE

*Andante Cantabile*

Charles-Marie Widor

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Enter with me the sacred space.  
Bring with you what is yours –

People: **A burdened heart, a joyous song,  
a wearied spirit, a seeking mind.**

Leader: Bring the gift of yourself to the Lord's Table.  
It is an honorable gift.

People: **We will bow down and worship God.  
Holy is the Lord of Hosts, maker of heaven and earth.**

\*THE OPENING HYMN 564

*O Beautiful for Spacious Skies*

MATERNA

\*THE PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE

To the Flag of my Nation

**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.**

To the Christian Flag

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

To Jesus Christ, The Lamb (An excerpt from the song *I Pledge Allegiance to the Lamb* by Ray Boltz © 1994)

**I pledge allegiance to the Lamb  
with all my strength, with all I am.  
I will seek to honor His commands  
I pledge allegiance to the Lamb.**

\*THE PRAYER OF ADORATION

THE CALL TO CONFESSION

THE CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**We confess, O God, that we have sinned against heaven and you, and are not worthy to be called your children. Wayward and disobedient, selfish and arrogant, we have forgotten you and have transgressed all that is holy and lovely. We have neglected the poor; failed to welcome**

**the stranger in our midst; given in to self-centered needs and self-serving ambition; and avoided opportunities to speak out against warfare, prejudice, injustice and greed. Pardon our mistakes; make clean our hearts; forgive our sin; and grant us your peace in Christ, our Lord.**

A TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: ... Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

\*THE GLORIA PATRI 579

GLORIA PATRI

\*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (The Confession of 1967, Section 4)

Leader: [Question] What does God expect of those who have material abundance and wealth?

People: [Answer, Paragraph 9.46c] **The reconciliation of humankind through Jesus Christ makes it plain that enslaving poverty in a world of abundance is an intolerable violation of God's good creation. Because Jesus identified himself with the needy and exploited, the cause of the world's poor is the cause of his disciples. The church cannot condone poverty, whether it is the product of unjust social structures, exploitation of the defenseless, lack of national resources, absence of technological understanding, or rapid expansion of populations. The church calls all people to use their abilities, their possessions, and the fruits of technology as gifts entrusted to them by God for the maintenance of their families and the advancement of the common welfare. It encourages those forces in human society that raise hopes for better conditions and provide people with opportunity for a decent living. A church that is indifferent to poverty, or evades responsibility in economic affairs, or is open to one social class only, or expects gratitude for its beneficence makes a mockery of reconciliation and offers no acceptable worship to God.**

THE ORDINATION & INSTALLATION OF ELDERS (see back page)

\*THE GREETINGS OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP

THE SHARING OF JOYS, CONCERNS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE READING OF THE PSALM Psalm 67:1-7 (Pew Bible p. 509)

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

SPECIAL MUSIC *Meditation in Bm* Fernando Sor

Larry Morrison, Guitar

THE EPISTLE LESSON Galatians 5:1, 13-23 (Pew Bible p. 179)

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

\*THE GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 21:23-32 (Pew Bible p.22)

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 “ FREEDOM AND BONDAGE ” Dr. Swanson

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

THE PRESENTATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS, & GIFTS

SPECIAL MUSIC *Ballade en Prière Religieuse* Fernando Sor  
Larry Morrison, Guitar

\*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

**In gratitude and humble trust, we bring our best today:  
to serve your cause and share your love with all along life's way.  
O God, who gave Yourself to us in Christ, your only Son:  
Teach us to give ourselves each day, until life's work is done.  
Receive what we offer this day for the work of your kingdom,  
O Lord, our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen.**

THE COMMUNION HYMN 329 (seated)

*Break Thou the Bread of Life* BREAD OF LIFE

THE INVITATION

*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.*

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. With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you, to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service.

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

Pastor: Around this table we gather: humbled by God’s forgiveness, encouraged to carry the cross of Christ in our own time and culture.

