



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

*Central Moravian Church*

BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA

APRIL 22, 2007

# Order of Worship

DOUGLAS W. CALDWELL, CAROL A. REIFINGER, JANEL R. RICE, PASTORS  
VANI PRADHAN, PASTORAL INTERN · REBECCA KLEINTOP OWENS, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

## PRELUDE

Spring Song	W. A. Mozart (1756–1791)
Calm as the Night	Carl Bohm (1844–1920)
Largo	Antonio Vivaldi (1676–1741)
What Wondrous Love Is This	Traditional Southern harmony hymn
Choral: O Sacred Head Now Wounded	J. S. Bach (1685–1750)

*Jason Cote, trumpet*  
Moravian College Guitar Ensemble  
*John Arnold, director*

## INTROIT

It Is a Precious Thing Johann Friedrich Peter (1746–1813)

It is a precious thing when the heart is fixed and trusteth in God, through the mercy of God and our Savior Jesus Christ our Lord. My heart is resting, O my Savior, in thy loving care; my trust is ever stayed on thee. O hear my earnest prayer that ever faithful I may be, and ever do thy will. O grant this in thy mercy still, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Central Moravian Church Choir · Moravian College Choir  
*Chelsea Dehner, soprano · Brandon Remp, bass*  
*Paula Ring Zerkle, conductor*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

What Brought Us Together Hymn 675

What brought us together, what joined our hearts?  
The pardon which Jesus, our High Priest, imparts;  
'Tis this which cements the disciples of Christ,  
Who are into one by the Spirit baptized.

Is this our high calling, harmonious to dwell,  
And thus in sweet concert Christ's praises to tell,  
In peace and blessed union our moments to spend  
And live in communion with Jesus our Friend?

O yes, having found in the Lord our delight,  
He is our chief object by day and by night;  
This knits us together; no longer we roam;  
We all have one Father, and heav'n is our home.

LITURGY: A COMMISSION AND BLESSING  
OF THE PRESIDENT OF MORAVIAN COLLEGE AND MORAVIAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

**In Affirmation**

*Lyn Trodahl Chynoweth, Chair of the Moravian Theological Seminary Board of Trustees*

Leader: As God's people we have gathered to worship the One who has not only created us, but has cared for us in the deepest ways possible, and has loved us beyond the boundaries of our imaginations.

*People: We thank you for the goodness with which you blanket us, and the kindness with which you embrace us.*

Leader: God's love comes to us in many different ways: through the Scriptures; in quiet moments; via dreams and signs. And one way that God's reassuring presence is often manifested is through ordinary, yet special, human beings.

*People: As we seek to know you well, we realize that it is through the compassion of brothers and sisters in the faith that we come closer to you.*

Leader: All believers are summoned to love one another and to be Christlike in actions and attitudes. But in addition to calling all Christians to service, God also calls some members of the body into specialized ministries.

*People: As it is written, "Christ gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers." It is right for us as God's people to recognize the faithful women and men who honor Christ by answering such specialized calls to service.*

Leader: Today we have gathered in gratitude to recognize the willingness of the Rev. Dr. Christopher Thomforde to serve in the special, even sacred role, of president of Moravian College and Moravian Theological Seminary.

*People: As a community of faith gathered in Christ's name, as friends and family gathered in support and encouragement, as co-workers and colleagues gathered in a spirit of partnership and affirmation, we acknowledge today both the call of God upon Dr. Thomforde's life and his response in devotion and faith.*

Leader: On this day we commemorate the ministry of Dr. Thomforde as our president, realizing that it is through his teaching, serving, guiding, and administering that we will often see God at work.

Hymn

Tune: 404 (Duke Street)

Pour out thy spirit from on high;  
Lord, thine ordained servants bless;  
Graces and gifts to each supply,  
And clothe them with thy righteousness.

Wisdom, and zeal, and faith impart,  
Firmness, with meekness from above,  
To bear thy people on their heart,  
And love the souls whom thou dost love.

### **In Commission**

*Priscilla Payne Hurd, Chair of the Joint Board of Trustees  
of Moravian College and Moravian Theological Seminary*

Leader: Dr. Thomforde, as president of Moravian College and Moravian Theological Seminary, to you we commend all those who learn: students of artistic performance and expression, students of scientific research and theory, students of athletic challenge and agility, students of medical practice and care, students of pastoral ministry and counsel, students who continue their quest for knowledge through lifelong learning.

*President: With God's grace, I devote myself to their pursuit of knowledge, wisdom, and profession.*

Leader: Dr. Thomforde, as president of Moravian College and Moravian Theological Seminary, to you we commend all those who teach: professors of the classroom and clinical setting, educators of faith and community, coaches of the field and court, sponsors of organizations, programs, and community service.

*President: With God's grace, I devote myself to their endeavor to nurture minds, bodies, and spirits.*

Leader: Dr. Thomforde, as president of Moravian College and Moravian Theological Seminary, to you we commend all those who serve: vice presidents who guide and envision, administrators who recruit and aid, personnel who build, fix, and beautify, staff who support and plan, caregivers who feed and welcome, counselors who encourage and nurture.

*President: With God's grace, I devote myself to their intention to touch and transform lives of all ages.*

Leader: Dr. Thomforde, as president of Moravian College and Moravian Theological Seminary, to you we commend our dutiful partnership with this community. In collaboration with the College and Seminary trustees, we commission you as an ambassador of service and goodwill to this fine city, state, nation, and world. By your character and example, may Moravian College and Moravian Theological Seminary grow in our commitment to nurture in students the capacities for leadership, lifelong learning, and positive societal contributions.

