
“Question and Answer



Holy Redeemer MCC

July 25, 2010

Welcome Home!



Holy Redeemer MCC

JULY 25, 2010, 11 A.M.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Lector for Today

TBA

ONE: This is the day that the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it! I was glad when they said unto me, “Let us go into the house of the Lord!”

MANY: Today we gather in this sacred sanctuary, assembled in one accord to remember and celebrate Your steadfast loving kindness and tender mercy. Thank You, O God, for Your Grace and Love!

***GATHERING SONG** “ALL HAIL THE POWER OF JESUS NAME”

INSERT (VS

1-4)

COMMUNITY PRAYER

ONE: For all the joys and blessings of our lives, we give you thanks and praise; help us remember Your greatness and Your goodness. In Your mercy

MANY: **Lord hear our prayer.**

ONE: For God’s people throughout the world; help us remember Your Church. In Your mercy

MANY: **Lord hear our prayer.**

ONE: For the poor, the hungry, the homeless, the oppressed, and those in prison; help us reach out to those

in any need or trouble. In Your mercy

MANY: Lord hear our prayer.

ONE: For those suffering from pain, mental or physical disease, and the bereaved; guide us that we may be a source of comfort. In Your mercy

MANY: Lord hear our prayer.

ONE: For the children, the elderly, and all who are helpless; help us demonstrate compassion and empathy. In Your mercy

MANY: Lord hear our prayer.

ONE: For all those persons and circumstances weighing heavy in our hearts; we pray that you grant healing, deliverance, and resolution. In Your mercy

MANY: Lord hear our prayer.

ONE: Oh Lord, You lift up our hearts. We lift up to You our prayers and our praise!

RESPONSIVE KYRIE

ONE: LORD, HAVE MERCY

MANY: LORD, HAVE MERCY

ONE: CHRIST, HAVE MERCY

MANY: CHRIST, HAVE MERCY

ONE: LORD, HAVE MERCY

MANY: LORD, HAVE MERCY

PRAYER HYMN "DEAR WEAVER OF OUR LIVE'S DESIGN"

#623 (vs 1, 2)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

PSALM 85

LUKE 11: 1-13

***SONG OF PREPARATION**

"REVIVE US AGAIN"

INSERT (vs 1-4)

SERMON "QUESTION AND ANSWER"

REV. DAVID K. NORTH

***SONG OF INVITATION**

"HOW GREAT THOU ART"

#238 (vs 1, 3, 4)

OFFERTORY

*Please stand, as you are able.

NOTE: Checks may be made payable to “Holy Redeemer MCC” or “HRMCC”

***SONG OF THANKSGIVING (Public Domain)**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below,

A word about communion. We serve an open communion here at HRMCC. That is, you need not be a member of this church or of our denomination to participate. We follow the practice of our denomination in offering a brief prayer of thanksgiving and blessing with you as you are served. We serve unfermented grape juice to honor any who might be in recovery. If you are unable to come to the table, please let an usher know and we will bring communion to you at your seat. Please use the time while others are served as a time of prayer and reflection.

Praise God above, you heavenly hosts,
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER:

TBA

CONFESSION

INVITATION

ONE: JESUS, OUR SAVIOR HAS DECLARED THAT WHOSEVER WILL, LET THEM COME. WHATEVER YOUR FAITH TRADITION MAY BE, PLEASE KNOW THAT HERE, YOU ARE WELCOME TO RECEIVE CHRIST COMPLETELY IN THIS CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION.

BEFORE WE SHARE IN THIS FEAST AND FELLOWSHIP, IT IS RIGHT THAT WE MAKE PEACE WITH ONE ANOTHER., AND MAKE OUR CONFESSION TO GOD.

MANY: Most merciful God, You know the se-

crets of my heart. I confess that I have sinned against you. There are many things I have done, and many things I have left undone. I have not loved You with my whole heart, and I have not loved my neighbor as myself. I am truly sorry and I humbly repent. I acknowledge Your abundant grace and unconditional love for me. Have mercy on me and forgive me; as I strive to live in Your will and abide in Your ways, to the glory of Your name. Amen.

