

Covenant Presbyterian Church

Sunday, eleven o'clock 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time August 30, 2009

Ritual of Friendship and Congregational Opportunities

(Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

Please sign the attendance pads at the end of the pew and turn off cell phones.)

Gathering in God's Name

Sounding of the Hour

Prelude

"He Hideth My Soul"

arr.: Cindy Berry

*Call to Worship

Leader: God invites us to live in the Spirit.

People: We open our souls to God's care.

Leader: God calls us to have loving hearts and faith-filled lives.

People: We open ourselves to God's gifts.

Leader: God summons us to be known by our faith.

People: We open our lives to God's claim.

Leader: God calls us to live our faith.

People: We open our gifts to God's design for them.

Leader: God offers us every gift of grace.

**People: We will worship, give thanks
and live so that we show God's grace all around us.**

*Prayer for the Day

*Hymn of Praise # 267

"All Things Bright and Beautiful"

*Prayer of Confession

God of compassion,
you have written your law on our hearts.

We are slow to read it there.

Instead, we honor you with our lips:

We pray long prayers.

We sing hymns, but do not notice the words.

"How are you?" we ask;

but we do not listen.

"Peace be with you," we say;

but we mean, "Hello."

Our hearts are far from you.

O God, forgive us.

Fill us with genuine love.

Help us to honor you with our hearts

in worship and in faithful living.

*Assurance of Pardon

*Congregational Response # 139 (stanza 3)

"Come, Thou Almighty King"

Come, Holy Comforter, Thy sacred witness bear in this glad hour:

Thou who almighty art, now rule in every heart, and ne'er from us depart, Spirit of power.

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Hearing the Word of God

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading pg. 623

Song of Solomon 2:8-13

Anthem

"Set Me As a Seal"

René Clausen

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm, for love is strong as death.

Many waters cannot quench love; neither can the floods drown it.

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Children's Moments

***Gateway to Worship*

*Hymn of Preparation # 560

"We Plow the Fields and Scatter"

New Testament Reading pg. 229

James 1:17-27

Sermon

First Things First

Rev. Sharon Amstutz

Responding Faithfully to God's Word

Service of Welcome

Unison Prayer:

Holy God, we praise you for calling us to be a servant people, and for gathering us into the body of Christ. We thank you for choosing to add to our number brothers and sisters in faith. Together, may we live in your Spirit, and so love one another, that we may have the mind of Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom we give honor and glory forever...

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Giving of our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

"The Voice of My Beloved Sounds"

arr.: Alice Parker

The voice of my beloved sounds, while o'er the mountain tops he bounds. He flies exulting o'er the hills, and all my soul with transport filled. Gently doth he chide my stay, "Rise my love, and come away." The scatter'd clouds are fled at last, the rain is gone, the winter's past. The lonely vernal flow'rs appear, the warbling choir enchants our ear; Now with sweetly pensive moan, coos the turtle dove alone.

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*Doxology # 138, stanza 4

"Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!"

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! All Thy works shall praise Thy name, in earth and sky and sea; Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty! God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

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*Prayer of Dedication

Going Out to Serve

*Hymn of Consecration # 438

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

*Benediction

***Sending Response # 535**

“Go with Us, Lord”

Go with us, Lord, and guide the way through this and every coming day,
that in Your Spirit strong and true our lives may be our gift to You.

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***Postlude**

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

arr.: Janet Vogt

(For some, the Postlude serves as festive music to accompany their going back out into the world. Others prefer to remain seated and listen. Those departing can help those who listen by holding their joyful greeting of others until they reach the narthex.)

*For those who are able, please stand.

****Gateway to Worship** is our worship program for 4-year olds through first graders. The Gateway leader will take the children to their classroom in the Fellowship Hall after the Children’s Moments.

Service Notes:

Song of Solomon

Worthy of at least a PG-13 rating, the Song of Solomon, or Song of Songs (a Hebraic superlative) is exactly what it appears to be at first blush: a book of love poems, filled with expressions of longing, and descriptions of the physical attributes of the beloved. While the Church’s attempts to ‘baptize’ the Song of Solomon as an allegory of the love between Christ and the Church fall short, in a broader sense it echoes the prophets’ understanding of the covenant relationship between God and God’s people.

James

Although James is classified as a letter, sent out to all the Christians of the world, it reads more like wisdom literature, hopping and skipping from one subject to the next, exhorting its readers about right ways of living. It is a sermon, but not one you could take notes on or outline very easily. The very reason Luther hated James is the reason that Christians today find it invaluable: it reminds us that faith alone isn’t enough. Our words and our actions must support what we say we believe.

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WELCOME VISITORS! We are glad you are here. If you are seeking a church home, we invite you to join with us in service to Christ.

Please join us in the library immediately after worship for a time of fellowship and refreshments.

The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in honor of their 54th anniversary (on the 25th) by Bob & Betty Maletich.

The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper will be celebrated next Sunday. Take time this week to prepare yourself in prayer and meditation.

We welcome **new members** Estelle Armistead and Eleanor Graham as they join with us in the worship and mission of the church.

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The **September Courier** can be found on the table in the narthex. **Help us save postage!** **Be sure to pick up your copy!** (If you are a regular visitor, **please look for your copy, too!**) If you would like to begin receiving your newsletter **via e-mail**, please fill out the green form on the table in the Narthex or call Tina 282-5324 or send her an e-mail at cpcjctn@mounet.com .

“Lord, in the full assembly
I will praise you for what you have done.”
Psalm 22:25



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