

## ***Announcements***

*Check out our website (cpcsb.org) to see our calendar and events.*

### **Friday Nights Out–October, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, November 4th**

Friday Nights Out is a program for parents and kids. Children enjoy an hour and a half of teaching and fellowship from 6:30-8:00PM while parents are encouraged to take time out to reconnect with one another over a meal or a walk around the town. Fill out a FNO registration card, Emergency Treatment Form and pick up a take-home packet at the table by the children's area today.

***Volunteers needed:*** If you are interested in helping with Friday Nights Out and have been regularly attending the church for at least 6 months, please contact Debbie Corazza at [mscdfh@cox.net](mailto:mscdfh@cox.net). For the safety of our children and peace of mind for our parents, we require all volunteers who work with children to complete an application and provide references.

### **Board of Trustees Meeting**

The Board of Trustees will meet after worship today.

## **Service of Worship**

**October 16, 2011**

### **Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

A word about our worship: We believe that in worship we actually meet with God. Therefore, our services are interactive and dynamic, retelling the gospel through a five-act drama: Approach, Renewal, (re)Commitment, Communion, and Commissioning. In this drama, we all have a part. In each act, we are placed in dialogue with God himself: He speaks and we respond. In our liturgy (script), you will find your lines designated in **bold**.

### **PREPARATION AND REFLECTION**

*“It is requisite for the relaxation of the mind that we make use, from time to time, of playful deeds and jokes.”*

–Thomas Aquinas

*“The challenge of hospitality, both personally and professionally, comes when we are stressed out or tired and we offer it grudgingly. The gift of hospitality comes when we find in the welcoming face of hospitality the welcoming face of God.”*

– Cornelius Plantinga, Jr.

*“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.”*

–From the Letter to the Hebrews

## GATHERING SONG

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Words: Robert Robinson; Music: American Folk Melody

Come, thou fount of every blessing,  
Tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
Call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet  
Sung by flaming tongues above;  
Praise his name, I'm fixed upon it,  
The name of God's redeeming love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer\*;  
Hither, by thy help, I've come;  
And I hope, by thy good pleasure,  
Safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
Wandering from the fold of God;  
He, to rescue me from danger,  
Bought me with his precious blood.

O, to grace how great a debtor  
Daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,  
Bind my wandering heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
Prone to leave the God I love;  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
Seal it for thy courts above.

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\*The term *ebenezer* is a Hebrew phrase meaning literally *stone of help*. It is taken from I Sam 7:12 when Samuel set up a large stone to remember God's delivering of Israel from Philistine captivity. For numerous years to come, this ebenezer stone served to remind God's people of the Lord's faithful help in the midst their broken world.

## ACT 5: COMMISSIONING

*Mighty to Save*

Words and Music: Ben Fielding and Reuben Morgan

Everyone needs compassion,  
Love that's never failing.  
Let mercy fall on me.  
Everyone needs forgiveness,  
The kindness of a Saviour,  
The hope of nations.

*Chorus*            Saviour, he can move the mountains.  
My God is mighty to save.  
He is mighty to save.  
Forever, Author of salvation,  
He rose and conquered the grave.  
Jesus conquered the grave.

So take me as you find me,  
All my fears and failures.  
Fill my life again.  
I give my life to follow  
Everything I believe in.  
Now I surrender.

*Bridge:*            Shine your light and let the whole world see.  
We're singing for the glory of the risen King Jesus.  
Shine your light and let the whole world see.  
We're singing for the glory of the risen King.

CCLI Song No. 4591782

**BENEDICTION:** *God sends us out in His power.*

## PRAYERS FOR THOSE NOT COMMUNING

### Prayer for those searching for truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

### 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 struggling with sin

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need, and may I turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the pioneer and perfecter of my 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.

## ACT 1: APPROACH

### CALL TO WORSHIP: *God summons us.*

*From Isaiah 25:1*

Praise the Lord; he is faithful!

**He has done marvelous things!**

Praise the Lord; exalt his name!

