

Christ Church - May 4, 2008

10:30AM Berkeley / 5:00PM Rockridge

Seventh Sunday of Easter

REFLECTION

To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world.

-Karl Barth (a 20th century Swiss Reformed Theologian)

PRELUDE

We appreciate your willingness to 1) come early out of respect for fellow worshipers and the one worshiped, and 2) take seats toward the front and center to create space for latecomers.

CALL TO WORSHIP - Jonathan St. Clair

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!

All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near; join me in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, Who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,

Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!

Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, Who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;

Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.

Ponder anew what the Almighty will do, if, with His love, He befriends thee.

Praise to the Lord—O let all that is in me adore Him!

All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him!

Let the Amen sound from His people again; gladly for e're we adore Him.

Text: Joachim Neander, 1863; trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1863. Music: William S. Bennett, 1864.

You Have Redeemed My Soul

You have redeemed my soul

From the pit of emptiness

You have redeemed my soul

From death (Repeat)

I was a hungry child

A dried up river

I was a burned out forest

And no one could do anything for me

But you put food in my body

Water in my dry bed

And to my blackened branches you brought the springtime green of new life

And nothing is impossible for you

Don Chaffer; © 1999 Blue Renaissance Music

CONFESSION AND PRAYER

Remember, LORD, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways;

according to your love remember me, for you, LORD, are good.

Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways.

For the sake of your name, LORD, forgive my iniquity, though it is great.

Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted.

Relieve the troubles of my heart and free me from my anguish.

Look on my affliction and my distress and take away all my sins.

from Psalm 25

Children in Kindergarten through 4th grade may be dismissed for Children's Church at this time.

O Christ our King

O Christ, our King, Creator, Lord, Savior of all who trust Thy Word,

To them who seek Thee ever near, now to our praises bend Thine ear.

In Thy dear Cross a grace is found— It flows from every streaming wound—

Whose power our inbred sin controls; it breaks the bond and frees our souls.

Thou didst create the stars of night yet Thou hast veiled in flesh Thy light—
Hast deigned a mortal form to wear, a mortal's painful lot to bear.

When You did hang upon the tree the quaking earth acknowledged Thee;
And when You gave up Your last breath, the world grew dark as shades of death.

Now in the Father's glory high, Great Conqu'ror, nevermore to die,
Us by Thy mighty power defend, and reign through ages without end
And reign through ages without end and reign through ages without end!
Gregory the Great, (540-604); Public domain

SCRIPTURE - Psalm 2

Please remain standing for the reading of God's Word.

- ¹ Why do the nations conspire
and the peoples plot in vain?
- ² The kings of the earth rise up
and the rulers band together
against the LORD and against his anointed, saying,
- ³ "Let us break their chains
and throw off their shackles."
- ⁴ The One enthroned in heaven laughs;
the Lord scoffs at them.
- ⁵ He rebukes them in his anger
and terrifies them in his wrath, saying,
- ⁶ "I have installed my king
on Zion, my holy mountain."
- ⁷ I will proclaim the LORD's decree:
He said to me, "You are my son;
today I have become your father.
- ⁸ Ask me,
and I will make the nations your inheritance,
the ends of the earth your possession.
- ⁹ You will break them with a rod of iron;
you will dash them to pieces like pottery."
- ¹⁰ Therefore, you kings, be wise;
be warned, you rulers of the earth.
- ¹¹ Serve the LORD with fear
and celebrate his rule with trembling.
- ¹² Kiss his son, or he will be angry
and you and your ways will be destroyed,
for his wrath can flare up in a moment.
Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON - Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi - The Prayerful Community
Bart Garrett

Just As I Am

Just as I am, without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need in Thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
Words: Charlotte Elliot, 1835; Music: Bobby Guy © 1998

COMMUNION

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 that proclaims the gospel, who are at peace with God and with their neighbor, and who seek strength to live more faithfully for Christ. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer and/or reflection. We hope that this time is helpful to you as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ and with His people, the church.

Prayers of Meditation for Those Not Communing

If you are not able to receive Communion, please use this time to meditate on one of the following prayers.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

God, if you are real and you care about me, please show up in my life. Open to me the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of your character, your works, and your world that makes sense to me. If Jesus really is "the way, the truth, and the life," and, if Jesus really died for the sins of humanity, rose again from the dead, and will one day return, then I need you to persuade me and give me faith. Amen.

Prayer of Commitment

Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Confession of Faith - Philippians 2:5-11

Christ Jesus, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human being, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them up to the Lord!

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

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

All: 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!

Words of Institution – 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Words of Response

Minister: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

People: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Minister: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast.

