

"The New Jerusalem"
Bruce Vantine (1986)

Old Orchard Church
— October 9, 2011 — 10:15-11:50 a.m.

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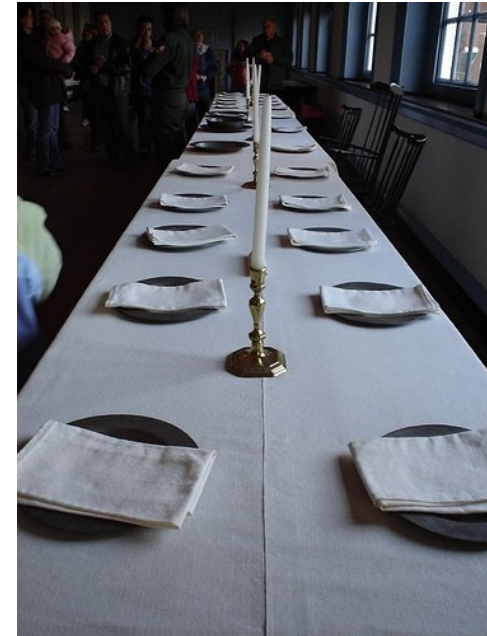
Credo

You are the Christ
the Son of God
Emmanuel
Poured into our world

Messiah, King
Prophet and Priest
Wonderful Couns'lor
Our Prince of Peace

The Resurrection
The Truth and the Life
The faithful Bridegroom
Adorning his bride

Foundation-Capstone
You build your Church
Alpha-Omega
The Last and the First



Then the angel said to me, "Write:
'Blessed are those who are invited
to the wedding supper
of the Lamb!'"
And he added,
"These are the true words of God."

Revelation 19:9

Celebrating Jesus Christ, Husband of the Church

Before the face of Christ
Believers in Jesus are all feminine—
Together, we are the Bride he loves,
The delight of his heart.

Blessed be our Lord Jesus
For his Husband-love,
His faithfulness to us
Even in our unfaithfulness to him.

Praise him for his sacrificing love;
He went to death for the sake of his unfaithful Bride.
Praise him for his high purposes for us—
He who, even now, is making us a pure Lover
To live with him in tenderness forever.

Grant us, O Lord,
To see more clearly into your love,
For then we shall love you more deeply,
And find our delight in bringing you pleasure.
Alleluia!



Scripture Readings

Old Testament Lesson: from Hosea 2

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:1-13

Sermon

“By Demonstration: God as He Is, and a Kingdom as It Is Coming”
(Part 2)

Hebrews 12 and 13:1-9

Ron Lutjens, Senior Pastor, preaching

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.**

Bride and Groom

That which is impossible for you to accomplish by trying to fulfill all the works of the law—many and useless as they all are—you will accomplish quickly and easily through faith. God our Father has made all things depend on faith so that whoever has faith will have everything, and whoever does not have faith will have nothing. **“For God has consigned all men to disobedience, that he may have mercy upon all,”** as it is stated in Romans 11:32. Thus the promises of God give what the commandments of God demand and fulfill what the law prescribes so that all things may be God's alone, both the commandments and the fulfilling of the commandments. He alone commands, he alone fulfills...

[Another] benefit of faith is that it unites the soul with Christ as a bride is united with her bridegroom. By this mystery, as the Apostle teaches, Christ and the soul become one flesh [Ephesians 5:31-32]. And if they are one flesh and there is between them a true marriage—indeed the most perfect of all marriages, since human marriages are but poor examples of this one true marriage—it follows that everything they have they hold in common, the good as well as the evil. Accordingly the believing soul can boast of and glory in whatever Christ has as though it were its own, and whatever the soul has Christ claims as his own. Let us compare these and we shall see inestimable benefits. Christ is full of grace, life, and salvation. The soul is full of sins, death and damnation. Now let faith come between them and sins, death, and damnation will be Christ's, while grace, life and salvation will be the soul's; for if Christ is a bridegroom, he must take upon himself the things which are his bride's and bestow upon her the things that are his. If he gives her his body and very self, how shall he not give her all that is his? And if he takes the body of the bride, how shall he not take all that is hers?....

Who then can fully appreciate what this royal marriage means? Who can understand the riches of the glory of this grace? Here this rich and divine bridegroom Christ marries this poor, wicked harlot, redeems her from all her evil, and adorns her with all his goodness. Her sins cannot now destroy her, since they are laid upon Christ and swallowed up by him. And she has that righteousness in Christ, her husband, of which she may boast as of her own and which she can confidently display alongside her sins in the face of death and hell and say, “If I have sinned, yet my Christ, in whom I believe, has not sinned, and all his is mine and all mine is his,” as the bride in the Song of Solomon [2:16] says, **My beloved is mine and I am his.**

--Martin Luther, *The Freedom of a Christian* (1520)

