

# The Eliot Church of Newton

474 Centre Street, Newton, MA 02458 617-244-3639 [www.eliotchurch.org](http://www.eliotchurch.org)

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 19, 2010

**Welcome guest!** Here is a sample of a Sunday Worship Bulletin at Eliot Church, to give you a sense of the order of service and the music of our prayer life. We hope you can join us soon in person for our 10:00 Sunday service.

Pastors Tony Kill & Karla Miller

## Thought for Reflection

Forgiveness is God's invention for coming to terms with a world in which, despite their best intentions, people are unfair to each other and hurt each other deeply. God began by forgiving us. And God invites us all to forgive each other."

God is the original, master forgiver. Each time we grope our reluctant way through the minor miracle of forgiving, we are imitating God's style. I am not at all sure that any of us would have had imagination enough to see the possibilities in this way to heal the wrongs of this life had God not done it first.

Lewis B. Smedes



## Order of Service

**Prelude**

**Prayer for Organ**

**Craig Phillips (b. 1961)**

**Introit**

**A Song of Praise**

**John Rutter (b. 1945)**

Glory to you, Lord god of our fathers; you are worthy of praise; glory to you.  
Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name; we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.  
Glory to you in the splendor of your temple; on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.  
Glory to you, seated between the cherubim; we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.  
Glory to you, beholding the depths; in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.  
Glory to you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit; we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

**Greeting and Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

R: With what shall we come before the Lord,  
and bow ourselves before God on high?  
C: *Shall we come before God with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?*  
R: The Lord has showed you, O people, what is good;  
and what does the Lord require of you,  
C: *But to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.*

\* Hymn **God Reigns o'er All the Earth**

**Invocation**

**Confession of Sin**

Invitation

Prayer of Confession

*Generous God, you give us the gift of your Spirit, but we confess that we have not known how to use it. You send us the Spirit of courage, but we have been afraid. You send us the Spirit of truth, but we cling to our illusions. You send us the Spirit of healing, but we cannot let go of our hurts. Holy Spirit of forgiveness, come to us again: shake our hearts, set our souls on fire with your love: send us out into the world rejoicing in your power. We hold out to you all our particular burdens of guilt and sin, and we ask for your help to live the way of your justice, humility and love. Amen.*

Silent Prayer

Assurance of Pardon

**Gloria** (sung)

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be,*

## **The Life and Mission of the Church**

### **Commissioning of the Seminary Intern**

The Seminarian's Commitment:

It is a privilege to be invited to have my field education in the practice of Christian ministry here at Eliot Church. I will strive to be a faithful servant of the Gospel and student of ministry during this year among you. May God bless our endeavor together.

The Congregation's Commitment:

*We welcome you to our congregation. We will support you and walk with you through this year of field education in congregational life and pastoral ministry. We look forward to learning from you as well as helping you learn. May God be at work in us through your ministry and ours.*

### **Commissioning of the Minister of Music**

The Music Minister's Commitment:

It is my honor and privilege to serve God and the people of God through the ministry of music, particularly as an organist and choir director. I am delighted to bring this ministry to the Eliot Church of Newton and serve with you here. I pledge to offer my best talents and energy to the worship life of this congregation, for the greater glory of God.

The congregation's commitment:

*We recognize and support your special mission as a Minister of Music, and we heartily welcome you into the life and ministry of our congregation. We are grateful to you and the choir for the beautiful artistry and uplifting power you bring to our worship services. May God be at work in us through your ministry and ours.*

### **Recognition and Commissioning of Church Leaders**

Sisters and brothers, you have been chosen to serve using the gifts with which you are equipped "for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ. Let us remember the model of leadership provided by Jesus, who came not to be served but to serve, and who said to his disciples, "Whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all"

*Leaders: We celebrate the gifts of the Spirit present in Eliot Church and the United Church of Christ, and pledge to strive to elicit and foster those gifts in our positions of service.*

**R:** Do you now gladly accept the particular office to which you have been elected, and do you promise to fulfill its duties?

Leaders: *I do, with the help of God.*

R: We also celebrate all those who are fellow-members and co-workers with you on the various commissions and ministries of the church which you lead, and all the love, time and energy they will provide among us in the coming year. And we celebrate the ministries of all those will help lead and support our Sunday Worship services: the readers and welcomers, the Communion preparers and reception hosts; and particularly the Minister of Music and the Choir.

And now I ask the congregation: Do you, the members and friends of Eliot Church, pledge to honor the commitment of these Christian servants, uphold them in their ministries of service, and support them by your assistance and cooperation in carrying on the mission and ministry of this church in the service of Christ?

Congregation: *With gratitude, we pledge our prayers, assistance and support to the these leaders in the service of Christ and the church.*

R: Let us pray: We thank you, God, for these who have accepted special servant roles in a particular part of the church. We see gifts in them that can be put to good use in building up the body of Christ and in the ministry of reconciliation. Give them the strength and courage to persevere, and find joy and satisfaction in carrying out the duties they have undertaken. We pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, the head of the body of which we are all members. Amen.

May the Lord provide you the grace to fulfill the service you have resolved to perform.

## The Children's Time

### The Lord's Prayer

### Sung Blessing of the Children

#### Anthem

O Worship the Lord  
O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!  
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
With god of obedience, and incense of lowliness,  
Kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name.  
Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness  
of the poor wealth you would count as your own;  
Truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,  
These are the offerings to lay at his throne.

Robert Wetzler (b. 1932)

#### The Word

Hebrew Scriptures      Amos 8:4-7  
Gospel                      Luke 16:1-13

#### Hymn

You Servants of God

#### Sermon

TWO MASTERS?

Pastor Tony

#### Prayer for the Church and for the World

Call To Prayer

Find a Stillness

Fay Ballou

*Find a stillness, hold the stillness let the spirit enter in.  
Quietly we call unto You, from our hearts our prayers begin.  
In the stillness and the silence, God, the Spirit  
Moves, surrounds us, offering true harmony.*

Silent Prayer

Prayer Requests

Pastoral Prayer

**A Time For Thanksgiving**

Offering  
Offertory Music  
Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Dedication of Offering

Hymn            **O For A World**

**Benediction**

**Benediction Response**

Charles Raines (b. 1952)

**Thank you for reading the Order of Service  
for this week's Worship Service.**

Please join us on any Sunday at 10:00 am.

No matter where you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here!