### ***O Love That Will Not Let Me Go***

Words: George Matheson; Music: Christopher Miner

**O Love that will not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in thee;  
I give thee back the life I owe,  
That in thine ocean depths its flow  
May richer, fuller be.**

**O Light that follows all my way,  
I yield my flickering torch to thee;  
My heart restores its borrowed ray,  
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day  
May brighter, fairer be.**

**O Joy that seekest me through pain,  
I cannot close my heart to thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
And feel the promise is not vain,  
That morn shall tearless be.**

**O Cross that liftest up my head,  
I dare not ask to fly from thee;  
I lay in dust life's glory dead,  
And from the ground there blossoms red  
Life that shall endless be.**

***Everlasting God***

Words and Music: Brenton Brown and Ken Riley

**Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord,  
Wait upon the Lord.  
We will wait upon the Lord. (2x)**

**Our God, you reign forever;  
Our hope, our strong deliv'rer.**

***Chorus*            You are the everlasting God,  
                          The everlasting God.  
                          You do not faint,  
                          You won't grow weary.  
                          You're the defender of the weak,  
                          You comfort those in need,  
                          You lift us up on wings like eagles.**

CCLI #4556538; ©2005 Thankyou Music

**INVOCATION: *We ask God to meet us.***

**RECEIVING THE ELEMENTS**

- ❖ Please hold the elements until we can all partake together. (For those with diet restrictions gluten-free bread is offered).

***Unashamed***

Words and Music: Doug McKelvey | Jon Neufeld | Tim Neufeld

**I have not much to offer you,  
Not near what you deserve.  
But still I come because your cross  
Has placed in me my worth.**

**O Christ my King of sympathy,  
Whose wounds secure my peace;  
Your grace extends to call me friend,  
Your mercy sets me free.**

***Chorus*            (And) I know I'm weak,  
                          I know I'm unworthy  
                          To call upon your name.  
                          But because of grace,  
                          Because of your mercy  
                          I stand here unashamed.**

**I can't explain this kind of love,  
I'm humbled and amazed  
That you'd come down from heaven's heights  
And greet me face to face.**

***Bridge***

**Here I am at your feet,  
In my brokenness complete.**

CCLI Song No. 4722283 © 2006 Birdwing Music

## ACT 4: COMMUNION

### CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER: *God invites us to a meal.*

- ❖ Christ Presbyterian Church welcomes all baptized Christians who are willing to forsake their sin, trust in Jesus Christ for salvation, and who are members of congregations that proclaim the gospel, to receive the Holy Communion with us.
- ❖ If you are not sure if you should take Communion, or if you have come to believe in Jesus today, you are encouraged to meet with one of the elders who will be at the front of the sanctuary following the service.
- ❖ If you are not able to receive Communion, please use the prayers on page 14 as a guide.

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### PRAYER FOR APPROACHING THE TABLE

**We do not presume to come to this, your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant mercies. In ourselves, we are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But You, Lord, delight to show us mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, that by faith we might be nourished and edified by Jesus Christ, that we may dwell in him, and he in us.**

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.

**Hallelujah, let us keep the feast.**

The gifts of God are for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Act 1: Approach

### SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 40:18–31

<sup>18</sup> To whom then will you liken God,  
or what likeness compare with him?

<sup>19</sup> An idol! A craftsman casts it,  
and a goldsmith overlays it with gold  
and casts for it silver chains.

<sup>20</sup> He who is too impoverished for an offering  
chooses wood that will not rot;  
he seeks out a skillful craftsman  
to set up an idol that will not move.

<sup>21</sup> Do you not know? Do you not hear?  
Has it not been told you from the beginning?  
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

<sup>22</sup> It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,  
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;  
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,  
and spreads them like a tent to dwell in;

<sup>23</sup> who brings princes to nothing,  
and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness.

<sup>24</sup> Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,  
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,  
when he blows on them, and they wither,  
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

<sup>25</sup> To whom then will you compare me,  
that I should be like him? says the Holy One.

<sup>26</sup> Lift up your eyes on high and see:  
who created these?  
He who brings out their host by number,  
calling them all by name,  
by the greatness of his might,  
and because he is strong in power  
not one is missing.

<sup>27</sup>Why do you say, O Jacob,  
and speak, O Israel,  
"My way is hidden from the LORD,  
and my right is disregarded by my God"?  
<sup>28</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He does not faint or grow weary;  
his understanding is unsearchable.  
<sup>29</sup>He gives power to the faint,  
and to him who has no might he increases strength.  
<sup>30</sup>Even youths shall faint and be weary,  
and young men shall fall exhausted;  
<sup>31</sup>but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;  
they shall run and not be weary;  
they shall walk and not faint.

