



First Presbyterian Church of Flint

Engaged by Christ's love to invite, worship, nurture and serve.

Sunday, October 25, 2009 John Calvin Worship Service Reformation Sunday

*all forgiven, full of grace;
flesh and blood will live again;
life in Christ will never end.
Holy Spirit, Son, and Father;
I will praise your name forever.*

Prayer for God to impart to us nourishment and the Lord's Prayer

Scripture Reading 1 Corinthians 11:23-39

Call to examine hearts welcomed, not the perfect, but those who recognize their need and trust only in God.

Invitation to the Table

Psalm 138 DARWALL'S 148TH
(The tune is Hymn #155 in your Hymnal)

*O Lord, my heart will sing,
I give Thee thanks and praise,
and in Thy holy temple bow
throughout my days.
Thy steadfast love in faithfulness,
O God, let shower from above.*

*God answered when I called,
responding to my need;
the rulers of the earth shall name
the Lord indeed!
The proud will fall, their boasts are vain,
the meek of earth shall o'er them reign.*

*Though dangers gather round,
O Lord, preserve my life;
and by Thy strong, forceful arm
I conquer strife.
God will give heed, my hopes fulfill,
and keep the vow to love me still.*

Psalm 146 OLD 113TH
I'll Praise My Maker
(Hymn # 253 in your Hymnal)

Psalm 47 GENEVAN 47
Peoples, Clap Your Hands!
(Hymnal # 194 in your Hymnal)

Thanksgiving after the Supper

*Singing of the Canticle of Simeon NUNC DIMITTIS
(Hymnal # 605 in your Hymnal)

*Benediction

The Lord blesses you and keep you. The Lord makes his face to shine upon you and be merciful unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and keep you in virtuous prosperity. Amen.

After the **Invitation** Calvin would serve himself then the Elders and people would come forward to share the bread and the common cup. Calvin would want us to sing energetically and enthusiastically, so sing to the glory of God.

The service ended with the singing of Luke 2:29-32, the **Song of Simeon**. This setting was composed by Louis Bourgeois for Jean Crespin's 1551 edition of the Genevan Psalter.

As people came forward for communion, they would sing Psalms. The first Psalm was always **Psalm 138** beginning with the phrase: Praise and Thanks. **Psalm 146** uses the tune Old 113th. It is a shorter version of the Genevan 36. The composer was Mattheus Greiter whom Calvin knew at Strasburg. **Psalm 47** is directly out of the Genevan Psalter. Peoples, Clap Your Hands! was composed by Louis Bourgeois and reminds us that Calvin wanted the singing to be energetic and enthusiastic.

For Calvin, worship was not just on Sunday morning. Services were held also on Sunday evening and on most days of the week. More important, everyone was encouraged to worship daily at home through prayers, psalms, and scripture reading. Theologically, our whole lives and actions were to become acts of worship. **Everything we do, we do for the glory of God.**

Commentary

The **Opening** text is Psalm 124:8. This was used to start almost all of Calvin's services. The minister starts at the table for the opening and the confession.

Calvin begins worship with the recognition of the sinfulness because humans can only approach God rightly if they acknowledge what they are: sinners in need of God's grace in Christ. The reformed **confession** is corporate in worship instead of private before a priest. The absolution is based on scripture not the priest's decision or penitence. The people kneel for the confession.

After the confession, the **Ten Commandments** are sung. Calvin's "third use of the Law" is to show the forgiven sinner what a regenerate life looks like. The first table shows how to worship and love God; the second concerns love of neighbor. They are added after the forgiveness of sinners so that as the forgiven we can now live rightly.

Announcements

Minute for Stewardship Mary Doran

OPENING

**Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth. Amen.**

CONFESSION

My brethren, let each of you present himself before the face of the Lord, and confess his faults and sins, following my words in his heart. O Lord God...

Let each of you truly acknowledge that he is a sinner, humbling himself before God, and believe that the heavenly Father wills to be gracious unto him in Jesus Christ. (Silence)

Acts 10:43

To all those that repent in this wise, and look to Jesus Christ for their salvation, I declare that the absolution of sins is effected, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The First Table of the Ten Commandments LES COMMANDMENTS
DE DIEU



*You are the Lord, our God and Savior:
We praise and worship you alone.
All other gods are merely idols
as lifeless and as cold as stone.*

*You are the Lord, our God and Savior:
Forever may your name be blest.
You gave to us the gift of sabbath,
a day to worship you and rest.*

Prayer of thanksgiving for God inscribing on our hearts with God's will.

Commentary

John Calvin was deeply concerned about worship. Calvin devoted an immense amount of time, thought, and care both to the theology of worship and the practice of worship. Indeed, the primary purpose of much reform was to bring the church back to the right worship of God. Calvin was responding to Medieval Worship that emphasized the control of the Church over an uneducated populace. The Medieval congregation just observed a ceremony filled with gestures and language they did not understand, but were told that it controlled their salvation. Only the priests sung in the chancel and received the sacrament.

Calvin's liturgy returned the singing, the sacrament, and the language to the congregation. God is sovereign. God has already saved us. Worship is God nurturing us through scripture and sacrament rightly administered.

