

Sunday, December 13, 2009

Reflections

“But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. “God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” - John 4:23-24

Whether we think of, or speak to, God, whether we act or suffer for him, all is prayer, when we have no other object than his love, and the desire of pleasing him.

- John Wesley

Sunday Worship Service Participants

December 13

Greeter - Elizabeth Demeusy

Childcare Workers - Tiffany Brooks and Matthew Demeusy

Scripture Reading - April Claggett

December 20

Greeter - Janet Surprenant

Childcare Workers - Denise Kingsley and Jonathan Claggett

Scripture Reading - Jennifer Oquist

December 27

Service in Manchester. See announcements for more details.

Service of Praise

Prelude

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

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 89:1-5, 8

Leader: I will sing of the LORD's great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.

People: I will declare that your love stands firm forever, that you established your faithfulness in heaven itself.

Leader: You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant, 'I will establish your line forever and make your throne firm through all generations.' "

People: The heavens praise your wonders, O LORD, your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the holy ones.

Leader: O LORD God Almighty, who is like you?

People: You are mighty, O LORD, and your faithfulness surrounds you.

***Hymn of Praise**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Number 203 in Trinity Hymnal

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Hymn of Praise**

Angels We Have Heard On High
Number 214 in Trinity Hymnal

**Congregation standing*

Call to Renewal

Confession of Sin

God of salvation, in Christ you have done great things—
our hearts are filled with joy.

By your power you lifted us out of the wasteland of sin
and brought us with joy and thanksgiving into your kingdom.

Salvation is your gift to us.

But we confess that often we try to replace your gift with our own efforts.

We try to complete what is already perfect;

we try to add to what is already full;

we try to earn what we already have.

Forgive us for our foolishness.

Help us to believe in your grace

and to live grateful lives in return.

For Jesus' sake alone, Amen.

Worship Sourcebook (Reprinted by permission from The Worship Sourcebook, © 2004, CRC Publications.)

A Moment of Private Confession

Assurance of Pardon

2 Corinthians 5:17-18

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.

* +Hymn of Thanks

Joy Has Dawned

See next page

*Congregation standing

+Young children may be dismissed at this time.

Call to Commitment

Collection of Our Gifts to God and to His Church

Doxology

Text: Thomas Ken, 1709

Music: OLD HUNDREDTH L.M.

Louis Bourgeois's *Genevan Psalter*, 1551

Piano

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him all crea-tures here be -

low; praise him a - bove, ye heav'n-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

A - - - - - men.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

Scripture Reading

Luke 3:7-18 (ESV)

⁷[John] said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ⁹Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?" ¹¹And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise." ¹²Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" ¹³And he said to them, "Collect no more than you are authorized to do." ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages."

¹⁵As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, ¹⁶John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

¹⁸So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people.

Prayer of Intercession

Sermon

Covenant with Noah
Genesis 9:1-19 (ESV)

¹And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. ²The fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth and upon every bird of the heavens, upon everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea. Into your hand they are delivered. ³Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything. ⁴But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. ⁵And for your lifeblood I will require a reckoning: from every beast I will require it and from man. From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man.

⁶"Whoever sheds the blood of man,
by man shall his blood be shed,
for God made man in his own image.

⁷And you, be fruitful and multiply, teem on the earth and multiply in it."

⁸Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹"Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." ¹²And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." ¹⁷God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

¹⁸The sons of Noah who went forth from the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. (Ham was the father of Canaan.) ¹⁹These three were the sons of Noah, and from these the people of the whole earth were dispersed.

Sermon Outline

***Hymn of Response**

Joy to the World

Number 195 in Trinity Hymnal

***Confession of Faith**

The Heidelberg Catechism

Questions 35 and 36

Leader: What does it mean that Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary?

People: That the eternal Son of God, who is and remains true and eternal God, took to himself, through the working of the Holy Spirit, from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary, a truly human nature so that he might become David's true descendant, like his brothers in every way except for sin.

Leader: How does the holy conception and birth of Christ benefit you?

People: He is our mediator, and with his innocence and perfect holiness he removes from God's sight my sin—mine since I was conceived.

***Song of Benediction**

Angels From the Realms of Glory (verse 5)

Number 218 in Trinity Hymnal

All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship! Come and worship!
Worship Christ the newborn King!

***Benediction**

Announcements

(Please be seated)

**Congregation standing*

Announcements*

Church of the Redeemer in Manchester, NH will hold its organizational service today at 4 p.m. The service is at the First Baptist Church, 536 Union St., Manchester, NH.

The **Upper Room** is in need of winter clothing (particularly men's) and Target and Wal-Mart gift cards. If you'd like to donate, please bring items to church or the Christmas celebration next Sunday, December 20.

Christmas Celebration: Next Sunday, we will be gathering as a church family to celebrate the holiday season. We will meet at the Wakefield family's home (17 Wethersfield Rd., Nashua) at 4 p.m. Please bring your favorite Christmas cookie or snack to share.

On **Sunday, December 27**, we will be meeting for worship with Christ the Redeemer in Manchester, NH. The worship service will be at 10 a.m. The church is located at 228 Maple St. (3rd Floor) in Manchester. Visit www.redeemernh.org/ for more information and directions.

Weekly Schedule:

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| Sunday | 9:30 a.m. | Prayer | Sanctuary |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Worship Service | Sanctuary |
| Wednesday | 6:30 p.m. | Midweek Small Group | Claggett Home |
| Thursday | 6:30 p.m. | Midweek Small Group | Brooks Home |

Budget Information:

Six Months Data June thru November 2009

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| Regular Giving | \$34,664.10 |
| <i>(excl. Mercy Fund, Building Fund and Marvis Memorial)</i> | |
| Fund Raising | \$5,710.00 |
| Total Giving (Income) | \$40,374.10 |
| Actual Expenses (excl. Mercy Fund) | \$44,137.30 |
| Budget | \$49,513.72 |
| Shortfall to Expense (Income - Expense) | (\$3,763.20) |
| Shortfall to Budget (Income - Budget) | (\$9,139.62) |

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

