

Zion's Newsletter



March 2011

Volume 14, Issue III

REFORMED WORSHIP: WHAT SHOULD OUR SERVICE LOOK LIKE?

By Pastor Kevin Efflandt

Last month, we looked at five principles of Reformed worship: (1) Centrality of God's Word; (2) Theocentric (God-centered); (3) Conversational; (4) Simplicity; (5) Reverence. But what elements should go into our worship? In other words, these five principles are important, but what should our service look like? This month, I'd like to begin looking at this very question.

When we look at our typical Sunday morning liturgy (or order of worship), what we notice is that it follows the "conversational" pattern that I spoke of in last month's newsletter. God speaks...we respond. God speaks...we respond. But why do we have these particular elements in our service? We'll look at the first half of the service

this month and next month, we'll cover the second half.

Call to Worship

Our worship service begins by hearing God speak from His Word, as He calls His covenant people to worship Him. This is a great reminder that we are gathered at His call, not because of our own initiative. Typically, the call to worship will be something like Psalm 96:6-7, "Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand."

Votum

Following the call to worship, we respond with the "votum,"

which simply means "vow." We are making a vow or a confession that "Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth" (Psalm 124:8). This helps to keep us grounded in the truth that we are unable to worship or do anything at all apart from the gracious help of our God. As Jesus Himself said in John 15: "Without Me, you can do nothing."

Greeting

Continuing on in the back and forth between God and His people, we then hear God's greeting. As God's ambassador, the minister raises his hands and blesses the people with God's promised rescue. It's important to understand that the minister is not dispensing God's blessing in his person, as if

(continued)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Schedules.....	3
Outreach	4
Crossword.....	5
Calendar	6

Tune in to our radio ministry!

99.9 FM



White Horse
Inn

Sundays
8:30am

Zion United Reformed Church

1220 Canal Blvd.
Ripon, CA 95366
(209) 599-9399

www.zionurc.org

Sunday Services:
9:30am & 6:00pm

They will enter Zion with singing... Isaiah 51:11b

he somehow had magical powers, but he is doing this in his office. He is doing nothing more than acting as a divinely appointed emissary to speak for God where God has clearly spoken. The typical greeting is rooted in Scripture, particularly the greeting that Paul gives to many of the churches who which he writes: "Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ" (Galatians 1:3). This is the declaration of God's goodwill toward the assembly.

Song of Praise

Following God's greeting, we respond in song. Once again, we have to keep in mind that the songs we sing are to be faithful to the five principles that we looked at last month: They must be faithful to the Word of God, centered upon God Himself, understandable, and reverent. This, of course, doesn't mean that simply because a hymn is new that it is automatically bad. Nor does it mean that because a hymn is old that it is automatically good. We must use discernment in our selection of worship songs.

The Reading of God's Law

This reading of the law can be in the form of the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20; Deuteronomy 5), or in the form of Jesus' summary of the law in Matthew 22. While the majority of this reading comes from the Ten Commandments, we have to remember that neither Scripture, our confessions, or our church order mandate that the Ten Commandments be read

every Sunday. In fact, the reading of other "law" passages (Matthew 5, Ephesians 5, Colossians 3, etc.) may provide just enough variety to bring the law home in fresh ways each week. Doing so also teaches us to find the law throughout Scripture and not simply in the Decalogue.

What is the purpose of this part of our worship service? It's really two-fold: First, reading a portion of God's law reminds us that we have not kept the law of God perfectly. Instead, we are sinners who need a Savior. Dr. Michael Horton says, "Before we heard the reading of the law, we thought we were good people who could be better, but after hearing God speak, we are like the children of Israel hearing God deliver the commands: 'You speak with us, and we will hear,' they told Moses, 'but let not God speak with us, lest we die'" (Exodus 20:19). In addition, the law of God shows us how we, as redeemed Christians, are to live our lives. The law is a "rule of gratitude" showing the path in which we are called to walk.

Confession of Sin

Following the reading of the law, we confess our sin to God, either through song or through a printed corporate confession of sin. This, too, is a biblical practice. In Psalm 51, we read David's great confession of sin: "Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from


my iniquity, and cleanse me from my guilt" (Psalm 51:1-2).