ONE: Almighty God grants us mercy, forgives us of all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthens us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keeps us in eternal life.

MANY: Through Christ we are renewed. Through Christ we are reconciled. Through Christ we are redeemed!

THE PEACE

ONE: THE PEACE OF THE LORD BE ALWAYS WITH YOU.

MANY: AND ALSO WITH YOU.

**(The Ministers and People may share the Peace of the Lord with one another.)*

HOLY COMMUNION

ONE: GOD BE WITH YOU!

MANY: AND ALSO WITH YOU!

ONE: LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS!

MANY: WE LIFT THEM UP TO THE LORD!

ONE: LET US GIVE GOD THANKS AND PRAISE

***Please stand, as you are able.**

ONE: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. . .

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

MANY: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!

ONE: Long ago, on the night Jesus gathered with his friends . . . * * *

(Words of Remembrance)

Let us pray. Pour out your Spirit upon these simple gifts of bread and cup. As we receive them, fill us, transform us, and be in us that we may be like you, a living sacrifice. Make us to be for the world the very body of Christ. By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to the world! Amen.

Let us declare the mystery of our faith!

MANY: Christ has died.

Christ is risen!

Christ will come again!

ONE: The Gifts of God for the people of God!

(PLEASE FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS
OF THE USHER)

Communion Hymns

- “Be Not Afraid” Insert
- “The Lord Is My Shepherd” #747
- “Spirit of the Living God” #376
- “In the Lord I’ll Be Ever Thankful” Insert
- *Lord’s Prayer** #960

***Closing Hymn** “LIFT HIGH THE CROSS”
#151 (vs 1, 2 4,
5)

Benediction

Postlude



*Please join us in the Community Room
 adjacent to the sanctuary for
 refreshments and good conversation
 following the service.*

*Please stand, as you are able.



How are we doing?

Attendance last Sunday	16
Average attendance for the year 2010	20
Weekly Budget (General Fund)	\$1,000.00
Offering last week (General Fund)	\$600.00
Over (under) budgeted income for the year(2010)	TBA
Building Fund	\$0.00
Total in Building Fund	\$67,702.00

***NOTE:** The Building Fund offering is normally taken only on the last Sunday of each month.

Other News

- † **Sunday Weekly Fellowship Brunch**—Each Sunday, after church and fellowship time, we share an opportunity for extended fellowship by going to a nearby restaurant for brunch. It's a great way to get to know each other better. Please feel free to join us. **Next Sunday, let's go to**
- † **HRMCC Ensemble**—If you'd like to participate, please contact Janina Sajka or Rev. North for more information.
- † **Second Sunday Seminar**—You are invited to share in a discussion session each second Sunday, after worship. This will be an event in which we can share understandings and learn from one another about a variety of relevant topics; i.e., how the day's lectionary readings and sermon impact and apply to our lives, current community and/or national issues and our faith response, etc. Save the date!

Vestments FYI—You may notice that the Minister and Deacon are not wearing vestments. It is our custom here at HRMCC, between Memorial Day and Labor Day (the summer months) that the vestments take a brief respite.

HRMCC Congregation Meeting—Please save the date, Sunday, August 8, 2010, after worship. Important topics for discussion: mid-year budget review, visioning of ministry and mission. [Potluck supper]

HRMCC Board of Directors Meeting—Sunday, July 25th 9:15 a.m.



PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONE OR PAGER DURING THE SERVICE! All cell phones and pagers should be turned off when the service begins. The only exceptions are those who are anticipating a possible emergency call (for example, a family member is near death) or those who must be “on call” because of their work. Even in those situations, we ask that if at all possible you use a vibrating signal rather than an audible signal.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

REV. DAVID NORTH-JULY 4 ARNOLD LOGAN-JULY 5

CHANTAY MAHOGANY-JULY 5 JEANETTE SANTANO-JULY 11

ROBIN THOMAS-JULY 20 KATHY BURNS-JULY 22

Don't see your birthday? Be sure to let us know when it is by filling in the information on the roster on the table in our Community Room where you picked up your bulletin. We'd like to celebrate you too!