The Second Table of the Ten Commandments

LES COMMANDMENTS

*We are your people, keep us faithful:
respecting those who are mature.
Fill us with peace and make us gentle,
in thought and action, chaste and pure.*

DE DIEU

*We are your people, keep us faithful:
Grant that we never steal or lie
or look with envy on our neighbors.
You are the Lord, our God Most High.*

PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE

Prayer for Illumination and the Lord's Prayer

Scripture Readings

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Romans 3:19-28
John 8:31-36

Sermon Reformed Always Reformable John L. Musgrave

Intercessory Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

*Passing of the Peace

*GIVING OF ALMS

*Offertory Sentence

*Psalm 100

OLD HUNDRETH

*Let ev'ry voice on earth resound,
and joyful hearts hold God adored;
in gladness may God's courts abound
with songs of praise unto the Lord.*

*Thou art the Lord, by thy design
all we in nature claim our place;
Thy flock, we bind our lives to Thine,
and rest secure beneath Thy grace.*

*Before the Lord bring thanks and praise,
unfathomed mercies wait in store;
God's goodness blesses all our days,
God's truth endures for evermore!*

*Offertory Prayer

Hymn Great God of Every Blessing (Tune is Hymn #442 in your Hymnal) AURELIA

*Great God of every blessing,
of faithful, loving care,
you are the fount of goodness,
the daily bread we share.
How can we hope to thank you?
Our praise is but a start-
sincerely and completely
I offer you my heart.*

Scripture is the foundation of all Calvin's theology and practice. First there was a collection offered for God to speak to the congregation through scripture read and proclaimed. The prayer ended with the first of three times the Lord's Prayer is offered in the service. The scripture passage was usually picked up from where the reading ended at the last service reading through a book. On Sunday mornings, it was Gospel. Sunday evening an Epistle. During the week an Old Testament book. The length of passage would be what the Pastor thought he would cover in the next hour. Today's readings represent some of the main themes of the Reformation.

The settings for **Psalm 100** and **The Ten Commandments** were composed by Louis Bourgeois, a French composer and theorist who was a follower of John Calvin. By 1545 he was paid to compose, teach, and lead the Psalms in Geneva. His textbook on singing was the first manual on singing and sight reading in French. Calvin wanted everyone to sing often and energetically in worship. Music was a funnel to the heart so should be used correctly. Only scripture or confessions should be sung. Instrumentals should not be used because they were not being shaped by scripture and could be manipulative.

Calvin liked to refer to communion as the **Sacred Supper**. This sacrament is the sign and seal of God's word. Scripture must be read and proclaimed before it is celebrated. The Roman Catholic Mass proclaimed that Christ was being sacrificed again and the substance of the bread and wine changed into the body and blood of Christ bestowing salvation on the supplicant. Calvin followed the biblical texts about the supper and declared that Christ is at the right hand of God and is not sacrificed at each service. We come to the table already saved by God. The purpose of the table is to be nurtured by lifting up our hearts to God. We experience a union with God that is God's doing. How this union happens is a mystery of which we stand in awe. Following the Corinthians passage, Calvin would exhort people to examine their hearts. If because of bad behavior or ignorance, one should be excluded from the supper because the meal nurtures what already is present.

*Your Word is our salvation,
the source of endless grace,
in death and life extending
your covenant embrace.
In Christ we are one body;
each member has a part-
sincerely and completely
I offer you my heart.*

*Your Spirit is our teacher,
the light that guides our search,
transforming broken people
into the holy church.
For feeding us with mercy,
for wisdom you impart-
sincerely and completely
I offer you my heart.*

CELEBRATING THE SACRED SUPPER

*The Apostles' Creed

GENEVAN PSALTER



*I believe in God the Father,
merciful and mighty Lord,
maker of the earth and heavens,
whom we worship and adore;
and in Jesus Christ the Son,
only Savior, Sovereign one,
by the Holy Spirit given,
born of Mary, blessed virgin.*

*Jesus suffered under Pilate,
faithful to his final breath.
He was crucified and buried,
and descended into death.
Three days dead he did arise,
and ascended through the skies;
now enthroned with God in heaven,
he will judge the dead and living.*

*I believe in God the Spirit,
and the church in every place;
saints in glorious communion,*

Hymn, **Great God of Every Blessing**, seeks to sum up Calvin's liturgical theology. God is the source of every blessing. The Word (Scripture and Christ) brings and explains the endless grace of God. The Holy Spirit continues to teach and guide us through scripture and sacrament. The ending of each stanza is Calvin's well-known motto: sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.

The tune for **The Apostles' Creed** is taken from the Genevan Psalter, 1551. It was first used for Psalm 42. The Apostles' Creed was sung as an Affirmation of Faith in response to the sermon and as a Confession of Faith as preparation for the Sacred Supper. The Apostles' Creed was used because the Nicene Creed was used at the Roman Mass.

* Indicates where those who are able may stand.

Child care for infants through preschool is available on the second floor.

Hearing aids are available, please, see an usher.

Calvin's **sermon** lasted an hour. The sermons were exposition and application taking the passage verse by verse educating the congregation. One of the marked characteristics of the sermons was the exhortation for each person to apply to herself or himself what the Bible teaches. The sermon would end with an intercessory prayer and the Lord's Prayer.

Calvin understood that one of the biblical elements of worship was fellowship or koinonia. This was acted out by the collecting of **Alms** and the **Passing of the Peace**. The Passing of the Peace was with a kiss to express communal love and fellowship.