

**Sunday, September 21, 2008**

**Reflections**

“The end of public worship is the glory of God.” - BCO 47-3

Prayer is the vital breath of the Christian; not the thing that makes him alive, but the evidence that he is alive. - Oswald Chambers

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**Sunday Worship Service Participants**

**September 21**

Greeter - Michael Sterrett

Childcare Workers - Janet Surprenant and Les Mason

Scripture Reading - Bill Townsend

**September 28**

Greeter - Paula Townsend

Childcare Workers - Linda Mason and Michael Sterrett

Scripture Reading - Maria Gelin

**October 5**

Greeter - April Claggett

Childcare Workers - Pat Newman and Jonathan Claggett

Scripture Reading - Matt Oquist

# Service of Praise

## **Prelude**

We invite you to prepare your heart for the worship of our God.

## **\*Call to Worship**

1 Timothy 6:15b-16 (NIV)

God [is] the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.

## **\*Hymn of Praise**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise  
Number 38 in Trinity Hymnal

## **\*Prayer of Adoration**

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*\*Congregation standing*

# Call to Renewal

## Confession of Sin

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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## A Moment of Private Confession

### Assurance of Pardon

Ephesians 1:7-8

In [Christ] we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.

### \* +Hymn of Thanks

There is a Redeemer

See next page

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*\*Congregation standing*

*+Young children may be dismissed at this time.*



# Call to Commitment

## Collection of Our Gifts to God and to His Church

### Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

#### Scripture Reading

Exodus 1:8-2:10 (NIV)

<sup>8</sup> Then a new king, who did not know about Joseph, came to power in Egypt. <sup>9</sup> "Look," he said to his people, "the Israelites have become much too numerous for us. <sup>10</sup> Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country."

<sup>11</sup> So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh. <sup>12</sup> But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites <sup>13</sup> and worked them ruthlessly. <sup>14</sup> They made their lives bitter with hard labor in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their hard labor the Egyptians used them ruthlessly.

<sup>15</sup> The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiprah and Puah, <sup>16</sup> "When you help the Hebrew women in childbirth and observe them on the delivery stool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live." <sup>17</sup> The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live. <sup>18</sup> Then the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and asked them, "Why have you done this? Why have you let the boys live?"

<sup>19</sup> The midwives answered Pharaoh, "Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women; they are vigorous and give birth before the midwives arrive."

<sup>20</sup> So God was kind to the midwives and the people increased and became even more numerous. <sup>21</sup> And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own.

<sup>22</sup> Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: "Every boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live."

*(continued on next page)*

<sup>1</sup> Now a man of the house of Levi married a Levite woman, <sup>2</sup> and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. <sup>3</sup> But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. <sup>4</sup> His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.

<sup>5</sup> Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the river bank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her slave girl to get it. <sup>6</sup> She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said.

<sup>7</sup> Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?"

<sup>8</sup> "Yes, go," she answered. And the girl went and got the baby's mother. <sup>9</sup> Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So the woman took the baby and nursed him. <sup>10</sup> When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water."

## **Prayer of Intercession**

### **Sermon**

John the Baptist

John 1:6-8, 19-28 (NASB)

<sup>6</sup> There came a man sent from God, whose name was John.

<sup>7</sup> He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him.

<sup>8</sup> He was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light.

<sup>19</sup> This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent to him priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?"

<sup>20</sup> And he confessed and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ."

<sup>21</sup> They asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No."

<sup>22</sup> Then they said to him, "Who are you, so that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?"

23 He said, "I am A VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, 'MAKE STRAIGHT THE WAY OF THE LORD,' as Isaiah the prophet said."

24 Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.

25 They asked him, and said to him, "Why then are you baptizing, if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

26 John answered them saying, "I baptize in water, but among you stands One whom you do not know.

27 "It is He who comes after me, the thong of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie."

28 These things took place in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

**\*Hymn of Response**

I Love to Tell the Story (verses 1-3)

Number 478 in Trinity Hymnal

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*\*Congregation standing*

# **Service of Communion**

## **The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

### **Guidelines for Reception of Communion**

Communion, also called The Lord's Supper or the Eucharist, is the family meal of Christians. We invite all committed followers of Jesus Christ to partake of this sacrament: those who are baptized members of a congregation which proclaims the gospel and who seek strength to live more faithfully for Christ. If you are not a Christian, it is important that you carefully consider the claims of the gospel and the grace that is offered through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. We encourage you to talk with an elder of the church and spend this time now in prayer and meditation on the scriptures in the bulletin.