Scripture Readings for Today's Sermon

www.weeklysermon.net

Psalm 85

Lord, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob. You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin. You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger. Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us. Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations? Will you not revive us again, so that your people may rejoice in you? Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation. Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts. Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky. The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.

Luke 11: 1-13

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." He said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial." And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs. "So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Question and Answer

It's a wonderful thing to know that we can have such an open, familiar relationship with God our Creator. Our Maker is certainly aware of, and takes into consideration, our faults, foibles, short-comings, and insecurities. Given that understanding and latitude, we can claim every opportunity to share with our Creator, our concerns and cares; we can vent our anger and frustrations freely, and ask any question, no matter how trite or trivial. Our belief and our assurance is that God is love, and God's love allows us the confidence to ask, and confidently expect and answer in return.

Dialogue with God is richest and deepest when done regularly, such that the mutual relationship can develop and be nurtured. This dialogue is often referred to as "prayer." Prayer should always be dialogue, not monologue. Often, in times of distress, we may be tempted to think that God isn't listening, or even, that God is angry. But experience teaches us that God is perpetually speaking to us and answering us; we're usually just not listening on the right wavelength. Or we're so busy fussing, venting, and complaining, that God can't get a word in edgewise.

It is critically important that each of us have conversations with God. The best conversations are honest, frank, soul-searching, and paradigm-shifting. I'm especially grateful that as these dialogues occur, God encourages us to access and employ our knowledge, intellect, and experience, thus informing our faith as it evolves and gets molded in the discussions with God. Our brains don't need to be in park at all. Go ahead. Give God the most provocative inquiry you can muster. One of the many lessons provided to us on prayer in the "Lord's Prayer" is the challenge of articulation of needs. One must perform the difficult and perilous task of self-exploration to discover, and then willingly express one's deepest and fundamental needs.

In the course of the dialogue, God asks us, "What do you need?" To answer, we must muster, our intellect, our experience, as well as our faith, so that the answer we give is true and thorough. We often are guilty of only presenting God with our wants. Our petitions are circumstantial, shallow, and reactive. Unfortunately, we then have short-changed ourselves, and underestimated God. Fortunately, when God answers our petitions, we can expect that our deepest needs will be addressed, not just the superficial and superfluous.

Our God loves us so much, and has repeatedly expressed a desire for deeper, richer relationships with us. Question and answer time with God; what better way to the two of us to get to know each other better.

Papa David

About our Church

WHO ARE WE? Holy Redeemer M.C.C. is a Christian church with a welcoming ministry to all individuals regardless of race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, creed, or ethnic heritage. We celebrate our God-given diversity, and gather to worship God and serve our community. Our vision is “striving to meet human need in the name of Jesus Christ.”

As a member congregation of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (www.mcccchurch.org), we proclaim God's love for all persons, participate in a ministry of social justice, and advocate the human rights of all persons.

If you have been seeking an inclusive church home, we would love to have you join us regularly for worship and service to the community.

NEED AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE PASTOR? Appointments with the pastor are available by appointment. If you would like an appointment, please let the Pastor know and he will schedule one for you.

MINISTRY TEAM

PASTOR: Rev. David K. North

DEACON: Jim Raber

MUSIC COORDINATOR: Janina Sajka

WORSHIP TEAM COORDINATOR: Autumn Snell

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Rev. David K. North, Moderator, Sue McLean, Autumn Snell, Fred Simms

HOSPITALITY COORDINATION: Eric Simpson

LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTRY TEAM: Dayne Heyler, Roy Link, Esther Smith, Jim Raber, Rev. Patrick Maye

LECTORS: Dayne Heyler, Roy Link, Eric Simpson, Fred Simms, Chris Stewart, Dave Stewart, Ken Williams, Gerry Wright

USHER-HOSTS: Eric Simpson, David York, Phyllis Thomas

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