A Sacrifice of Praise

A service of thanks for the life of John Calvin
and his gifts to the worship life of the church

6:00 P.M.
Sunday, March 29, 2009

Miller Chapel
Princeton Theological Seminary
Princeton, NJ
A Sacrifice of Praise

Organ Prelude on Genevan 134

Choral Introit from Psalm 134

Come, all you servants of the Lord,  
Who work and pray by night, by day,  
Come, bless the Lord within this place;  
With lifted hands your homage pay.

The Lord now bless from heaven above  
And shine on you with radiant face;  
The Lord who heaven and earth has made  
Illumine you with peace and grace.

Call to Worship

Opening Hymn  “I Greet Thee”  Blue Hymnal #457

Welcome

“to sing communally”

“And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

- Colossians 3:15-17

“This manner of proceeding seemed especially good to us, that children, who beforehand have practiced some modest church song, sing in a loud distinct voice, the people listening with all attention and following heartily what is sung with the mouth, till all become accustomed to sing communally.”

- John Calvin
Psalm 103


choir
all
all

Come, praise the LORD, my soul, and all within me,
High as the heavens above, so great God loves us,
God is the King and over all is ruling.

praise

so far removes all our transgressions from us--
Praise God, you angels, you who do God's bidding,

For - get not all God's ben - e - fits to you.
as far re - moved as east is from the west.
you might - y serv - ants who o - bey God's word.

God is for - giv - ing, heals all your dis - eas - es,
As par - ents have com - pas - sion on their chil - dren,
Come, praise the LORD, all works of God's crea - tion.

re - deems your life, so sat - is - flies and pleas - es
God is com - pas - sion - ate to those who fear him;
Praise God in ev - ery part of God's do - mi - nion.

that, like the ea - gle's, God re - news your youth.
God knows our frame, re - mem - bers we are dust.
Come, O my soul, for - ev - er praise the LORD.

Prayer
“in order to love, fear, honor and glorify God”

“My heart overflows with a goodly theme;
I address my verses to the king;
my tongue is like the pen of a ready scribe.
Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our King, sing praises.
For God is the king of all the earth;
sing praises with a psalm.”

- Psalm 45:1; 47:6-7

“Now among the other things which are appropriate for recreating people and giving them pleasure, music is either the first or one of the principal, and we must value it as a gift of God deputed to that use. . . . In fact we experience that [music] has a secret and almost incredible power to arouse hearts in one way or another. . . . [Therefore we must have] songs not only seemly, but also holy, which will be like spurs to incite us to pray to and praise God, to meditate on his works in order to love, fear, honor and glorify him.”

- John Calvin

Choral Offering

“A Sacrifice of Praise”

Philip Orr
based on melodies
from the Genevan Psalter

Overture from Psalm 97
Psalm 116

choir 1. I love the LORD, for he has heard my voice.
choir 2. Our God is gracious, merciful, and just.
all 3. For you, O LORD, have saved my soul from death.
choir 4. How can I pay the LORD for all his gifts?
all 5. Precious to God the dying of his saints.

He turned to me and heard my cry for mercy.
He watches over all the simple-hearted.
You kept my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.
I will lift up the cup of full salvation.
I am your faithful servant, freed from bondage.

Anghished by death and overcome by sorrow.
Rest, O my soul, and trust him for salvation.
I kept my faith, though I was much afflicted.
I will fulfill my vows to God my Savior.
I’ll pay my vows and, with your people, thank you.

I turned in my distress to God in prayer.
Remember all his goodness shown to you.
Dismayed, I said, "All people are untrue."
With all his saints I’ll call upon his name.
Come to his house, O people, praise the LORD!

Homily
Psalm 51

1. Be merciful, be merciful, O God.
   According to your steadfast love, have mercy.
   Wash all my sin away and make me clean.
   I know my sin; it will not leave my mind.
   Against you, only you, I have been sinning.
   So you are just in judging what I did.
   Even before my birth my life was tainted.

2. You want me truthful in my inmost heart;
   you teach me in my secret heart your wisdom.
   To wash me clean again, purge me with hyssop
   and make me whiter than new fallen snow.
   Fill me with joy and gladness, make me sing,
   and let the bones you broke begin their dancing.
   O hide your face from sins that cause me shame.
   Blot out the stain of all my foul transgressions.

3. Create in me, O God, a new, clean heart
   and make my spirit pure and right within me.
   O do not cast me helpless from your presence.
   Your Holy Spirit must not go from me.
   Restore to me the joy of being yours.
   Uphold me with a free and willing spirit.
   Then I will teach transgressors of your ways.
   Then sinners will return again to serve you.

4. Deliver me from guilt of blood, O God.
   O God, you are the God of my salvation.
   My tongue will sing then that I am delivered.
   Open my lips, O Lord, to sing your praise.
   For you take no delight in sacrifice.
   You take no pleasure in the gifts I offer.
   A broken spirit is acceptable.
   You will not scorn a heart contrite and broken.

5. Be good to Zion; Lord, in mercy hear.
   The walls around Jerusalem lie broken.
   Rebuild the walls, Lord: help us to rebuild them.
   Be good to Zion; Lord, in mercy hear.
   Then you will take delight in us again,
   in gifts we bring to lay upon your altar.
   Then you will take delight in us again,
   in proper sacrifice and righteous service.

Homily
Psalm 98

1. New songs of celebration render
To God who has great wonders done;
Love sits enthroned in ageless splendor;
Come and adore the mighty One.
God has made known the great salvation
Which all the saints with joy confess.
God has revealed to every nation
Truth and unending righteousness.

