

Service for the Public Worship of God

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ August 30, 2009
Ten O'clock, A.M.

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

OUR SERVICE OF WORSHIP BEGINS WITH THE MUSIC OF THE ORGAN

THE PRELUDE Aria George Frideric Handel

*THE RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We place our trust in you, our Lord and our God.

People: You listen to catch our every word,
hearing even our unspoken cries for help.

Leader: Your greatness is evident in the works of your hands—
the creation of which all creatures are a part.

People: Let the earth bow down and glorify your name,
for you are great and do wondrous things.
You alone are God, and unto you we offer
our worship, adoration and praise!

*THE HYMN 392 Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord HALL

THE PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 122 (Pew Bible p. 547)

THE INVITATION TO CONFESSION

THE PRAYER OF PUBLIC CONFESSION

We confess before you, Holy God, Judge of the nations,
That we have been unworthy servants.

We have misused and abused your Creation.
We have wounded one another by divisions and disputes.
We have failed to take decisive action against the evils of our
day: environmental destruction, poverty, racism, caste-ism,
war and genocide.

In honesty we confess that we are not always victims, but
sometimes also perpetrators of violence and harm.

In all this, we have fallen short as disciples of Jesus Christ,
who in his incarnation came to save the lost and to teach us
how to love.

Forgive us, God, and teach us to forgive one another,
so that by your grace, our world and we ourselves
may be transformed and redeemed.

A TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Who is in a position to condemn?

People: Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, and Christ prays for us.

Pastor: If a person, then, is in Christ, that person becomes a new being altogether. The past is finished and gone; everything has become fresh and new. Friends, let us believe what we have heard with our ears and know in our hearts:

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

*THE GLORIA PATRI 579

GLORIA PATRI

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A Brief Statement of Faith, PC-USA

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church for the upbuilding of God's kingdom in our time and place, according to God's pleasure.

*THE GREETINGS OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN and/or

THE NOISY OFFERING OF LOOSE CHANGE (Last Sunday of each month)

THE SHARING OF JOYS, CONCERNS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

Deuteronomy 4: 1-2, 6-9, 39-40 (Pew Bible p. 157)

Liturgist: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

THE EPISTLE READING James 1: 17-27 (Pew Bible p. 213)

Liturgist: Here ends the reading of the Epistle.

All: Praise be to you, O Lord.

*THE GOSPEL READING Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23 (Pew Bible p. 40)

Pastor: The gospel of our Lord.

All: Glory to you, O Christ.

*THE CONGREGATIONAL CANTICLE - Hymn 321, vs. SONG 13

Holy Spirit, truth divine, Dawn upon this soul of mine;
Word of God and inward light, Wake my spirit, clear my sight.

THE SERMON " PURE AND SIMPLE " Dr. Swanson

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

THE PRESENTATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS & GIFTS

SPECIAL OFFERTORY MUSIC "Fill My Cup, Lord" R. Blanchard

Lenore Reges, Vocal Soloist
Beverly Antis, Piano Accompanist

*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. Amen.

*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 CLOSING HYMN 396 O for a Closer Walk with God CAITHNESS

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE - Hymn #599 Jacques Berthier

Jesus, remember me, when You come into Your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me, when You come into Your kingdom.

*THE TIME OF SILENCE

*THE CHARGE AND DISMISSAL

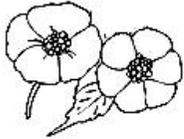
Pastor: Go now, as God's beloved people,
redeemed by grace, set free from sin,
nurtured in God's Spirit,
and made new in the Word we have shared.

Go now, as disciples of our Lord, Jesus,
carrying the good news of liberty and salvation
into corners of this world
where darkness and despair hold sway.
Be salt and light! Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!

* THOSE WHO ARE ABLE, PLEASE STAND

YOU WERE GREETED TODAY by Betty Anderson.



THE FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY
are placed this morning by Sue Ellen Reese,
Marilyn Ruff & Their Families
In Loving Memory of Louise Kurtz
whose birthday is August 29th

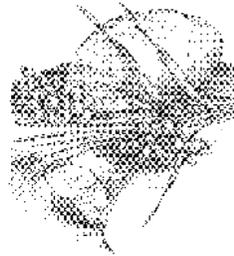
Wel come! Grace and Peace to All!

We are delighted to have you with us if you are visiting today!
Please indicate your attendance by signing one of the cards in the
pew rack, and kindly place it in the offering plate when passed.

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

THE SACRAMENT OF
THE LORD'S SUPPER ...

will be celebrated during the 10:00 a.m. worship
service next Sunday, September 6th
(Communion is "come forward").



Guest Vocalist Lenore Reges

We thank Lenore Reges for providing the music
for this morning's worship service. Lenore and her
family are members of Hope Lutheran Church in
Cranberry Twp.



Lenore is married with three grown children and two grandsons, lives in
Butler, and is employed as a State Farm Insurance Agent in Pittsburgh. She
has attended Covenant Church in the past and is a good friend of Nancy
Rettig. Lenore's sister is married to Donna Hobaugh's son.

We dare imagine a world where hunger has no chance to show its face.
We dare dream of a world where war and terror are afraid to leave their
mark. Dare we open our minds to difference? Dare we open our lives to
change? Your kingdom come, O God. Your will be done.

Source: Church World Service



Choir Rehearsals Resume September 10th

The first choir rehearsal of the new church year will be held on Thursday, September 10th. The Covenant Choir will sing in worship during the 11 a.m. service on Welcome Back Sunday, September 13th.