Assurance of Pardon

After confessing our sin, we hear God speak to us from His Word in the assurance of pardon. This is a public declaration that God has forgiven the sins of all who turn to Him through faith in Jesus Christ. An example of this is found in 1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." This really serves as somewhat of a transitional point in our worship service...a transition from judgment to grace. What a blessing to be reminded every Sunday that "there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1).

Next month, we'll look at the second half of our worship service (the offering, the congregational prayer, the sermon, and the benediction).

PRAYER CHAIN



Are you familiar with the prayer chain? We have people who get the prayer requests by e-mail, and others who prefer to be phone prayer partners. It is your choice.

If you wish to know more about it, or would like to be added to our prayer chain, please call Nettie (599-7404) or Adri (599-6639).

NURSERY DUTY

March 6 *Morning*

Infants *Toddlers*
Jennifer W Melinda S
Emma C Tim H
Extra: Ruth S

Evening

Infants & Toddlers
Corrine K, Kayla VH, Faith E

March 13 *Morning*

Infants *Toddlers*
Char VV Melissa B
Sarah N Jonathan W
Extra: Cindy H

Evening

Infants & Toddlers
Ada B, Faith E, Jessica VV

March 20 *Morning*

Infants *Toddlers*
Jan W Melinda Segaar
Emily H Vanessa VH
Extra: Judy S

Evening

Infants & Toddlers
Rachel M, Jeremy S, Mackenzie W

March 27 *Morning*

Infants *Toddlers*
Kristina F Jennifer W
Kayla S Molly H
Extra: Letha E

Evening

Infants & Toddlers
Lisa S, Derek H, Kassie VH

If you are scheduled for nursery duty, please plan to be there at least 15 minutes before the service starts.

OFFERING SCHEDULE

March 6

AM - General Fund
PM - MERF

March 13

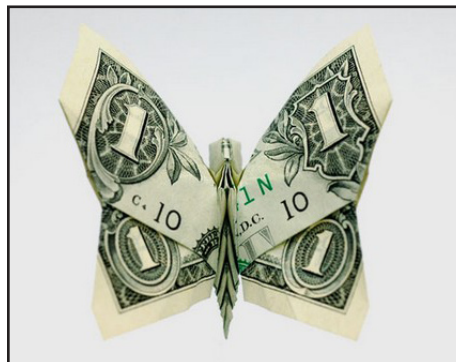
AM - Deacon Fund
PM - MARS

March 20

AM - General Fund
PM - Providence

March 27

AM - RC Tuition Relief
PM - Covenant URC



GREETERS' SCHEDULE

March 6 & 13

Jim & Mary Brower
Peter & Kelli Sikma

March 20 & 27

Paul & Alicia Vander Wal
Steve & Teresa Andriese

If you are unable to greet as scheduled, please exchange with someone on the schedule.

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

Here is the Bible reading schedule for March.

- 1 - II Kings 15-17
- 2 - Hosea 1-4
- 3 - Hosea 5-7
- 4 - Hosea 8-10
- 5 - Hosea 10-14
- 6 - 2 Kings 18,19
- 7 - Isaiah 1-3
- 8 - Isaiah 4-6
- 9 - Isaiah 7-9
- 10 - Isaiah 10-12
- 11 - Isaiah 13-15
- 12 - Isaiah 16-18
- 13 - Isaiah 19-21
- 14 - Isaiah 22-24
- 15 - Isaiah 25-27
- 16 - Isaiah 28-30
- 17 - Isaiah 31-33
- 18 - Isaiah 34-36
- 19 - Isaiah 37-39
- 20 - Isaiah 40-42
- 21 - Isaiah 43-45
- 22 - Isaiah 46-48
- 23 - Isaiah 49-51
- 24 - Isaiah 52-54
- 25 - Isaiah 55-57
- 26 - Isaiah 58-60
- 27 - Isaiah 61-63
- 28 - Isaiah 64-66
- 29 - Micah 1-4
- 30 - Micah 5-7
- 31 - Nahum 1-3

VARIETY HOUR DATE CHANGE

The date of the Variety Hour and Dinner has been changed to Saturday, April 9. (It was April 2.) Please mark it on your calendar!

