

Old Orchard Church: 1981-2011

30 Years Under a Faithful God and Father

September 25, 2011—10:15 to 11:50 a.m.

Abraham, ready to offer his son, Isaac
(papirn-shnit, 19th century Jewish paper cutting art)

Special Thanks

Special thanks to the following for their wonderful music:

- ◆ *members of the Celtic band, The Crossing, from Chicago,*
- ◆ *Mark and Lisa Blackmore and Ben Dodd (Trumpeters);*
- ◆ *Lina Gentry, accompanist;*
- ◆ *Old Orchard Church's choir;*
- ◆ *Greg Roig, our Music Director and resident composer!*

Credits

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"The stars that God showed Abraham"
(Anne Woodson, 2010)

**It was not through the law that Abraham and his
offspring received the promise that he would inherit
the world, but through the righteousness
that comes by faith.**

—Romans 4:13 —

Celebrating the King of Grace and the Unshakeable Kingdom

When the Day of the Lord comes, when Yahweh Sabbaoth [Lord of hosts] revealed in Jesus Christ acts in that final, historic way— not just as an epilogue!—to bring an end to violated troth, vain logic, cruel inequities, illness and death, and shoots the sunshine of shalom all over the place, hauling in the illicitly tended glories of earthbound rulers (as Revelations 21:22-27 puts it), *then* it's time for God's people to stampede like young bulls breaking loose from the Calgary stockades, since Victory Day will have arrived, hope will have been realized, the Kingdom of God shall be fully come! Meanwhile, as we keep busy at healing sickness, trying to correct injustices, refocusing life-style, humbling false theories in the name of Jesus Christ, our dances and campfires do well to remain pregnant and our songs of encouragement to keep a future pull in the melody so that the down payments of shalom we do receive come more like surprises from the hand of the Lord than as our own hard-won deserts. The joy of our Christian life in this age lies in its being one of faith, being rooted, fed and surrounded by the *reality* of things not yet fully seen—birds in the bush! if you will—that we *know* are real, so that our struggling daily life is couched in a thankful, anticipatory suspense of God's faithfulness, the Lord's great, happy-making, covenant-keeping deeds from ever and anon and forever coming....

—Calvin Seerveld (1978)



—David Buckley (circa 2000)

Our purpose is to be a community of Jesus Christ's followers, who in our time and place and by the power of the Holy Spirit, enjoy God and bring pleasure to him, and for the sake of the world live as a demonstration of who God is.

Pre-service music (members of *The Crossing*)

Greeting

Prelude

“Amazing Grace” (arranged by Greg Roig)

Call to worship the King Psalm 147:1-6; Psalm 145:10-13

Song of adoration “Blessing and Honor” Horatius Bonar (1866)
(see insert)

The Kingdom drama of endurance in conflict

Hebrews 12:1-10

Song of joy “See What a Morning” Keith Getty &
(see insert) Stuart Townend (2003)

Confession of our faults

The Kingdom law of love Hebrews 12:11-17; 13:1-9

Corporate Confession

For your name's sake O Lord, be merciful to us in our sin,
for it is great; it is overwhelming.

In our disobedience we have squandered our glory,
and are now ashamed.

Forgive us our offenses, for your name's sake — that name which is
above all names in honor, and yet is magnified in showing mercy.

Do not destroy what your own hands have made.

Do not let us come to ruin, but rescue us,
and restore in us, what we have lost through deceit and sin.

For our great confidence:

is in the tender yearnings of the Father,
the agonized wounds of the Son,
the inexpressible cries of the Holy Spirit for us.

Hear us O God, we pray. Amen.

Confession of our faults (continued)

The doorway into the Kingdom Hebrews 9:11-15

Celebrating the Servant-King's Death

“Nothing But the Blood of Jesus” Robert Lowry (1876)

What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Refrain: Oh! precious is the flow that makes me white as snow
No other fount I know, nothing but the blood of Jesus.

For my pardon, this I see, nothing but the blood of Jesus;
For my cleansing this my plea—Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Nothing can for sin atone—nothing but the blood of Jesus;
Naught of good that I have done—nothing but the blood of Jesus.

This is all my hope and peace—nothing but the blood of Jesus;
This is all my righteousness—nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Now by this I'll overcome—nothing but the blood of Jesus;
Now by this I'll reach my home—Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Offering Our Gifts to God

“Noel Nouvelet” Arranged by Greg Roig

Seeing the Kingdom that is, and is coming

Hebrews 12:18-29

Communion in the Body and Blood of Christ

Song of the Servants

“Give Thanks to God”

Craig Courtney (1988)

See print copy for music and words.

Longing for the peace of the Kingdom

“The Tree of Life”

Pécselyi Király Imre (1961)
Paraphrased by Erik Routley (1974)
K. Lee Scott (1980)

See print copy for music and words.

Celebrating the Servant-King's Life

“Christ Is Risen”

Matt Maher (2004)

See print copy for words.

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.**

Proclaiming the Word of God

“By Demonstration: God as He Is, and a Kingdom as It Is Coming”

Hebrews 12 and 13:1-9

Ron Lutjens, Pastor, preaching

Sermon Texts: Hebrews 12 and 13:1-9

12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. 4 In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. 5 And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?

“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him.

6 For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.”

7 It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? 8 If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. 9 Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? 10 For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.

12:11 For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. 12 Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, 13 and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. 14 Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. 15 See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; 16 that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. 17 For you know that

afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.

12:18 For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest 19 and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. 20 For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned.”

21 Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.” 22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, 23 and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, 24 and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

25 See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject who warns from heaven. 26 At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.” 27 This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain. 28 Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, 29 for our God is a consuming fire.

13:1 Let brotherly love continue. 2 Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. 3 Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. 4 Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. 5 Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” 6 So we can confidently say,

“The Lord is my helper; I will not fear;
what can man do to me?”

7 Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.

8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

9 Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them.