

Good News



Community Presbyterian Church

September 2009

From the Pastor

I am very fortunate to have had an excellent class in worship.

In that class I learned much about various forms of worship, throughout history and across the spectrum of contemporary practice. Each student had to put together a notebook as a major assignment for the class. That notebook is one of only three assignments from my school years that I have referred back to more than twice since I left school. I pulled it out again this year and went through it carefully as we have worked on transforming worship at Community Presbyterian Church. (It's been a slow process, I know, but we are making some important changes.)

This article is about a major shift in my understanding of worship—and of life—which has come about because of the changes we have already made.

Our professor for that class, David McCormick, was committed to an overall flow to worship which I have followed throughout my ministry in one form or the other. True to our reformed tradition, this form is centered on the Word of God, as the Scriptures are read and as the gospel is proclaimed, most often in the sermon but also in other ways. A simple outline of that flow goes something like this:

- Praise and adoration (Including call to worship and hymns)
- Confession
- The Word
- Our response to the word (Including the sacraments and prayers of the people)

There is a sense to this order, so it is not limited to Sunday worship but is also a way in which we regularly relate to God.

I have used slightly different words to describe this flow in our Sunday bulletins:

- *We come to you, God.*
- *This is who we are.*
- *Speak to us.*
- *We commit ourselves to your mission.*

I have shifted the emphasis in a few areas, and I have moved a few things around, but basically I have kept the same format for twenty-five years.

Then came this year, and a request to preach about worship, and a series of sermons, and a focus on praise.

We have learned that we praise God not only for who we know God to be and for what the Bible tells us God has done. We also praise God for the many ways God has been at work in our lives. God is very much alive and is actively at work in us and around us. From the Scriptures and from practice we have learned that “It is pleasant and fitting to praise our God” for what God is doing here and now.

When we gather for worship it is the pastor's responsibility to bring a knowledge from the Bible of who God is and what God has done. But it is the people's responsibility to bring to worship a knowledge of what God has been doing in us and among us.

So worship becomes more of a conversation—between us and God as well as between pastor and people—than a lecture. When I see praise as a response to what God is doing, my long-held sense of flow becomes more of a circle than a straight line; it becomes a bit more difficult to manage and quite a bit more interesting.

God may even be at work here and now changing our order of worship. Praise the Lord!

Pastor Mark



Sunday, September 13 Worship at Mark and Nancy's

585 Laurel Ave., Gustine

We'll begin with worship in our back yard at the normal time, **10:30 AM**.

Then we'll have a barbecue — hamburgers and hotdogs and drinks will be provide; bring a side dish to share.

And if you would like, stay to watch the Festa parade from our front lawn.

September Birthdays

- 6 Blair Wallace
- 11 Kristen Durarte
- 13 Nancy Hollingsworth
- 18 Sarah Mendonca
- 19 Bill Hensley
- 22 Karen Azevedo
- 23 Fran Husman
- 28 Audry Axe

September Anniversary

- 12 Sharold and Betty Adams



Our thoughts and prayers are with the following members and their families as they grieve the loss of loved ones:

Shirley Broman, for her sister

Tracy Escatel, for her mother

Eva Goman, for her brother-in-law

Belinda Butke, for her husband

Kathy Mendonça, for her mother





“The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it; for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters. Who may ascend the hill of the Lord? (S)He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up her/his soul to an idol or swear by what is false.” Psalm 24:1-4

This Psalm reminds me of my fourth grade class in Wehnwood Elementary School, Altoona PA, and my teacher Faith McCartney. Prior to the Pledge of Allegiance, she began each morning by reading us a Psalm, and this was one of her favorites.

She was a very special lady. As she taught class, she bubbled over with joy, and we came to be amazed by her talents in music and art. Watching her play the piano was incredible, for you see, Miss McCartney had only one ‘normal’ hand. Her other hand was a tiny bump at her elbow with fingers and thumb about the size of a pencil eraser-the kind on the tip of a wooden pencil. That didn’t prevent her playing both treble and bass clefs on the piano, and one day she even played a student’s ukulele, using her stubby fingers to strum the chords.

The focus on hands introduces our topic for the month:

Hand washing is one of the best ways to prevent catching or spreading the flu. Since flu- like illnesses usually peak in between September and February, it is time to be reminded to consistently follow the rules for clean hands.

U.S. health officials say that the H1N1 (formerly called swine flu) could strike up to 40 percent of Americans over the next two years and

as many as several hundred thousand could die if a vaccine campaign and other measures aren't successful....

BUT-The number of deaths and illnesses would drop if the pandemic peters out or if **efforts to slow its spread are successful**, said Center for Disease Control spokesman Tom Skinner.".

**Yes there is a Simple Solution
to this Complex issue!**

**Working TOGETHER we CAN make
a DIFFERENCE!**

The 4 Principles of Hand Awareness

- 1. Wash your hands when they are dirty and before eating (Nail brushes are a necessity for every home)**
- 2. Do not cough into your hands**
- 3. Do not sneeze into your hands**
- 4. Do not put your fingers in your eyes, nose or mouth.**

Please seek and follow your doctor’s advice regarding flu shots, get enough rest and eat a balanced diet, and put into practice frequent hand washing.

Why not share the good news? When people come to your home ask them to wash their hands to prevent sharing germs!!

Praying for a healthy season and a rainy one,

Nancy

COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

399 Sixth Street
Gustine, CA 95322
Return Service Requested

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Gustine, CA 95322

Sunday School, 9:00 AM — Worship, 10:30 AM

Pastor — Mark Hollingsworth

Treasurer — Dorothy Gray; Choir Director — Jim Conrad

Secretary — Med Hoover; Parish Nurse — Nancy Hollingsworth

Office Hours — 9:00-Noon, Wednesday, Thursday and by appointment

Telephone: (209) 854-6772; email: pastormark@wefollowjesusingustine.org

Web Site: www.wefollowjesusingustine.org



Tuesday, September 8

4 to 7 pm

Take out — at the church

Half chicken, beans, salad, garlic
bread and dessert for just \$10