NOTE FROM THE KONOPS



Nebobongo Mission Station, where Chris flew in a doctor, a patient, and 300 pounds of medical supplies.

Dear Friends at Zion URC,

Thank you for your continued support of our ministry with MAF!

When we aren't battling rats and electricity issues, Chris loves flying in and around Congo!

Joy has begun volunteering at a local maternity clinic one day a week.

Kaitlyn loves playing outside with the "doggie" and you will often find her twirling to "Ring Around the Rosie."

Please pray for our health and safety, that we would figure out our electricity problems very soon, and for perseverance as each day has many challenges.

Blessings,

Chris, Joy and Kaitlyn Konop

MAF

D.R. Congo

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE NEWS

The evangelism committee would like to update you with some of the things that we have been working on.

Radio Ministry

Our new time on the radio is Sunday mornings at 8:30 am on 99.9 FM. During this time, we are broadcasting the White Horse Inn, a round-table discussion featuring URC ministers Michael Horton and Kim Riddlebarger. Currently, they are discussing the topic of "The Great Commission." This is an excellent program to help us to know what we believe and why we believe it. At the same time, it's a great way to introduce others to the teachings of Reformed theology.

Floater

In October of last year, we instituted a floater ministry, with various members taking turns each Sunday passing out brochures about our church to those who are visiting. This has been very effective in welcoming visitors with a personal touch, as well as in getting pertinent information from them (email address, phone number, etc.) for follow-up.

Vacation Bible School

We will be hosting VBS here at Zion on June 20 to 24 this summer. The evangelism committee will be working with the VBS coordinators to help in any way that we can to get information into our community.

Missions Emphasis Weekend

We will have a missions emphasis weekend on July 2 and 3. Pastor Fikret Bocek, church planter in Turkey, will be here to talk about his work there.

Reformation Conference

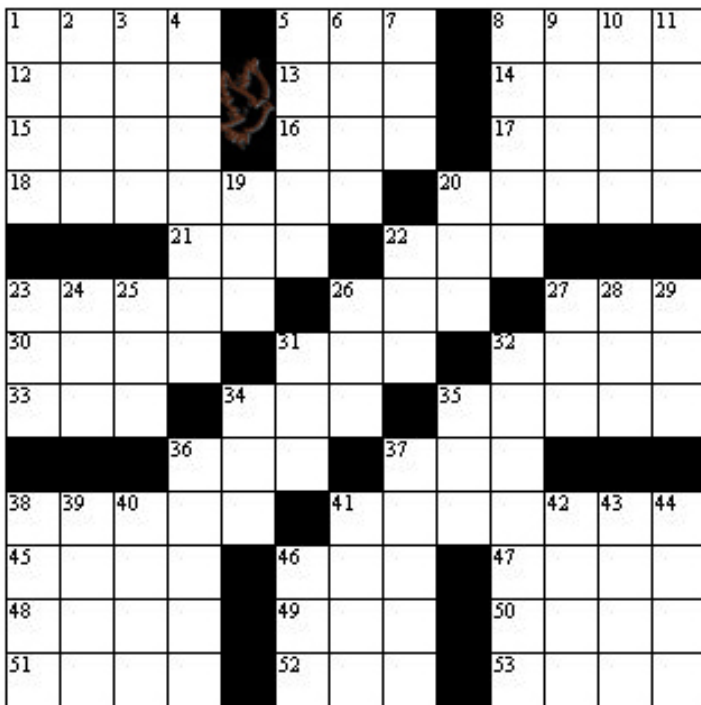
Our first annual Reformation Conference is scheduled for November 4 and 5, 2011. Our featured speakers will be Dr. W. Robert Godfrey, President of Westminster Seminary California, and Dr. R. Scott Clark, Professor of Church History and Historical Theology at Westminster Seminary California. Mark these dates on your calendar! More details will be coming in the future.

Most importantly, let us remember the task that all of us have to "be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect" (1 Peter 3:15). May the riches of the gospel so move us that it will be the natural outflow to speak to others of the gospel of Jesus Christ! In that connection, we encourage you to pick up some of the informational brochures about our church that are on the book table. Pass these out to those you know who may be looking for a church home and to those who may be wondering what Zion URC is all about.