Distribution of the Bread and Cup

Minister: The gifts of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Closing Communion Prayer

Gracious God,
we thank you for the love
that brings us food from heaven,
gives us the life of your dear Son,
and assures us that we belong
to the company of all his faithful people
in heaven and on earth.
Grant that, strengthened by this fellowship
and by the power of his Holy Spirit,
we may continue his work in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please help us by placing your plastic communion cups in the recycle bin in the back of the worship space at the conclusion of worship.

OFFERING

Checks for the offering may be made payable to Christ Church. Gifts are tax deductible with receipts issued at the conclusion of the tax year. New to Christ Church? Get connected by filling out a connection card and placing it in the offering basket.

If You Lead me Lord

All who are weak, All who are weary
Come to the rock, Come to the fountain
all who have sailed, On the rivers of heartache
Come to the sea, Come on be set free

Chorus

If you lead me Lord I will follow
Where You lead me Lord I will go
Come and heal me Lord, I will follow
Where You lead me Lord, I will go
I will go, I will go

All who are weak, All who are weary
Come to the rock, Come to the fountain
All who have climbed, On the mountains of heartache
Reach to the stars, Come on give Your life

All who are weak, All who are weary
All who are tired, All who are thirsty
All who have failed, All who have broken
Come to the rock, Come to the fountain

© Michael J. Pritzl

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

COMMUNITY LIFE

BENEDICTION

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COMMUNITY LIFE

Upcoming Events

Connection at Christ Church - Saturday, May 10 from 5-8pm

If you are new to Christ Church or a regular attender, Connection at Christ Church is a wonderful opportunity for you to learn more about our purpose, vision, and mission, as well as how to best participate in the life and ministry of our church. Our gathering will be a potluck dinner limited to 15 people, and we will let you know what to bring after we finalize the guest list. Also, please remember to bring \$5 to cover printing costs for materials. Please note that those interested in becoming members at Christ Church must attend (1) Connection at Christ Church, (2) then Commitment to Christ Church, (3) and finally a personal membership interview discussing the covenant vows that will be agreed upon in an installation service during Sunday worship. We will gather at Ben and Elaine Jun's house (5332 Boyd Ave., Oakland, CA, 95618). Please RSVP on the church's web site by Monday, March 31st.

Hiking and burgers – Saturday May 10th (hike Mt. Tam at 10AM; burgers at Marin Brewing at 1PM)

Come hike with us on Mount Tamalpais, just north of San Francisco's Golden Gate. Mt. Tam is considered a Bay Area "gem" with spectacular views from the 2,571-foot peak. We will start our hike at the East Peak Trailhead for an easy, 1.5 mile hike to the summit of Mt. Tam (you can check out a description of the hike, and get directions at <http://www.bahiker.com/northbayhikes/eastpeak.html>). After we reach the summit we can decide what other parts of the park we want to explore. For anyone that would like to carpool, we will meet in the parking lot behind College Avenue Pres (the Dreyer's parking lot) and depart promptly at 8:45. After a couple hours of hiking and enjoying the scenery, we'll rendezvous at Marin Brewing in Lakespur (on the west side of the SanRafael-Richmod bridge). For those that can't make the hike, please come join us for a burger and some time to relax and meet other people from the Christ Church community. So that we have an accurate count (and don't leave anyone on the trail), please RSVP on the Christ Church website (www.christchurchberkeley.org). If you have any questions, contact Stu Rentz at 404/314-0735.

Day of Peace - Saturday, June 21, 9-12pm

Join us as we partner with Claremont Middle School (5750 College Ave, Oakland, CA 94618)- working in the garden, organizing supplies, and painting. For more details and RSVP, go to the Project Peace Web Site.

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Weekly Announcements

New to Christ Church?

We encourage you to take the outer worship folder home with you as it is complete with important contact information. Regular attenders may help us recycle by placing them in the re-use bin in the back.

Community Groups

We seek to create a welcoming and vibrant community by developing Community Groups of 6-12 people as the primary catalysts for nurture and mission in our church. Our groups meet weekly in homes during throughout the Bay Area. While community groups meet seasonally, they are always open and you can join one at any time. Visit our website to sign up for the group closest to you.

RUF at CAL - Thursday, 7-8:30pm

Are you a Cal student? Trying to figure out what Christianity is about? Looking to grow in your faith? We'd love for you and your friends to join us as we study the book of Genesis (Where is Jesus in Genesis?). RUF meets at the Wesley Student Center (Dana and Bancroft.) For more info contact Brent Webster (bwebster@ruf.org, 415-317-7111) or visit our website: www.rufcal.org.

Parking

For those worshipping in Berkeley, parking is complimentary at the Allston Way Garage (2061 Allston Way) from 10am to 2pm. You will be responsible for covering any extra time (anything over \$3.00). Please validate your parking stub with the stamp located on the resource table in the foyer of the Gaia theater. For those worshipping in Rockridge, parking is available behind the church in the Dreyer's Parking Lot, accessible from Claremont Ave. or Chabot Road. Street parking is free on Sunday.

