

## Christ Church

The Lord's Day - July 20, 2008  
10:30am Berkeley, 5:00pm Rockridge

### REFLECTION

Almost twenty-four years ago I walked into a church in Dublin a Hindu, and walked out a Christian. I had had an unexpected confrontation with the presence of One I discovered to be my Lord, and was set reeling. I knew I needed operating instructions quickly, and particularly wanted to find out who this Jesus was. I hunted up a Bible, a pocket-sized King James with print several microns high, and plunged into the Gospels... I disliked it from the start. Jesus was often abrupt and hard-edged. I disagreed with some of the things he said. I was offended... But something had happened in my heart. The confrontation in the church had knocked a hole in my ego. I knew at last that I didn't make the world, I didn't know everything, and it was time for me to sit down, shut up, and listen. I kept working my way through the Gospels, and they began working their way through me. There are still parts of the Bible I don't like. But I like the parts I don't like, because I know that's where I need to listen harder.

- Frederica Mathewes-Green, "Go Ahead, Offend Me" (1998)

### 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 - Jose Figueroa

#### 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.*

#### God, Be Merciful to Me (Psalm 51)

God, be merciful to me;  
On Thy grace I rest my plea  
Plenteous in compassion Thou,  
Blot out my transgressions now;  
Wash me, make me pure within;  
Cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.  
God be merciful, merciful to me.

My transgressions I confess;  
Grief and guilt my soul oppress.  
I have sinned against Thy grace,  
And provoked Thee to Thy face.  
I confess Thy judgement just;  
Speechless, I Thy mercy trust.  
God be merciful, merciful to me.

I am evil, born in sin;  
Thou desirest truth within.  
Thou alone my Savior art,  
Teach Thy wisdom to my heart;

Make me pure, Thy grace bestow,  
Wash me whiter than the snow.

Broken, humbled to the dust  
By Thy wrath and judgment just,  
Let my contrite heart rejoice,  
And in gladness hear Thy voice;  
From my sins O hide Thy face,  
Blot them out in boundless grace.  
God be merciful, merciful to me.

Gracious God, my heart renew  
Make my spirit right and true.  
Cast me not away from Thee,  
Let Thy Spirit dwell in me.  
Thy salvation's joy impart,  
Steadfast make my willing heart.  
God be merciful, merciful to me.

*Richard Redhead, 1853; © Jeff Rolka Music*

### **CONFESSION AND PRAYER**

Eternal God, our judge and redeemer,  
we confess that we have tried to hide from you,  
for we have done wrong.  
We have lived for ourselves, and apart from you.  
We have turned from our neighbors,  
and refused to bear the burdens of others.  
We have ignored the pain of the world,  
and passed by the hungry, the poor, and the oppressed.  
In your great mercy forgive our sins and free us from selfishness,  
that we may choose your will and obey your commandments;  
through Jesus Christ our Savior.

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

### **Good to Me**

I cry out for Your hand of mercy to heal me  
I am weak, I need Your love to free me  
Oh Lord my Rock, my strength in weakness  
Come rescue me oh Lord

You are my hope  
Your promise never fails me  
And my desire  
Is to follow You forever

For You are good  
For You are good  
For You are good to me (Repeat)  
*Craig Musseau; © 1990 Mercy Publishing*

### **SCRIPTURE**

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

#### **Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 8:1-15, 18-21**

1 After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, 2 and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; 3 Joanna the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means.

4 While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, he told this parable: 5 "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up. 6 Some fell on rock, and when it came up, the plants withered be-

cause they had no moisture. 7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. 8 Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown." When he said this, he called out, "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."

9 His disciples asked him what this parable meant. 10 He said, "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that, " 'though seeing, they may not see; though hearing, they may not understand.'

11 "This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. 12 Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. 13 Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. 14 The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. 15 But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

\* \* \*

18 Therefore consider carefully how you listen. Those who have will be given more; as for those who do not have, even what they think they have will be taken from them."

19 Now Jesus' mother and brothers came to see him, but they were not able to get near him because of the crowd. 20 Someone told him, "Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to see you."

21 He replied, "My mother and brothers are those who hear God's word and put it into practice."

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

## **SERMON**

Series: The Storyteller

Title: The Parable of Sower, Seed, and Soil

Minister: Jonathan St. Clair

### **When I Survey The Wondrous Cross**

When I survey the wondrous cross, on which the Prince of Glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it Lord that I should boast, save in the death of Christ my God.  
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet. Sorrow and love flow mingled down.  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a treasure far too small.  
Love so amazing, so divine demands my soul, my life, my all.

*Words: Isaac Watts, 1707. Music: Lowell Mason, 1824.*

## **STORY FROM OUR COMMUNITY**

### **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.*

### **Our Great God**

Eternal God unchanging mysterious and unknown  
Your boundless love unfailing grace and mercy shown  
Bright seraphim in ceaseless flight around your glorious throne  
They raise their voices day and night in praise to you alone

*Chorus*

Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!  
Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!

Lord we are weak and frail helpless in the storm  
Surround us with your angels; hold us in your arms  
Our cold and ruthless enemy, his pleasure is our harm  
Rise up O Lord and he will flee before our sovereign God.

Let every creature in the sea and every flying bird  
Let every mountain every field and valley of the earth  
Let all the moons and all the stars in all the universe  
Sing praises to the living God who rules them by His Word.  
*Mac Powell, Fernando Ortega; © 2002 Word Music, Inc.*

### 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 - Summer Film and Conversation - *Into the Wild* - Monday, July 21, 7pm

Join us as we view and discuss *Into the Wild* (2007), a Golden Globe-winning, Academy Award-nominated film based on the 1996 non-fiction book of the same name by Jon Krakauer about the adventures of Christopher McCandless. It was written and directed by Sean Penn, and stars Emile Hirsch. Films possess immense power for telling stories about human life - be they comic or tragic, serious or absurd, sacred or profane, simple or complex. Yet films not only depict human life; they also construct (or deconstruct!) what it means to be human. The purpose of our dialogue is to explore, interpret, and celebrate film in all its aspects - from aesthetic qualities to social, political, and spiritual implications and beyond.

#### Morning Prayer - 7:15 to 8am 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.)

#### Post-Worship Community Meal in Rockridge - Sunday, July 27, 6:30pm

Make plans to join us for a relaxed and informal community meal, gathering around the table with friends old and new in the Christ Church Community. The cost will be \$5 per person and kids are free.

#### Fall Recruitment for Teaching Our Children

Teaching, encouraging, (and playing with!) our children is a vital component of the mission of Christ Church. This takes numerous volunteers and dedicated teachers. We are now making plans for Children's Church this fall and are excited to be starting a new curriculum, which has many ideas and activities to engage the children and bring the lesson to life. The commitment to teach involves teaching once per month in September, October, November and December. Our next teacher training will be on Sunday, August 10th. We will begin in Berkeley at 8:45am (9:30 for returning teachers) and in Rockridge at 3:15pm (4:00 for returning teachers). Childcare will be provided. Please contact Angela Henson ([angela@christchurchberkeley.org](mailto:angela@christchurchberkeley.org)) prior to the meeting if you are interested or have any questions.

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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.

*All songs Public Domain or used by permission. CCLI# 2830708*

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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](mailto:anita@christchurchberkeley.org) and indicate your area of interest.*

### **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.

### **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 AV 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](mailto:avteam@christchurchberkeley.org).