This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God!**

## Sermon– “Entertaining Unaware”

*Sermon Notes*

**PERSONAL SERMON REFLECTION**

**THE PREACHED WORD: *God brings us good news.*****Reading: Genesis 18:1–21**

<sup>1</sup>And the LORD appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. <sup>2</sup>He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth <sup>3</sup>and said, "O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant. <sup>4</sup>Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree, <sup>5</sup>while I bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on— since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." <sup>6</sup>And Abraham went quickly into the tent to Sarah and said, "Quick! Three seahs of fine flour! Knead it, and make cakes." <sup>7</sup>And Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to a young man, who prepared it quickly. <sup>8</sup>Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them. And he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

<sup>9</sup>They said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" And he said, "She is in the tent." <sup>10</sup>The LORD said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. <sup>11</sup>Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah. <sup>12</sup>So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?" <sup>13</sup>The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' <sup>14</sup>Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son." <sup>15</sup>But Sarah denied it, saying, "I did not laugh," for she was afraid. He said, "No, but you did laugh."

<sup>16</sup>Then the men set out from there, and they looked down toward Sodom. And Abraham went with them to set them on their way. <sup>17</sup>The LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, <sup>18</sup>seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? <sup>19</sup>For I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring to Abraham what he has promised him." <sup>20</sup>Then the LORD said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave, <sup>21</sup> I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me. And if not, I will know."

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION****ACT 2: RENEWAL****CONFESSION OF SIN: *We own our faults.***

Heavenly Father, you have loved us with an everlasting love and promised us a future hope.

**But we have gone our own way.**

We have broken your laws, doubted your love, and denied our sin.

**We are sorry for our sins and turn away from them.**

For the sake of your Son who died for us; forgive us, cleanse us, and change us.

**By your Holy Spirit, enable us to live for you, and to please you more and more; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON****ACT 3: COMMITMENT****GIVING: *We commit our resources.***

- ❖ *For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich (2 Corinthians 8:9). As Christians, we give because Christ gave, and because he continues to give us freely all that he is by his Spirit.*
- ❖ *If you are a visitor, please do not feel obliged to give. At this time, you may fill out the perforated form on the back of today's bulletin and place it in the offering bag. You may also use this form if you have prayer requests or praises to share with the elders, would like information about Christ Presbyterian Church or would like to update your contact information.*

**One Day**

Words: Wilbur Chapman Music: Michael Devereaux

One day when heaven was filled with his praises;  
 One day when sin was as dark as could be,  
 Jesus came forth to be born of a virgin;  
 Dwelt among us, my Example is he!

One day they led him up Calvary's mountain;  
 One day they nailed him to die on the tree;  
 Suffering anguish, despised and rejected:  
 Bearing our sins, my Redeemer is he!

*Chorus*            Living, he loved me; dying, he saved me;  
                          Buried, he carried my sins far away;  
                          Rising, he justified freely forever;  
                          One day he's coming – O glorious day!  
                          One day he's coming – O glorious day!

One day they left Him alone in the garden;  
 One day he rested from suffering free;  
 Angels came down and stood over his tomb;  
 Hope of the hopeless, my Savior is He!

One day the grave could conceal him no longer;  
 One day the stone rolled away from the door;  
 Then he arose, over death he had conquered;  
 Now is ascended, my Lord evermore.

*Chorus*

One day the trumpet will sound for his coming;  
 One day the skies with his glories will shine;  
 Wonderful day, my beloved one's bringing;  
 Glorious Savior, this Jesus is mine!

*Chorus 2x***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION: *We commit our concerns.***

- ❖ *I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people (1 Timothy 2:1).*

***Help My Unbelief***

Words: John Newton; Music: Clint Wells

- ❖ *During the last verse of the following song, children from age three through first grade are dismissed for a time of teaching.*

I know the Lord is here,  
 And would but cannot pray;  
 For Satan whispers in my ear,  
 And frights my soul away. (2x)

I would but can't repent,  
 Though I endeavor oft;  
 My stony heart will not relent  
 Till Jesus makes it soft. (2x)

*Chorus*            Help my unbelief. (3x)  
                          My help must come from thee.

I would but cannot love,  
 Though wooed by love divine;  
 No arguments have power to move  
 A soul as base as mine.  
 A soul so base as mine.

I would but cannot rest  
 In God's most holy will;  
 I know what he appoints is best,  
 And murmur at it still.  
 I murmur at it still.

*Chorus*