2. Joyfully, heartily resounding,
Let every instrument and voice
Peal out the praise of grace abounding,
Calling the whole world to rejoice.
Trumpets and organs, set in motion
Such sounds as make the heavens ring;
All things that live in earth and ocean,
Sound forth the song, your praises bring.

3. (sung by all)

Rivers and seas and torrents roaring,
Honour the Lord with wild acclaim;
Mountains and stones look up adoring,
And find a voice to praise God's name.
Righteous, com mand ing, ev er glo rious,
Praises be sung that never cease;
Just is our God, whose truth vic to rious
Establishes the world in peace.

Prayer
“with a more vehement and ardent zeal”

“My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and make melody. Awake, my soul! Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn. I will give thanks to you, O LORD, among the peoples, and I will sing praises to you among the nations. For your steadfast love is higher than the heavens, and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens, and let your glory be over all the earth.”

- Psalm 108:1-5

“And in truth we know from experience that song has great force and vigor to arouse and inflame people’s hearts to invoke and praise God with a more vehement and ardent zeal.”

- John Calvin

Hymn “Praise Ye the Lord” Blue Hymnal #258

Call to Prayer “I Love the Lord” - stanza 1, solo Blue Hymnal #362

Prayers of the People

Choral Response “I Love the Lord” - stanza 2, all Blue Hymnal #362
Closing Hymn

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

DIX

all 1 For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,

women 2 For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,

all 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind’s delight,

men 4 For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,

all 5 For each perfect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav’n;

for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:

hill and vale and tree and flow’r, sun and moon and stars of light:

for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight:

friends on earth and friends above; for all gentle thoughts and mild:

for thyself, best gift divine, to our world so freely giv’n:

Refrain

Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.

Benediction
Choral Response  

“Song of Simeon”

Now may Your servant, Lord, according to Your word, depart in exultation.  
My peace shall be serene, for now my eyes have seen your wonderful salvation.

You did for all prepare this gift so great, so rare, fulfilling prophets' story—  
A light to show the way to Gentiles gone astray, and unto Israel's glory.

Passing the Peace of Christ

Following the service, please join us for a reception in the Main Lounge of the MacKay Campus Center.

You are invited to learn more about the contemporary relevance of John Calvin’s liturgy and liturgical theology by participating in the lecture and workshops on campus tomorrow, March 30 (9:00 - 2:30). Keynote address by Nicholas Wolterstorff, professor emeritus of philosophical theology at Yale University. For more information, visit http://www.ptsem.edu/ce. Walk-ins are welcome.

Mark your calendars for The Octave of Easter - Sunday, April 19, 7:30 p.m. - Miller Chapel
A service of readings, choral anthems, and congregational hymns celebrating the Easter season, led by the Princeton Seminary Choir.
“To sing communally…

_in order to love, fear, honor and glorify God…_

_with a more vehement and ardent zeal.”

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1 From the 1537 Articles, this is one of the few quotes of Calvin which would suggest the usefulness of a choir in worship. The purpose of the choir here is clearly to teach and lead the singing of the congregation. See Ioannis Calvini Opera Selecta edited by Wilhelm Baum, Edward Cunitz and Edward Reuss (Brunsvigae: A Swetschke and Son, 1843-1848), 1:375.

2 This text appeared in _La forme des prières_ in 1542 and 1543, but thereafter only in the psalters, and hence it is commonly known as the foreword to the psalter. See John Calvin: Writings on Pastoral Piety edited and with translations by Elsie McKee, Classics of Western Spirituality (New York: Paulist Press, 2001), 95-96.

3 Ibid., 94.

Psalm 134 from Genevan Psalter 1551
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Psalm 103 from Strausburg Psalter 1539

Psalm 97 from Genevan Psalter 1562

Psalm 116 from Genevan Psalter 1562

Psalm 51 from Genevan Psalter 1551

Psalm 98 from Genevan Psalter 1551
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“For the Beauty”

“Song of Simeon” from Genevan Psalter 1551
Preacher
Dr. Cornelius Plantinga, President of Calvin Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Liturgists
Rev. Dave Davis, Pastor of Nassau Presbyterian Church
Rev. Janice Smith Ammon, Minister of the Chapel at Princeton Seminary
Rev. Muriel Burrows, Pastor of Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church
Dr. Elsie McKee, Professor of Reformation Studies and the History of Worship at Princeton Seminary

Choirs
Princeton Theological Seminary; Martin Tel, director and Chi Yi Chen, choral associate
Nassau Presbyterian Church; Noel Werner, director and Janet Miller, accompanist
Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church; Beverly Owens, director and Robert Stubbs, accompanist
Combined choir conducted by Noel Werner and accompanied by Martin Tel

Soloists
Jonathan LaBarge-Kliwer and Kristen Ward, *A Sacrifice of Praise*
Beverly Owens, *I Love the Lord*

Instrumentalists
William Trigg, percussion
Elaine Christy, harp
Philip Orr, piano
Philip Orr is a pianist and composer from Hopewell, New Jersey. Orr’s compositions integrate his eclectic experience of classical, jazz, pop, gospel and rock styles in works for chorus, symphonic band, and chamber ensembles. He also serves as organist and choir director at Calvary Baptist Church in Hopewell and he teaches on the faculties of the Lawrenceville School, Rider University, and Westminster Choir College.