We are always glad to welcome new choir members; so, if you are interested—don't be shy!

You are invited to attend the September 10th rehearsal or any Thursday rehearsal. Please contact Beverly Antis, Choir Director at 724-991-8240, or any choir member for more information.

September 13, 2009

" WELCOME BACK SUNDAY "

Worship Time will return to 11:00 AM beginning Sunday, September 13th.



***Return
to
Regular
Worship
Hours***

September 13th is "Welcome Back Sunday" and a very special guest will be on hand to meet with the Seekers Class (resuming again at 9:30 am, following the summer hiatus) and to preach at the 11:00 am service.

The name of the guest?
(Hint: he had his 500th birthday last month on July 10th)

... Why, John Calvin, of course!
(a.k.a. our good friend, Paul Weirman)

REGISTRATION: Youth Sunday School
Continental Style Breakfast ~ 9:00 a.m. (provided)
Guest Preacher at 11:00 Worship - John Calvin
Covenant Choir returns to sing in worship
Welcome Back Luncheon ~ following worship

Members (Last Name): A - L (bring dessert)
M - Z (bring a salad)

Rolls, butter and beverages provided.

In The Life of Our Church

Prayer Concerns:

Pam Patterson & Family Upon the death of Pam's mother, Joan Moore who died August 25, 2009

Joys:

JoAnn Honneffer Making progress now, following her stroke; currently at Friendship Ridge Nursing Home, New Brighton

For Continued Prayer:

Minnie Anderson; Rev. Wayne Bell; Julie & Bud Bruno; Marion Campbell; Marian Curran; Eleanor Ritts; Gladys Strobel; John Towns; Ellie Walchesky; Bill and MaryLou Wilson

Birthdays this Week: Charles Schlicht - September 3

In today's gospel reading, Jesus calls the Pharisees "hypocrites."

The Greek word hypokrites means "actors." An appropriate way to render Jesus' insult in English would be: "You actors! Scripture may be the lines you quote, but is it not the script by which you live!"



This Week's Text

Then Jesus quotes Isaiah 29:13 against his opponents. It was an especially honorable skill for a male to be able to draw creatively upon tradition in the heat of conflict or a debate. The Pharisees hoped to shame Jesus, but Jesus shames them instead by quoting Scripture creatively and hurling a counter-accusation – they value their own human tradition much more than Torah, the Law of Moses.

Americans are generally dismayed by Jesus' preference for confrontation and conflict rather than dialogue, and his reliance upon insult instead of tact and diplomacy. But by viewing this confrontation with an eye to Middle Eastern culture, we see that in this instance by changing the topic of the conflict, Jesus manipulates the situation to his advantage. Once again, the Pharisees are unmasked and revealed for what they are: phonies.



In Memoriam
Joan (Wasson) Moore
September 2, 1917 ~ August 25, 2009

The love, prayers and sympathy of the Covenant Church family are extended to Pam Patterson & Family upon the death of Pam's mother, Joan W. Moore, who passed away in her sleep at 3:40 a.m. in Concordia at Rebecca Residence on Tuesday, August 25, 2009.

Born in Butler, Joan W. Moore was the daughter of the late Dr. Elgie Lavernes Wasson and the late Henrietta Hoon Wasson. Mrs. Moore was a member of the Butler Country Club, Town and Country Garden Club, and the Butler Literary Club. Her interests included playing golf, dancing, bridge, church and family activities. She was baptized in this church and has been a faithful life-long member.

Joan is survived by one son, Robert W. Moore, Jr. of Butler, Pennsylvania.; two daughters, Pamela M. Patterson of Butler, Pennsylvania; Cheryl M. Hays of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; three grandchildren, Ryan C. Patterson and his wife Kristin, of Tappahannock, Virginia; Jessica N. Robinson and her husband Jared, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Cole R. Patterson of Butler, Pennsylvania; one great-granddaughter, Riley G. Patterson; four nieces and two nephews.

Mrs. Moore was preceded in death by her beloved husband, "Robbie" Robert Williams Moore Sr., whom she married on April 10, 1943. Bob passed away last year on July 9, 2008.

A private family service was held on Friday, August 28, 2009, with Pastor James Swanson officiating. Final committal and burial followed at North Side Cemetery in Butler.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Covenant Presbyterian Church, or to the Covenant Food Cupboard, 230 East Jefferson Street, Butler, Pennsylvania 16001.

I am home in Heaven, dear ones; oh, so happy and so bright!
There is perfect joy and beauty in this everlasting light.

All the pain and grief is over – Every restless tossing passed;
I am now at peace forever, safely home in Heaven at last.

There is work still waiting for you, so you must not idly stand;
Do it now, while life remaineth— you shall rest in Jesus' land.

When that work is all completed, He will gently call you Home;
Oh, the rapture of that meeting, Oh, the joy to see you come!

-- C. Bonnie Butler © 1993



August 30, 2009

Calvin repudiated the distinction between "sacred" and "secular" duty and the prevailing notion of his day that work is a "necessary evil." Rather, he taught, work is "a calling from God." Therefore, one glorifies God in one's work by laboring diligently and joyfully.

--Scott McClare, as published at Theopedia.com

As no part of our body suffers pain without extending to the other parts, so every evil which our brother suffers ought to excite our compassion.

--John Calvin, The Institutes, IV 17,38

The Reverend Dr. James E. Swanson, Pastor

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