People: **Around this table we gather as one body of Christ!**

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE CONSECRATION OF THE ELEMENTS

THE RECEIVING OF THE SACRAMENT (come forward)

A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

\*THE UNISON PRAYER FOLLOWING THE SACRAMENT

**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. By the nourishment we have received at this table, help us to love and to serve you, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

\*THE CLOSING HYMN 391

*Take My Life*

HENDON

\*THE BENEDICTION

\*THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

*Go with Us, Lord*

TALLIS' CANON

*Go with us, Lord, and guide the way  
Through this and every coming day,  
That in Your Spirit strong and true  
Our lives may be our gift to You.*

\*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.  
Let us go in peace and serve the Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God!**

THE POSTLUDE

*Trumpet Finale*

Francesco Manfredini

\* Where indicated, those who are able, please stand.

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**GREETINGS** to all this day who worship the God of past, present and future. We want to get to know you. Please introduce yourself to others sitting nearby during the passing of the peace.

**THE FLOWERS** in the Sanctuary are provided by Ann Morrison in honor and celebration of her July 4<sup>th</sup> birthday.

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

**YOU WERE GREETED TODAY** by Ann Morrison.

**WE THANK** Larry Morrison who provided the special music for this morning's worship service. Larry is our church sexton and a member of the early Medieval music group, *Alle Psallite*. Larry also teaches music and is proficient on a number of musical instruments including the bagpipes, recorder, and guitar, among others.

## *In The Life of Our Church*


*Prayer Concerns:* Mary Ann Zeigler, LaRose Black, Ellie Walchesky,  
Dorothy Hitchcock, Muriel Thompson, Brenda Keith, Ann  
Morrison, Bob Moore, Ray Welling

*Celebrating birthdays this week:*

Ann Morrison - July 4  
Arthur Forbes - July 4 (70<sup>th</sup> birthday!)  
David Lloyd - July 5  
Christine Reese Cochran - July 6

*No anniversaries to report this week.*

*If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please accept our apology. If you would like us to publish the date in the Chronicle and bulletin, please call the church office at 724-287-7731.*

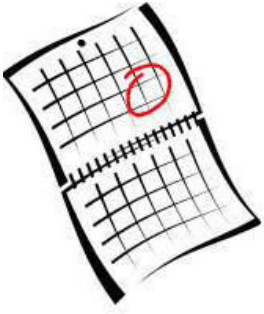
*Weddings*  *Congratulations  
to Rebecca Miller and Gary Doyle*

who were married on Friday, June 29, 2007 in a garden wedding ceremony at their new home in Valencia, officiated by Pastor Swanson and attended by many family and friends. God's bountiful blessings to you, Rebecca and Gary, and much deserved joy and happiness in your new life together!

*May your mornings bring joy  
and your evenings bring peace.  
May your troubles grow few  
as your blessings increase.  
May the saddest day of your future  
be no worse than the happiest day of your past.  
May your hands be forever clasped in friendship  
and your hearts joined forever in love.  
Your lives are very special,  
God has touched you in many ways.  
May his blessings rest upon you  
And fill all your coming days.*

*~ An Irish Marriage Blessing*

**THE CHURCH OFFICE** will be closed this Wednesday, July 4<sup>th</sup> in observance of Independence Day.



*Mark Your Calendar Now !*

*AN EXCITING CONFERENCE*

is coming this October 19-21, 2007

*to the Renaissance Cleveland Hotel ( downtown)*

## **“Reviving Our Spirits ~ Transforming Our Politics”**

a weekend of inspirational speaking, music, teaching,  
learning, and sharing with Jim Wallis and Richard Rohr

### **There will be:**

- ✓ **opportunities for hearing keynote addresses from each of the speakers**
- ✓ **services of renewal, prayer, praise, and song**
- ✓ **sessions for equipping the individual and the church to engage in the work to overcome poverty**
- ✓ **a marketplace of ideas to see the great work of those who are doing the work in their communities**
- ✓ **many opportunities for you to hear and share your own stories of faith and learn in practical ways how the movement for justice can change our world for the common good of all**

*Jim Wallis*, an evangelical, is a leading figure at the crossroads of religion and politics in America today. He is the founder of **Sojourners**, Christians for justice and peace, and is also the Convener of **Call to Renewal**, a national federation of churches and faith-based organizations working together to overcome poverty by changing the direction of public policy. His most recent book is *God's Politics: Why the Right Gets It Wrong and the Left Doesn't Get It*.