FEB. CROSSWORD SOLUTION

J	A	M	E	S	T	U	S	U	R	Y
O	N	E	O	T	H	E	R	E	Y	E
N	E	E	D	H	E	W	P	L	E	A
A	K	F	A	C	E	S	S	R		
H	E	A	L	O	I	S	A	N		
B	A	B	E	L	O	T	A	D		
M	O	T	H	E	R	O	F	J	E	S
N	A	O	U	S	E	V	I	L		
B	Y	R	A	S	S	E	T	I		
A	D	S	A	I	N	T	T	M		
B	E	U	L	B	A	A	M	A	R	A
E	L	M	H	U	N	T	S	R	U	G
L	I	B	Y	A	S	A	T	O	N	E

BIBLE CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 For the commandment is a ____; and the law is light (Prov 6:23)
- 5 the priest shall value it, whether it be good or ____ (Lev 27:12)
- 8 to offer a great sacrifice unto ____n their god (partial word) (Judg 16:23)
- 12 Eliphaz the son of ____ the wife of Esau (Gen 36:10)
- 13 trodden down as the m____ of the streets.(partial word) (Micah 7:10)
- 14 ____ for the day! for the day of the LORD is at hand (Joel 1:15)
- 15 records, information, statistics
- 16 by violating the ____ on taking devoted things. (1 Chr 2:7)(NIV)
- 17 Who shall change our ____ body, that it may be fashioned (Phil 3:21)
- 18 the second row, an ____, a sapphire, and a diamond. (Exod 39:11)
- 20 Consider the lilies of the ____, how they grow; they toil not (Matt 6:28)
- 21 the inhabitants of the world stand in ____ of him. (Ps 33:8)

- 22 Dan, Joseph, and Benjamin, Naphtali, ____, and Asher. (1 Chr 2:2)
- 23 Heman, and Chalcol, and Darda, the sons of ____ (IKing 4:31)
- 26 they shall ____ thee with the dew of heaven (Dan 4:25)
- 27 the mountains shall ____p down new wine (partial word) (Joel 3:18)
- 30 where are the gods of Sepharvaim, Hena, and ____? (II Ki 18:34)
- 31 Shem, and ____, and Japheth, the sons of Noah (Gen 7:13)
- 32 Though ye have ____ among the pots, yet shall ye (Ps 68:13)
- 33 nickname for Edmond
- 34 unto you is born this ____ in the city of David a Saviour (Luke 2:11)
- 35 hundred shekels of silver, and a ____ of gold (Josh 7:21)
- 36 Saul the son of ____, a man of the tribe (Acts 13:21)
- 37 Jesus, walking by the ____ of Galilee, saw two brethren (Matt 4:18)
- 38 Now therefore, what have ____ ____, saith the LORD (two words) (Isa 52:5)

- 41 Thus saith the LORD God of the ____, Let my people go (Exod 9:1)
- 45 there is ____ that doeth good, no, not one (Rom 3:12)
- 46 all Israel from ____ even to Beersheba knew that Samuel (1 Sam 3:20)
- 47 Heber's wife took a ____ of the tent, and took an hammer (Judg 4:21)
- 48 top of a hill, summit
- 49 gain the whole wo____, and lose his own soul? (partial word) (Matt 16:26)
- 50 therefore, hence (latin)
- 51 Joshua ____ messengers, and they ran unto the tent (Josh 7:22)
- 52 she answered and said unto him, ____, Lord (Mark 7:28)
- 53 thou mayest give him ____ from the days of adversity (Ps 94:13)

DOWN

- 1 ye ____ men with burdens grievous to be borne (Luke 11:46)
- 2 ____ said, This is now bone of my bones (Gen 2:23)
- 3 no one of these shall fail, none shall want her ____ (Isa 34:16)
- 4 speak thou unto ____ king of Egypt all that I say (Exod 6:29)
- 5 sacred book of Christianity
- 6 king ____ the Canaanite, which dwelt in the south (Num 33:40)
- 7 house of prayer: but ye have made it a ____ of thieves. (Luke 19:46)
- 8 Jesse begat ____ the king (Matt 1:6)
- 9 he speaketh ____, he speaketh of his own (two words) (John 8:44)
- 10 They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with ____ (Matt 27:34)
- 11 they have not been cl____, neither bound up (partial word) (Isa 1:6)
- 19 the doorpost and pierce his ear with an ____ (Exod 21:6) (NIV)
- 20 between the ____ cattle and between the lean cattle. (Ezek 34:20)

