

Christ Church

The Lord's Day - June 22, 2008

10:30AM Berkeley / 5:00PM Rockridge

REFLECTION

"The past is not the past. It is the present."

-William Faulkner

"The gulf between modern Christianity and the spirituality of the Bible is seen also in our selective use of the Psalms, which were the song-book of the people of Israel and the New Testament church. The Psalms not only reflect every human experience (e.g. confusion, anger, fear, anxiety, depression, uninhibited joy) but they force us to stop pretending everything is fine in the world. The psalms of lament are passionate complaints at God for the contradictions between his promise and the reality the people experience. The Psalms are rarely used in Christian worship today. Yet these Psalms are acts of courageous faith: courageous, because they insist that we must face the world as it is and give up every childish pretence; but also of faith, because they stem from the conviction that there is nothing out of bounds where conversation with God is concerned. To withhold any part of human experience, including the darkness of unanswered prayer and the negative aspects of life, from that conversation is to deny the sovereignty of God in all of life. So, paradoxically, it is those who suppress their doubts under a litany of jolly choruses who may well be guilty of unbelief: for they refuse to believe that God can handle their rage."

-Vinoth Ramachandra, *Gods that Fail: Modern Idolatry and Christian Mission* (1997)

PRELUDE

We appreciate your willingness to 1) come early out of respect for fellow worshipers and the one worshiped, 2) take seats toward the front and center to create space for latecomers, and 3) reserve seats in the rear and balcony for new parents.

Are you new to Christian worship? For over 2000 years, singing has been a vital part of the way Christians express themselves in worship. You will find the lyrics to several songs (some old and some new) in this, your worship liturgy. Please feel free to sing along if you so choose, or, if you are uncomfortable singing, you are free to simply enjoy the music and ponder the lyrics.

CALL TO WORSHIP - Bart Garrett

Lord, Let Your Glory Fall

Lord, let Your glory fall
As on that ancient day
Songs of enduring love
And then Your glory came
And as a sign to You
That we would love the same
Our hearts will sing that song
God, let Your glory come

Chorus

You are good, You are good
And Your love endures
You are good, You are good
And Your love endures today

Voices in unison
Giving You thanks and praise
Joined by the instruments
And then Your glory came
Your presence like a cloud
Upon that ancient day
The priests were overwhelmed
Because Your glory came

A sacrifice was made
And then your fire came
They knelt upon the ground
And with one voice the praised

© Matt Redman

Jesus, I Come to Thee

Out of my bondage, sorrow and night, Jesus, I come; Jesus I come.

Into Thy freedom, gladness and light, Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of my sickness into Thy health, out of my wanting and into Thy wealth,
Out of my sin and into Thyself, Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of my shameful failure and loss, Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the glorious gain of Thy cross, Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of earth's sorrows into Thy balm, out of life's storms and into Thy calm,
Out of distress into jubilant psalm, Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of unrest and arrogant pride, Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into Thy blessed will to abide, Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of myself to dwell in Thy love, out of despair into raptures above,
Upward forever on wings like a dove, Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb, Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the joy and light of Thy home, Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of the depths of ruin untold, into the peace of Thy sheltering fold,
Ever Thy glorious face to behold, Jesus, I come to Thee.

Text: William Sleeper, 1887; Music: © 2000 Greg Thompson

CONFESSION AND PRAYER

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.

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

I Am the Lord, Your God

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you,
And the waves will not overcome you—
Do not fear for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by name—you are mine.

Chorus

For I am the Lord, your God
I am the Lord, your God
I am the Lord, your God
I am The Holy One of Israel, your Savior

I am the Lord (Do not fear)
I am the Lord

When you walk through the fire, you'll not be burned
And the flames will not consume you—
Do not fear for I will be with you.
I have called you by name—you are mine.

Anonymous; from Isaiah 43

SCRIPTURE - Psalm 77

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

- ¹ I cried out to God for help;
I cried out to God to hear me.
- ² When I was in distress, I sought the Lord;
at night I stretched out untiring hands,
and I would not be comforted.
- ³ I remembered you, God, and I groaned;
I meditated, and my spirit grew faint.
- ⁴ You kept my eyes from closing;
I was too troubled to speak.
- ⁵ I thought about the former days,
the years of long ago;
- ⁶ I remembered my songs in the night.
My heart meditated and my spirit asked:
- ⁷ "Will the Lord reject forever?
Will he never show his favor again?
- ⁸ Has his unfailing love vanished forever?
Has his promise failed for all time?
- ⁹ Has God forgotten to be merciful?
Has he in anger withheld his compassion?"
- ¹⁰ Then I thought, "To this I will appeal:
the years when the Most High stretched out his right hand.
- ¹¹ I will remember the deeds of the LORD;
yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago.
- ¹² I will consider all your works
and meditate on all your mighty deeds."
- ¹³ Your ways, God, are holy.
What god is as great as our God?
- ¹⁴ You are the God who performs miracles;
you display your power among the peoples.
- ¹⁵ With your mighty arm you redeemed your people,
the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.
- ¹⁶ The waters saw you, God,
the waters saw you and writhed;
the very depths were convulsed.
- ¹⁷ The clouds poured down water,
the heavens resounded with thunder;
your arrows flashed back and forth.
- ¹⁸ Your thunder was heard in the whirlwind,
your lightning lit up the world;
the earth trembled and quaked.
- ¹⁹ Your path led through the sea,
your way through the mighty waters,
though your footprints were not seen.
- ²⁰ You led your people like a flock
by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON - Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi - The Prayer of Confusion and Courage
Jonathan St. Clair

