

From the Sun's Rising

By Graham Kendrick

See print copy.



We celebrate the Lord's Supper weekly—and in a circle, at the end of worship. A word of direction is given, and with this everyone stands and moves to the walls. The cup is passed in two forms: in a chalice and then in small individual cups. You are free to choose.

And as this is the Supper of the Lord Christ, please listen to the instructions we give as to what qualifies a visitor to participate. **But whether you intend to take communion or not, please join us in the circle.**

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Old Orchard Church

June 21, 2009

10:15 to 11:45 a.m.

June 21

- 524 Godomar, Burgundian king, defeats the Franks at Battle of Vezeronce
- 1002 Pope Leo IX is born
- 1226 King Boleslaus V of Poland born
- 1582 Honno-Ji Incident. Forced suicide of Japanese ruler, Oda Nobunaga in Kyoto, ending his quest to consolidate centralized power in Japan
- 1788 U.S. Constitution ratified with New Hampshire's vote
- 1798 Irish Rebellion. Brits defeat Irish rebels at Battle of Vinegar Hill
- 1905 Jean-Paul Sartre born, French existentialist philosopher/literary figure who declined Nobel Prize for Literature he won in 1964
- 1935 Chaco War ends. Conflict between Bolivia and Paraguay over oil
- 1945 World War II Battle of Okinawa ends
- 1945 Shirin Ebadi born, Iranian human rights activist, mother, judge and winner of Nobel Peace Prize (2003)
- 1948 "Manchester Baby" (SSEM) runs the first-ever computer program stored in electronic memory
- 1953 Benazir Bhutto born, first female leader of a Muslim nation as prime minister of Pakistan (1988-89 and 1993-96)
- 1964 Three civil rights workers, A. Goodman, J. Chaney, and M. Schwerner murdered in Neshoba County, Mississippi
- 1977 Menachem Begin becomes Israel's 6th prime minister
- 2004 SpaceShipOne becomes first privately funded spaceplane to achieve spaceflight

**Then Jesus came to his disciples
and said, "All authority in heaven
and on earth has been given to me."**

—Matthew 28:18

Celebrating Jesus Christ, Lord of History

The history of the world does not unfold according to unbending laws of economic necessity, as Marxists think;

It does not evolve randomly and unpredictably under the autonomy of human decision, as humanists believe.

The world lies under the sovereign control and direction
Of one incarnate, crucified, resurrected and ruling Man,
Jesus Christ.

He is the radiance of the glory of the one living and true God;
He is the exact imprint of God's nature,
And he holds the universe together by the word of his power.

He raises up nations and empires—and he brings them down;
He directs decisions of leaders and power brokers.
He knows every star by name,
And yet comes in mercy to anyone who turns to him.

Jesus Christ, who entered the ambiguities and the turmoil of human history,
Is now its resurrected Lord!
In mysterious and strange ways
He is bringing all things to a great and glorious End;
Even now he is ruling the world,
Bending every created thing to serve his purposes of
love and justice.

Praise him, with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
Now and forever. Alleluia!



— Scripture Readings—

A String of Pearls: His Hands on History
New Testament Reading: Acts 17:22-31

— Sermon —

“What Do You See?”
Mark 8:22-26

Jon Coody, seminary intern, preaching

Who's In Charge?

God not only preserves our souls. He not only grants us faith and peace of heart and the joy of security. He is not only our rod and staff in the valley of the shadow and our Comforter when our conscience torments us. *God is also the Lord of the world*; he causes his eternal ordinances to prevail over all our mutual destructiveness and all the powers of overthrow. He directs this feverish, threatened world straight to the goal, which it itself knows not: his throne.

We men may do what we will, Nebuchadnezzar may come and Genghis Khan and Mao Tse-tung [we could add: and Saddam Hussein and Kim Jong-il]; none of them can break God's plans, but rather must fulfill them—against their will! Even though what we hear now is the dark minor tone, what is being played is still God's symphony, and it will be played out to the end. The individual tones may think they are who knows what; they may want to assert themselves and swing out on their own. And yet they have all been composed into a score of which God alone is in command and in which everything, when it is heard from heaven's vantage point, has its place in God's succession of tones that end in his final chord. “The rich of this world are in process of going, but the kingdom of God is in process of coming,” Blurnhardt once said.

Therefore, even in the pressure zone of mass means of destruction and growing tyranny, we must have the long view and the confident calmness of those who know they have a secure place in the score of God's eternal symphony. For above the battle of the powers—the outcome of which we do not know—above all the crises and threats in our personal life there sounds, like a peaceful, comforting bell, the promise of God: **“While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.”** Every time the world goes to its autumn rest and every day as the peace of evening descends anew upon the earth we are to receive this message, like a blinking signal from the Eternal God: *“I calmly pursue my course through all the convulsions and derangements of your life. And just as I direct the rhythm of days and seasons, so I encompass the islands and the continents, the men of faith and the atheists, the constitutional states and the tyrannies. Don't ever think that anybody will ever be able to break away from serving me, though he renounce me ten times over! Even in the extreme perversion of authority, as in the tyranny of a totalitarian state, men are compelled despite themselves to preserve a remnant of my order and they can never succeed in consistently devilizing and ruining my world. And I, who have power of the whole world of space, should I not be able to encompass your little life, hear your questions and your groans, and unravel the tangled line of your need?”*

From *Outlines of a New World Order* by Helmut Thielicke (1960)

