

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

June 20, 2010

Worship 8:00 and 10:30

NEW TESTAMENT TIME WORSHIP

"They spent their time in learning from the apostles, taking part in the fellowship, and sharing in the fellowship meals and prayers. Day after day they met as a group in the Temple . . ." (Acts 2:42, 46a)

The Christian community has very little to tell us about the content and nothing concerning the form of worship practiced by the first generation of Christians. We speculate that they continued the Jewish practice of going to the Synagogue and Temple. Additionally, there is evidence that they gathered together with other followers of "The Way", a term used to denote Jesus' early disciples, in one another's homes.

In the Synagogue each Sabbath, they would hear the Torah read and receive the Rabbi's teaching. At the Temple, they could offer prayers, make sacrifices, and receive forgiveness and blessings. Starting sometime after Jesus' death and resurrection, his followers began to meet in each other's homes on the first day of the week, Sunday. They shared fellowship, a meal, memories of Jesus' life and teachings, plus received empowerment from the Holy Spirit.

Today's worship experience is an attempt to recapture some of the spirit of what that "House Worship" in New Testament times might have been like.

THE SYNAGOGUE

Musical Prelude

Welcome, Greetings, and Overview

Opening Prayer

One: We gather today to honor and affirm you, holy and mysterious God. We come together to express our faith and to be transformed by faith. May our worship offer true praise and bring real growth. **Amen.**

Psalter, Song and Praise

Psalm 29, p. 638

*Hymn

"When Morning Gilds the Skies"

#86

*Song

STEP BY STEP

Verse: O God You are my God
And I will ever praise You. (Repeat)

Chorus: I will seek you in the morning
And I will learn to walk in your ways
And step by step you'll lead me
And I will follow you all of my days.

Bridge: I will follow You all of my days
I will follow You all of my days
And step by step You'll lead me
And I will follow You all of my day.

A Reading from the Prophets

Isaiah 55:1-3a, 10-13

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

**Cup of blessing, cup of woe,
Drink together ere we go.**

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love...

**Cup of blessing, cup of woe,
Drink together ere we go.**

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,

Making it bring forth sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty.

But it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

**Cup of blessing, cup of woe,
Drink together ere we go.**

For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees
of the field shall clap their hands.

Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;

And it shall be to God for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

**Cup of blessing, cup of woe,
Drink together ere we go.**

Children's Message *"What Do They Have in Common?"*

Adults' Message *"Don't Let the Moment Slip Away"*

THE TEMPLE

*Psalm 42 (Confessing Pain and Separation)

One: As a deer pants for refreshing water to drink, so my soul longs for you,
O God. Tears have been my food day and night. I am weak with
discouragement. People around me make it worse by asking, where is your
God now?

**All: Yet I remember brighter days. I remember humming songs of praise
and looking forward to offering prayers of thanksgiving with the
community.**

One: Some say I should have hope; things will be better some day. But I can only
imagine the worst. Deep calls to deep as a heavy spirit falls over my heart.

**All: Where are you, God? Hope in God. I am at the end of my hope. God
have mercy.**

*Silent prayer of Confession

*Psalm 43 (Words of Hope and Reconciliation)

One: Hope in God for we will again sing praise.
Trust in God and we will give thanks once again.
The light of God leads us to the very heart of God.

All: God's steadfast love never leaves us.

Offering Ourselves to God in Prayer

"O How He Loves You and Me" by Kurt Kaiser

Becky Hebel

*Hymn

"Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"

#286

*Spirit, spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness, calling and free,
Spirit, spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.*

*Offerings of the People

*Offertory

HOUSE FELLOWSHIP

*Invitation and Blessing

Men: When we find ourselves feeling hopeless, about the world and the situation in which we live, we will remember,

All: You are with us, O God.

Women: When we find ourselves afraid, in an unknown place, feeling rejected by others, we will remember,

All: You are with us, O God.

One: The God who created, is still creating,

The God revealed in the words and life of Jesus, is still speaking.

The God who empowers us to live life abundantly, gives us the Holy Spirit.

Sharing in Refreshment and Fellowship

Fellowship Conversation

Church Community Announcements

The United Church of Christ—**“Our faith is 2000 years old,
our thinking is not.”**