## Scripture Verses for Those Not Communing

Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was pierced through for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed. All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.

- Isaiah 53:4-6

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

- John 3:16-18

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

- John 14:6

Knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- Romans 6:6-8, 22-23

## **\*Confession of Faith**

The Heidelberg Catechism

Question 1

*Leader: What is your only comfort in life and death?*

People: That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by His Holy Spirit He also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for Him.

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*\*Congregation standing*

**\*Gloria Patri**  
Number 735 in Trinity Hymnal

# Gloria Patri

**Text: 2nd century, traditional**  
**Music: Charles Meineke, 1844**

Piano

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly

Ghost: as it was in the be - gin-ning, is now and ev - er shall be, world with-out

end. A - - - men, a - - - men.

## \*Benediction

**Announcements**  
(Please be seated)

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*\*Congregation standing*

# Announcements\*

**Congregational Informational Meeting:** After the worship service today we'll have a congregational meeting to discuss the fall schedule. Please plan to stay for a few minutes after the worship service.

**Soccer equipment:** This past summer the church acquired some soccer equipment for the summer soccer camp. The equipment includes a garbage can full of soccer balls and other equipment as well as four soccer goals. Two goals are 4x6 feet, and 2 goals are smaller, 4x2 feet. We need a place to store them this winter as they are sitting in Jason's backyard. If you can help, let Jason know as soon as possible. Thanks!

The **Upper Room** is in need of volunteers to pick up boxes of meat from the Hannaford by the Nashua mall once a week between 1 and 4 p.m. We also need a volunteer to pick up meat at Walmart once a month. For those who are looking for a place to serve, this is an excellent opportunity. It will only take a few hours of your time each month. Volunteers will need a van or truck to haul the boxes to the Upper Room and put them in the freezer. Please call 603-595-2039 if you are able to help.

## Weekly Schedule:

Sunday	9:15 a.m.	Life Together	Sanctuary
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service	Sanctuary
	6:30 p.m.	Sunday Night Live	Church office

*\*If you have any announcements, please contact the Oquists.  
Phone: 603-881-3808, Email: announcements@nashuapca.org*

## Kingdom Focused Prayer

*Pray for God's name to be honored*

- Our worship service would be honoring to him
- Thankful for God's provision of a facility to worship in and to be diligent in our care of it so that people will see Christ in us

*Pray for His Kingdom to be extended*

- For our friends and neighbors to come to know Christ
- That Nashua be changed to reflect the city of God
- For the fatherless, widows, orphans and homeless to be cared for by believers
- For justice to be established in Nashua in our courts and streets
- Pray for the work of the Mission To North America committee of our Presbytery as we seek to plant more churches in Northern New England.
- For the opportunity to meet and get to know more people of Nashua because the office is located in a downtown professional building.

*Pray for His people to be fed and nurtured*

- For the Word to be preached faithfully
- That the witness and ministry of our church leadership would be empowered by the Spirit
- That all those who hear would be receptive to the Holy Spirit
- Pray for the elder/deacon training

*Pray for His forgiveness to be felt and extended to others*

- That we become more aware of our sinfulness
- That we be burdened with the things that burden God
- That we may experience the width, length, height, and depth of God's love for us
- For us to be bold in sharing our faith

*Pray for His Bride, the church, to be purified and kept from temptation*

- That God would sanctify his church
- That God would guard us from discouragement
- That God would protect us from gossip and complaining
- For God to strengthen us in faith, that we might believe His promises in the gospel, particularly His delight in saving the lost

## **Mercy Ministry Opportunities**

**Care Net Pregnancy Center of Nashua**

883.9355

*Supplies*

Baby items, diapers, etc.

**Upper Room Compassionate Ministries (Katie)**

595.2039

*Volunteers*

For sorting clothes or bagging food for 1 hour or more

*Supplies*

Clothing, particularly socks (mens, childrens), shampoo, toothpaste, diapers (size 4 &5), outdoor clothing, hats, mittens, etc.

"Only the ministry of the church of Jesus Christ and millions of "mini-churches" (Christian homes) throughout the country can attack the roots of social problems." - Tim Keller, *Ministries of Mercy*