- 22 two stones the way a ____ cutter engraves a seal (Exod 28:11) (NIV)
- 23 Let this ____d be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus (partial word) (Phil 2:5)
- 24 LORD my God: O s____ me according to thy mercy (partial word) (Ps 109:26)
- 25 Joshua, who ____ seen all the great works of the LORD (Judg 2:7)
- 26 Commit thy ____ unto the LORD; trust also in him (Ps 37:5)
- 27 Therefore ____ my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad (Acts 2:26)
- 28 Because they ____ard not the works of the LORD (partial word) (Ps 28:5)
- 29 behold, ____ like the Son of man (Dan 7:13)
- 31 God ____ numbered the days of your (Dan 5:26) (NIV)
- 32 disciple, student

- 34 in Adam all ____, even so in Christ shall all be made alive (1 Cor 15:22)
- 35 and weave the spider's ____ (Isa 59:5)
- 36 there are certain men ____ in unawares (Jude 1:4)
- 37 Timothy, my fellow worker, ____ his greetings to you (Rom 16:21) (NIV)
- 38 w____ with his eye, signals with his feet (partial word) (Prov 6:13) (NIV)
- 39 Unto a land flowing with milk and ____y (partial word) (Exod 33:3)
- 40 Ahira the son of ____ (Num.1:15)
- 41 lest he ____ thee to the judge (Luke 12:58)
- 41 thine age shall be cl____r than the noonday (partial word) (Job 11:17)
- 43 from the top of his young t____ a tender one (partial word) (Ezek 17:22)
- 44 narrow grove or opening
- 46 children of Israel went on ____ land in the midst of the sea. (Exod 15:19)

MARCH EVENTS, BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6a Men's Bible Study 9a Ladies' Bible Study	2 9:45a Ladies' Bible Study 7p Youth Group Tom & Jan Watkins John & Melinda Sikkema Henry Bulthuis	3 7p Bible Study 7p Men's Leadership Carl & Evelyn Plett Shelly Watkins	4 Ethan Cormier Joe Howard Greg Snodgrass	5 8a Men's Leadership
6	7 8a Yesterday's Youth Breakfast at Perko's 7p prayer meeting	8 6a Men's Bible Study 9a Ladies' Bible Study Lauren Nieweg Val Van Unen	9 9:45a Ladies' Bible Study 6:30p GEMS & Cadets 7p Youth Group Anita Vander Veen	10 7p Bible Study 7p Men's Leadership 7p Ladies' Craft Night Lynette Drost Don Paauw	11 John Staal	12 8a Men's Leadership 1p Bethany Spring Tea 7p Young Couples/ Families @ L&R Mouw
13	14 7p prayer meeting 7p Council meeting Kelli Sikma	15 6a Men's Bible Study 9a Ladies' Bible Study	16 9:45a Ladies' Bible Study 7p Youth Group Gerrit & Hermina Oosterkamp	17 7p Bible Study 7p Men's Leadership Alida Cookson	18 Ben & Mary Ann Sybesma	19 8a Men's Leadership
20 Wilma Cormier	21 7p prayer meeting Donna McCall	22 6a Men's Bible Study 9a Ladies' Bible Study	23 9:45a Ladies' Bible Study 7p Youth Group Olan Mills photos Bill & Donna McCall	24 7p Bible study 7p Men's Leadership Olan Mills photos Corrine Efflandt	25 GEMS camp Olan Mills photos Will Sonke Chris & Laurie Van Groningen	26 8a Men's Leadership GEMS camp Olan Mills photos
27 GEMS return Monique De Jong	28 7p prayer meeting 7p Consistory meeting Phillip Van Groningen	29 6a Men's Bible Study 9a Ladies' Bible Study Mark & Cindy Hoeksema	30 9:45a Ladies' Bible Study 6:30p GEMS & Cadets 7p Youth Group	31 7p Bible study 7p Men's Leadership Chris Van Groningen Justine Cowart Johanna Trenev		