*President: With God's grace, I devote myself to the partnerships that serve the common good of this city, state, nation, and world.*

Leader: In partnership with you, President Thomforde, we too commit to treasure the disciplined mastery of subject and skill, the reflections gleaned from life experience, and the practical wisdom of long years—

*People: For all the diversity of human study and knowledge—for science and art, for literature and drama, for labor and play—for all the teachable moments of life, we give you thanks, Holy God.*

Hymn

Tune: p. 132, Hymn to Joy

God of wisdom, truth, and beauty, God of spirit, fire, and soul,  
God of order, love, and duty, God of purpose, plan, and goal:  
Grant us visions evergrowing, breath of life, eternal strength,  
Mystic spirit moving, flowing, filling height and depth and length.

God of drama, music, dancing, God of story, sculpture, art,  
God of wit, all life enhancing, God of every yearning heart:  
Challenge us with quests of spirit, truth revealed in myriad ways,  
Word or song for hearts that hear it, sketch and model forms of praise.

God of science, hist'ry, teaching, God of futures yet unknown,  
God of holding, God of reaching, God of pow'r beyond each throne.  
Take the fragments of our living. Fit us to your finest scheme.  
Now forgiven and forgiving, make us free to dare and dream.

### ***In Blessing***

*Rev. Douglas W. Caldwell, Senior Pastor of Central Moravian Church and Trustee of Moravian College*

Leader: The Moravian Church celebrates the common heritage we share with the College and Seminary, as an institution dedicated to the sacred responsibility and genuine opportunity to be faithful stewards of all God has entrusted to us. We remember the words of John Amos Comenius who reminded us that education is an instrument of grace—

*People: "Not the children of the rich or of the powerful only, but of all alike, boys and girls, both noble and ignoble, rich and poor, in all cities and towns, villages and hamlets, should be sent to school." How well we accomplish this together will be a witness to our community as to the validity of our faith.*

Leader: In celebration and affirmation of the Rev. Dr. Christopher Thomforde's service to God, to Moravian College and Moravian Theological Seminary, and to this community and world, we ask God's blessing upon our president, his wife Kathy, and all of their family. Together we pray—

*People: Holy Lord, you have called your servant to a great task, which at times will be rewarding as well as difficult and trying. We celebrate President Thomforde's presence among us, acknowledge his devotion to Your calling to service, offer our support in his times of struggle, and extend to him a generous measure of encouragement. Help him to carry out each facet of his leadership with sincerity, boldness, and wisdom and keep him ever inspired by your Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Leader: May our Lord Jesus Christ and God our Creator, who loved us and by grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope—

*People: Encourage his heart and strengthen him in every good deed and work.*

Hymn

Tune 447 (Covenant)

With your presence, Lord, our Head and Savior,  
Bless him now, we humbly pray;  
Our dear heavenly Father's love and favor  
Be his comfort every day;  
May God's Spirit now in each proceeding  
Favor him with his most gracious leading;  
Thus shall he be truly blessed  
Both in labor and in rest. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 30

*David E. Bennett, Chaplain, Moravian College and Moravian Theological Seminary*

Ephesians 4: 1-7; 11-13

*David L. Wickmann, President, Provincial Elders' Conference, Northern Province*

John 21: 1-19

*Frank L. Crouch, Vice President and Dean of Moravian Theological Seminary*

HYMN

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

Hymn 581

Where cross the crowded ways of life,  
Where sound the cries of race and clan,  
Above the noise of selfish strife  
We hear your voice, O Son of Man.

In haunts of wretchedness and need,  
On shadowed thresholds dark with fears,  
From paths where hide the lures of greed  
We catch the vision of your tears.

From tender childhood's helplessness,  
From human grief and burdened toil,  
From famished souls, from sorrow's stress  
Your heart has never known recoil.

The cup of water giv'n for you  
Still holds the freshness of your grace;  
Yet long these multitudes to view  
The strong compassion of your face.

O Master, from the mountain side  
Make haste to heal these hearts of pain;  
Among these restless throngs abide;  
O tread the city's streets again;

Till all the world shall learn your love,  
And follow where your feet have trod;  
Till glorious from your heav'n above  
Shall come the city of our God.

SERMON

“After These Things . . .”  
*Christopher M. Thomforde*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Anthem: Hallelujah from *Christ on the Mount of Olives* Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827)

Welten singen Dank und Ehre dem erhab'nen Gottessohn. Preiset ihn, ihr Engelchöre, laut im heil'gen Jubelton.	<i>Worlds sing thanks and glory To the exalted Son of God. Praise him, you angel chorus, Loud in holy jubilation.</i>
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Central Moravian Church Choir · Moravian College Choir  
Paula Ring Zerkle, *conductor*

HYMN

Sing Hallelujah, Praise the Lord Hymn 543

Sing hallelujah, praise the Lord! Sing with a cheerful voice;  
Exalt our God with one accord, and in his name rejoice.  
Ne'er cease to sing, O ransomed host, praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
Until in realms of endless light your praises shall unite.

There we to all eternity shall join th'angelic lays  
And sing in perfect harmony to God our Savior's praise;  
He has redeemed us by his blood, and made us kings and priests to God;  
For us, for us, the Lamb was slain! Praise ye the Lord! Amen.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata Charles-Marie Widor (1844–1937)

# CENTRAL MORAVIAN CHURCH

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