*Fr. Richard Rohr*, OFM internationally noted author and spiritual teacher, is a Franciscan of the New Mexico province and founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation. Fr. Richard's gift is articulating to our minds what we already know in our hearts. He considers the proclamation of the Gospel to be his primary call and uses many different platforms to communicate that message. His most recent recording is *Prophets Then, Prophets Now*.

**CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE  
FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT REGISTRATION  
724.287.7731**

## THE CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS FOR ORDINATION/INSTALLATION

- a. Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?
- b. Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you?
- c. Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God?
- d. Will you fulfill your office in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions?
- e. Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit?
- f. Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?
- g. Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?
- h. Will you seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?
- i. Will you be a faithful elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in governing bodies of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

### NEWLY-ELECTED ELDERS & TRUSTEES (unicameral board)

#### To be ordained and installed:

Connie Brown (2009)  
Karen Swanson (2009)

#### To be installed (previously ordained):

Dr. Elizabeth Anderson (2009)  
Tom Davidson (2009)  
Helen Ferguson (2008)  
Nancy Hitchcock (2009)  
Mary Lee Marten (2009)

### SCRIPTURES SELECTED FOR ORDINATION

#### Proverbs 3:5-6 (Connie Brown)

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.*

#### John 15:16a (Karen Swanson)

*You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last.*

### WE THANK OUR OUTGOING OFFICERS!

*Elder, Class of 2007:* Pat Foringer, Dr. John Prichard, Jeanne Schlicht  
*Elder, Class of 2008:* Shayne Hoehn (resigning)

*Nominating Committee, Class of 2007:*  
David Blewett, Helen Ferguson, Gladys Strobel

# "The Predicament of Freedom"

*a Reflection on Galatians 5: 1-6, 13-15  
for Presbyterian Church (USA) Congregations*

by The Rev. Dr. Joanna Adams

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In anticipation of Independence Day this week, I find myself thinking of words from American history that capture one of the core ideas of our democracy:

"I know not what course others may take, but as for me,  
give me liberty or give me death."

--Patrick Henry,  
speaking at the Virginia Convention in 1775

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are  
created equal, that they are endowed by their creator  
with certain unalienable rights---  
that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

--From *The Declaration of Independence*,  
adopted in Philadelphia on July 4th, 1776.

When the Continental Congress declared the separation of the thirteen colonies from Great Britain 231 years ago, liberty was foremost in the minds of our nation's founders. The idea did not originate with them, of course. In every age and across the earth, human beings have, as the inscription of the Statue of Liberty reads, yearned to "breathe free."

Three thousand years before Thomas Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence, the Hebrew people suffered under bondage in Egypt. They yearned for freedom. God sent a man named Moses who demanded of Pharaoh, "Let my people go!" When Pharaoh refused, God delivered.

A thousand years later, the people were again oppressed, both by the tyranny of the Roman Empire and by the powers and principalities of the world, and God sent a man named Jesus. He announced in his inaugural sermon that he had been anointed by the Holy Spirit "to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives. . .to let the oppressed go free."

This same liberating Jesus would later say to his closest followers, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. . .so if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

Freedom. Freedom is an idea that originates in the very heart of God. In the beginning, when God created humankind, God could have made us puppet-like, so that whenever God wanted us to do something, God would just pull a string and we would do it. What kind of relationship would that be? God created us, women and men, with the capacity and the responsibility to act as free moral agents. The desire for freedom is not simply a function of the human spirit. Its source is nothing less than the free will of the Living God.

There are more than fifty references to freedom in the New Testament, each of them exploring a different dimension of what Paul calls in his letter to the Romans, "the glorious liberty of the children of God."

In Paul's letter to the Galatians, however, there is a less than glorious atmosphere surrounding the subject. It seems as if the church there was divided into camps. There were those who believed that freedom meant license to do whatever they pleased. To that group Paul admonished, "Do not use your freedom for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves of one another, for the whole law is summed up in this single commandment: You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Another camp in the church in Galatia was made up of those who thought it imperative to adhere to the requirements of religious ritual, the most significant of which was circumcision. That crowd would have said that freedom in Christ is all well and good, but that they felt much more secure remaining inside the old prison of a thousand do's and don'ts.

Paul was passionately convinced that observing the ritual or not observing it really was of no consequence. According to Paul, "The only thing that counts is faith working through love."