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WE NEED YOU... YES, YOU!!!

The church, as a volunteer organization, often falls into an unhealthy pattern and operates according to the 20/80 principle: 20 percent of the people do 80 percent of the work. However, when a church fails to "flex its muscles" in service and mission, it becomes weak, out-of-shape, atrophied, and selfish. Some people have gifts, don't use them, and become lazy. Others have gifts, overuse them, and get burned out. We seek to be a healthy, dynamic, and vigorous church modeled after the pattern of Jesus, who humbled himself to serve, enrich, and exalt others. We also seek to be a church in which everyone is faithfully stewarding and exercising their passions, skills, and spiritual gifts in service to the people of God and the broader community. Thus, please note the following needs at Christ

Church. If you think God may be calling you to serve in any of the following ways, please sign up at our volunteer table after the worship service or contact Anita Sunraj: anita@christchurchberkeley.org and indicate your area of interest.

Setup/Breakdown for Summer Salon on Monday Nights

Do you want to get to know people in our Christ Church community? Serving at the Summer Salon on Monday nights would be an easy way to do so. Our Community Groups will be responsible, but if you are NOT presently in a Community Group, we could use your help on any Monday night that you are available from June 2 to August 11. Feel free to arrive around 6:15pm to help with set-up, and stay after the event for a few minutes to help with breakdown.

Hosts for Community Groups and Newcomer Groups for Fall 2008 & Spring 2009

Do you have a passion for community and hospitality? Do you desire to welcome people into your home and foster relationships? Do you have a living space that can comfortably accommodate 8-12 people? We want to create spaces and opportunities for small groups of people to gather in their respective neighborhoods throughout the week for spiritual and relational development. Our hope is to have groups in the following neighborhoods – Berkeley, North Berkeley, West Berkeley, San Francisco, Berkeley Hills, Albany, Rockridge, Emeryville, Piedmont, Lake Merritt, Alameda, and Walnut Creek.

Sunday Operations Coordinators for Community Groups for Fall 2008 & Spring 2009

Do you have a passion for hospitality and service? Do you desire to create a warm and welcoming environment for the church to gather in worship? Do you have skills and gifts for organizing people that would make our worship and childcare even better? We want each of our Community Groups to have a Sunday Operations coordinator who can activate their group to serve the church on a 4-6 week rotation that will make Sunday worship happen from start to finish.

Project Peace Coordinators for Community Groups for Fall 2008 & Spring 2009

Do you have a passion for mercy and justice? Do you desire to serve the broader community on a regular basis? Do you have skills and gifts for mobilizing people around a particular task? We want each of our Community Groups to have a Project Peace Coordinator who can activate their group to partner in an ongoing monthly relationship with a social service provider in or near your neighborhood.

Director(s) of Hospitality - Berkeley/Rockridge

Do you enjoy running errands, making coffee, setting the table, and leaving behind a clean space? Are you in the mood to help your pastors? We would greatly appreciate some relief in preparation for various events: Connection to Christ Church, Commitment to Christ Church, Community Dinners, Leader Development Saturdays, and the like.

Director(s) of Sunday Operations – Berkeley/Rockridge

Do you love protocols, spreadsheets, and other organizational tools? Are two of your favorite words “efficient” and “effective”? A Director of Sunday Operations will be responsible to 1) manage the schedule, manual, and supplies, 2) oversee and encourage coordinators, 3) organize and clean storage areas, and 4) think creatively and prayerfully about fostering a culture of hospitality and worship on Sundays.

Teaching Our Children

Teaching, encouraging, (and playing with!) our children is a vital component of the mission of Christ Church. This takes numerous volunteers including dedicated teachers. We are making plans for our summer season of Children’s Church. Many of our teachers teach September through May and take a break during the summer, which creates a wonderful opportunity to try teaching out if you have not taught in a while or have not taught before. The commitment would involve teaching once per month in June, July, and August. Our next teacher training will be Sunday, June 8th. In Berkeley we will begin at 9am (9:45 for returning teachers) and at Rockridge at 3:30pm (4:15 for returning teachers). Childcare will be provided. Please contact Angela Henson if you are interested or have any questions at angela@christchurchberkeley.org.

Audio Visual Team

Do you enjoy listening to our worship services on Sunday? Our worship service sound is made possible by an Audio/Visual Team comprised entirely of volunteers. We really need your help! If you are interested in joining the A/V ministry, or if you would just like to learn more, please talk to or email your interest to Pam Vanderzalm (Berkeley) and Ricky Shin (Rockridge) avteam@christchurchberkeley.org.

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