

MORNING WORSHIP

September 3, 2006 ~ 10:15 A.M.

The 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Those who are able are asked to stand +Latecomers will be seated

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

Mutual Blessing:

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

+*Opening Hymn: *Joy to the World!*

Psalter Hymnal 337

*Opening Prayer (in unison):

**Everlasting God,
you brought nations to your light
and kings to the brightness of your rising.
Fill the world with your glory, and shine through us,
that we may be beacons of truth and compassion,
enlightening all creation with deeds of justice and mercy.
Amen.**

*Greeting of God and God's People

*Song of Praise: *Sing a New Song unto the Lord* Sing! A New Creation 1

(Little Stars are dismissed during the last verse
and exit under the south balcony.)

WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (in unison):

**God of Grace,
you have given us Jesus, the light of the world,
but we choose darkness and cling to things that hide
the brightness of your love.
Immersed in ourselves, we have not risen to new life.**

**Baptize us with your Spirit, that, forgiven and renewed,
we may preach your Word to the nations and tell of your glory
shining in the face of Jesus Christ, our Lord and light forever.
Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon:

Leader: When the goodness and loving kindness of our Savior
appeared, God saved us, not because of any works
of righteousness we had done, but according to God's mercy,
through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.
This Spirit was poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ
our Savior, so that, having been justified by God's grace,
we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

People: Thanks be to God.

WE HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD

Prayer for Illumination:

Leader: God of the nations,
we long to hear your Word in fresh ways.
Open our ears to the call of your voice.
Open our eyes to the dawning of a new day.
Fill us with anticipation for your future.

People: Amen.

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 51:7-11

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Sung Gospel Lesson: *Blest Are They*

Sing! A New Creation 122

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 13:54-58

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Sermon: *Blessed Are You*

Prayer of Application

*Hymn of Response: *Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old*

Psalter Hymnal 616

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

Prayer of the People concluded with the Lord's Prayer (in unison):

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.
For yours is the kingdom
and the power
and the glory forever. Amen.

Announcements

Offerings of our Gifts to God:

First Offering is for the General Fund and all Envelopes.

Second Offering is for Christian Education.

*Closing Hymn: *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service*

Psalter Hymnal 603:1-3

*Blessing

*Doxology: *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service* Psalter Hymnal 603:4

*Call to Service:

Leader: Hear now this call to service:

Go forth to share the vision of God's kingdom,
to proclaim God's love, and to change this world
in the name of our King, Christ Jesus.

**People: Blessed are we when people revile us,
persecute us, and falsely accuse us for Jesus' sake
for our reward is great in heaven.**

*Postlude

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Rev. Thea Leunk, preaching

Mike Ribbens, liturgist

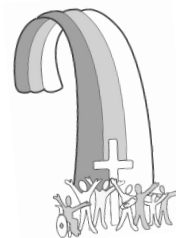
Mary Rusticus, organist

Kristen Hogeterp, reader

Lee Hardy, prayer

Lisa Walhout, pianist

Fred Sterenberg, guitarist



Eastern Avenue CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

514 Eastern Avenue SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
616-454-4888 www.eacrc.org

September 3, 2006

Welcome! We are glad you are here! We at Eastern Avenue seek to be a redeemed and redeeming community in the core city of Grand Rapids. To that end, we offer education and service opportunities for all ages. We especially seek to minister to and with the youth of our neighborhood and of our church and have several programs which help us do that. If you would like to know more about the ministries of Eastern Avenue, please contact Fred Sterenberg—church administrator, one of the ushers, or note your interest on the welcome pad.

During the offering, please print your name and address on the welcome pad so we can get to know you. Also, we invite you to join us for refreshments and fellowship in the Fellowship Room following this morning's service.

Hearing assistance receivers and large print Bibles are available in the back of the sanctuary and large print bulletins are in racks at the entrances to the sanctuary.

Our nurseries for infants and toddlers are available in the northwest corner of the Fellowship Room next to the kitchen.

Little Lambs is available for children two-years-old (by December 1, 2006). Parents bring children downstairs to Room 17 prior to worship and meet their children downstairs after the service.

Little Stars is available for children three-years-old (by December 1, 2006). Little Stars meets downstairs in Room 19 after the children are dismissed from worship. Parents meet their children downstairs after the service.

Worship materials for worshipers 4 years old – 5th grade are available on the Worship Table in the Fellowship Room.