

PROCLAMATION/EPIPHANY SEASON

FIRST ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR A CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

(or Annual Meeting)

ORGAN PRELUDE "Now, Come, the World's Salvation" Bach

INTROIT "This is the Day the Lord Hath Made" Chopin

CALL TO WORSHIP

Lord, surround us with the Christian witness of Your people who have gone before us in this Church. As we meet to worship You in Spirit and in Truth, following their example, renew our Covenant with You, with them, and with each other.

CHORAL RESPONSE

"Come, Holy Ghost, Our Souls Inspire" (v. 1) Mechlin

GLORY BE TO THE FATHER

HYMN OF PRAISE "The Church's One Foundation" Wesley

ANTHEM OF PRAISE "God, My Shepherd Walks Beside Me" Bach

SCRIPTURE READING I Peter 2:1-10

LITANY OF COVENANT RE-AFFIRMATION (unison)

We joyously renew our Covenant with God and one another:
In the freedom of love and truth;
To unite in worship of the
God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ;
To advance in our personal Christian living;
To assist one another in Christian endeavor with love, and
to serve humanity in the Name and Spirit of our Lord.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Let us pray. O God, our Father, unto Whom Your people of old looked with trust and hope out of the midst of their danger and distress, we lift up our hearts out of our weakness and need. Watch and wait with us by day and be our defense and guardian by night, we pray.

In weakness give us strength;
In ignorance give us wisdom;
In pain give us patience;
In sorrow give us comfort;
In despair give us hope;
In trouble give us courage.
For everything we would be thankful;
For every need we would be trustful;
In every danger we would be brave;
In every word and thought and deed, we would follow the way of Jesus; for that way is Your will, and Your will is our confidence and peace.
Hear our prayer, we ask it, in His Name. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

CHORAL RESPONSE "Lead Me, Lord" Wesley

SERMON "The People of God" I Peter 2:10

ASCRPTION OF PRAISE

Dear God, grant that the words which have been spoken may bless and guide this people. Amen.

HYMN OF BLESSING "Savior, again Thy Dear Name We Raise"

BENEDICTION

Peace be to you all, with love, faith and godly purpose from the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

CHORAL RESPONSE "Sevenfold Amen" Stainer

ORGAN POSTLUDE "Grand Choer" Dubois

NOTE: Epiphany, January 6th, is observed on the nearest Sunday. For most Churches everywhere, January is Annual Meeting time. In many Churches, the Proclamation Season followed the Presentation Season. This period was used to reaffirm the Church Covenant in many New England Churches and is an annual custom often connected with Annual Meetings or Church Anniversaries. See Covenant Renewal in Celebrations of the Churches, Section Eight, pages 204-205.

PROCLAMATION SEASON

A LITANY OF RE-AFFIRMATION

Dearly Beloved:

God has called us to be His children, reconciling Himself unto us through the Son Whom He hath sent into the world; that we may be set free from sin, that we may accept and follow Jesus Christ as Lord; that we may serve even the least of men as His brethren; that we may grow in wisdom and winsomeness, in character and personality, in insight and in power to perform; that we may freely join with others in a glad fellowship which cherishes the liberty with which Christ has set us free.

We come at this time to renew our Covenant with Christ.

Minister: Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one cometh unto the Father but by me."

People: We acknowledge Jesus Christ as our only Lord, the sole head of this Church, by Whom we come to God, our Father.

Minister: By the Apostle Paul we are taught that the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

People: We acknowledge the Spirit of the Lord as our Guide and Stay, and we purpose to walk in the ways of the Lord. "By the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God" that the Son of God shall make and keep us free.

Minister: Jesus said, "If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

People: We acknowledge that all who believe in our Lord Jesus Christ are priests in their own right, having free and direct entrance to our Father's Presence, that they might find forgiveness.

Minister: Jesus said, "I am the vine, you are the branches. He Who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."

People: We acknowledge all Who abide in Christ as members with us of the Church Universal, and we reaffirm our spiritual oneness with all Who bear the fruit of the Spirit "which is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, self-control."

Minister: Jesus said as he prayed to God for His people, "Keep them in Thy Name which Thou hast given me, that they may be one, even as we are one."

People: We acknowledge our spiritual oneness with all who love Christ, and like the Apostle Paul we this day "bear witness to a new Covenant, not in a written code, but in the Spirit; for the written code kills, but the spirit gives life."

ALL: In the Presence of the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we now renew our Covenant with Christ.

We reaffirm our purpose to accept Him as our only Lord, giving our spiritual allegiance to no earthly states or organizations.

We reaffirm our purpose to work with all men for the triumph of righteousness, the reign of peace, and for the spiritual well-being of all God's children.

We reaffirm our purpose to bear witness to freedom under God in voluntary fellowship with others in the Church local and in the Church Universal.

We reaffirm our purpose to stand firm in our faith, seeking to do all that we do with courage born from conviction, and with love like that of our Master.

We rededicate ourselves to Christian discipleship, as followers of Jesus Christ, after the example of the apostles, martyrs, saints, and reformers Who thought it good to count all else but loss that they might proclaim the infinite riches of a free faith in a Father God Who loved us and gave Himself for us in Christ. Amen.

PROCLAMATION SEASON

SECOND ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR A CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

ORGAN PRELUDE "Chorale" Brahms

INTROIT "Happy Are They That Love the Lord" Croft

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us worship God Who has made us no more strangers
but fellow members of the household of God with Jesus
Christ Himself the chief cornerstone. Praise God for His
most precious gift.

HYMN OF ADORATION "O Light, From Age to Age the Same" Dundee

PRAYER OF ASPIRATION (in unison)

Let us pray. Hear our prayer for Your Presence. Give to
Your Church vision sufficient to our needs, wisdom and
understanding equal to all demands, unity of Spirit and
oneness of will; in Your service, through Jesus Christ.

ANTHEM OF ASPIRATION "Battle Hymn of the Republic" Ward

SCRIPTURE LESSON I Corinthians 12:4-31

PASTORAL PRAYER

O Lord, what a morning (evening)!
Clouds clearing, sunshine nearing (gleaming)
And Your downreach to us
Glows in the eastern (western) sky.

O Lord, what faithfulness!
The confidence of a few
That You had called them
To be a free Church in a free land.

O Lord, what stamina!
The grit to keep on trusting You
When keeping on was the
Hardest course to follow.

O Lord, what dowry of beauty!
The essence of true devotion
Distilled in a sanctuary
Instinct with eternity in time.

O Lord, what opportunity!
To enter the untrod future
Pioneering fresh ways for faith
To show God's holy love to all.

O Lord, what time for loyalty!
Unaided, we will always fail!
Come, Mighty Spirit, Lord of Love
Rededicate us to Your Way.

Hear our prayer and answer as You deem best for us.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CALL TO GIVING

All you who have material possessions in this world,
however great or small, do not set your hopes on the
uncertain currency of this world, but on God Who has made
us stewards of all we have received. Be rich in good and
kindly deeds done in His Name. Share with others that
which God has entrusted you, thus fulfilling God's Way of
love and service exemplified in Jesus Christ.

ANTHEM "Sing to the Lord a New Made Song" Billings

DOXOLOGY AND DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

SERMON

LITANY OF REAFFIRMATION (see pages 204-205)

HYMN OF PURPOSE "Forward Through the Ages" tune, St. Gertrude

BENEDICTION

Now unto Him Who is able to keep us from falling be
glory, honor, power and love, world without end. Amen.

ORGAN POSTLUDE "Fugue" Guimant