Just as each generation of Americans must learn anew what our Pledge of Allegiance maintains --- that civil liberty is a function of fidelity to justice, so each generation of Jesus' followers must learn anew that Christian liberty is a function of fidelity to the law of love.

I am not speaking of love in a moonlight and violins sort of way, though in our hard-wired, hard-edged world, we can use all the romance we can muster. I am speaking of love in the sense in which Jesus spoke of it. When he voiced the great commandment to "love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your strength and all your mind," he was emphasizing ethics over emotion.

The great 20th- century religious thinker Reinhold Niebuhr put it this way: "Basically love means . . .being responsible, responsible to our family, toward our civilization, and now by the pressures of history, toward the universe of humankind."

To be free really means to be liberated from the prison of "me, myself, and I". To be truly free is to be able to move beyond the self and, as one who is wise has put it, to move into the risk of love and to give oneself to the demand of service. To be free is to be free for responsibility, not from responsibility. I think of how Christ Jesus who had everything in the world going for himself—power, status, safety—how he chose, freely chose to empty himself and take on the form of a servant for the sake of the world. Now that is freedom.

I think of how God made us as one human family, irrevocably bound to one another in God's heart and mind from the very beginning so that we are by nature inclined toward one another. The need of the other is really our own need. The suffering of the other is, in a real sense, our own suffering.

I sometimes use a little test Frederick Buechner suggests. I use it to see if I am still a functioning, free moral agent. Buechner wrote: "If you have not cried for someone other than yourself in the last year, then the chances are you are already dead." That's a good place to start, having feelings of empathy for the other. But I know I haven't passed the test until I actually *do* something --- make a call, bake a pie, write a letter, offer comfort, stand up for someone whose voice is not being heard. How did Paul put it? The only thing that matters is faith working in love.

By the will of God and through the power of the Holy Spirit, freedom and responsibility belong together in our lives and in the life of our faith communities.

The same is true, I believe, for our nation. One of America's greatest gifts to the world is the notion of religious liberty. The state cannot impose religion, and all our citizens are free to exercise religion or not, according to their own wishes. But that does not mean that people of faith do not have a crucial role to play in the life of our nation. We ought to be working every day to create a society that is marked by concern for the common good. We ought to be listening for the voices of those who are not being heard. We ought to be speaking out against excessive self-indulgence and naming the corrosive consequences of greed. Paul put it so plainly in this regard, "if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another."

I believe that the United States has a particular calling—that we are called to be a servant people, bringing good news to the oppressed, modeling justice, proclaiming liberty to the captives. Can you even think of a time that called for moral leadership more than these troubled days? Oh, what an opportunity we have, what a responsibility we have—to repair, to raise up, to build up, to offer hope for all those who mourn in our midst and beyond our shores.

Billings Learned Hand (1872-1961) was one of our country's most outstanding jurists. He once asked himself, "What is the spirit of liberty?"

In answer, he wrote these eloquent words:

“The spirit of liberty is the spirit which seeks to understand the minds of other men and women . . . it weighs their interests alongside its own, it remembers that not even a sparrow falls to earth unheeded. . . The spirit of liberty is the spirit of Him who, 2,000 years ago, taught humanity a lesson it has never learned but has never quite forgotten: that there may be a kingdom where the least shall be heard and considered side by side with the greatest.”

Sisters and brothers in Christ, may our pledge of allegiance be this day to that kind of kingdom on earth, as it is in heaven.

Let us pray. Most merciful God, we praise you for the privilege of worshipping you openly and freely. Help us to hunger and thirst for all that is good, until your kingdom comes on earth as in heaven. All glory and power to you, mighty God, now and forever. Amen.

*The Rev. Dr. Joanna Adams is pastor of Morningside Presbyterian Church  
in Atlanta, GA.*

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**July 1, 2007**

“Let us temper our [Independence Day] celebrations with a caution: With freedom comes great responsibility. We are not free to live excessive lives. We are not set at liberty to pursue selfish ends. Our independence should not make us infidels. What is true for the church is true for the nation: Liberty demands civility. Freedom requires righteous behavior.”

--from *Liberty And Civility*  
A sermon by Brett Blair

“Liberty without learning is always in peril;  
learning without liberty is always in vain.”

--John F. Kennedy  
(1917-1963)

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***The Reverend Dr. James E. Swanson, Pastor***

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