How Sweet the Name of Jesus

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
In a believer's ear!
It soothes his sorrow, heals his wounds
And drives away his fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole,
And calms the troubled breast.
Tis manna to the hungry soul,
And to the weary rest.

Dear Name, the Rock on which I build
My Shield and Hiding Place,
My never-failing Treasury filled with
Boundless stores of grace.

Weak is the effort of my heart
And cold my warmest thought
But when I see Thee as Thou art
I'll praise Thee as I ought

Til then I would Thy love proclaim
With every fleeting breath
And may the music of Thy name
Refresh my soul in death

Text: John Newton (1725-1807)

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 - Colossians 1:15-20

The Son, Jesus Christ, is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

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, illumine our hearts with the radiance of Christ's presence through this sacrament. Dwell in us that our lives may show forth his love in this weary world. Teach us to befriend the lost, to serve the poor, to reconcile our enemies, and to love our neighbors. Keep us faithful in your service until you come again, that we may joyfully proclaim the story of your redeeming love through the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Adapted from The Book of Common Worship

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.

How Firm a Foundation

How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He has said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus refuge have fled?

"Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed;
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen and help you, and cause you to stand
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand."

"When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be your supply;
The flame shall not hurt you; I only design
Your dross to consume, and your gold to refine."

"The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake."

John Rippon's Selection of Hymns, 1787

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

Summer Salon - The Bible for Everyone - Monday, June 23 at 7pm

Understanding the Bible isn't for the few, the gifted, the scholarly. The Bible is accessible; it's meant to be read and comprehended by everyone. A few essential insights into the Bible can clear up a lot of misconceptions, help you grasp the big picture of Scripture, and enable you to apply its original meaning to life in the twenty-first century. Our assumption is that there is always someone unfamiliar to Christianity, the church, and the Bible in attendance for any event that we do at Christ Church, so we will be careful in explaining technical and theological terms for those that you might invite. Childcare provided for this event contingent upon RSVP one week in advance. Please send an email to Angela Henson for childcare. We invite you to join us at The Gaia Arts Center (2120 Allston Way, Berkeley, CA 94704).

Morning Prayer - 7:15 to 8 am on Tuesdays in Berkeley & Thursdays in Rockridge

Join us for morning prayer centered upon readings from the Psalms and New Testament. Our time together looks like so: 7:15 Read Scripture and pray together / 8:00 Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Please arrive on time as we will begin promptly at 7:15. You may leave early as needed or stick around for coffee, breakfast, and spiritual counsel with Jonathan St. Clair, our Pastor of Spiritual Formation. We will gather at the Christ Church Office (Tuesdays - 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley, 94707) and the St. Clair house (Thursdays - 5945 Keith Ave., Oakland, 94618). You are always welcome to pray every Sunday with the pastors and the serving Community Group at 9:00am in Berkeley (Christ Church Office) and 3:45pm in Rockridge (CAPC Library.)

Kid's Night Out - Saturday, June 28 from 5-8pm

Parents of Christ Church, drop off your kids at College Avenue Presbyterian Church (CAPC - 5951 College Avenue, Oakland, CA 94618) in Rockridge and enjoy a night out with your spouse. Your children will be well cared for as safety and security are high values. Please feed your kids before they arrive, and we will provide snacks, crafts, and entertainment. As Kid's Night Out continues to grow we are asking for a suggested \$5 donation per regularly attending families of Christ Church to help us offset some of our costs. This is also an opportunity to invite your friends, neighbors, and co-workers who would enjoy a night out - no kids, no babysitting costs! Please RSVP with the number and ages of children, as well as your mobile phone number.

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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.

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. Please arrive around 6:15pm to help with set-up, or stay after the event 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 in order to 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 and 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

Do you love creating environments that nurture relational and spiritual flourishing? Do you enjoy running errands, making coffee, setting the table, and leaving behind a clean space? 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.