

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 4, 2010

Worship 9:30

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 TEMPLE

Welcome, Greetings, and Overview

Musical Prelude

*Call to Worship

One: Praise God, all nations!

All: Extol God, all people!

One: For great is God's steadfast love to us;

All: and the faithfulness of God endures forever.

*Hymn

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You"

#4

*Psalm 137:1-6 (Confessing Pain and Separation)

One: By the waters of Babylon, there we sat down and wept, when we remembered Zion. On the willows there we hung our lyres. For there our captors required of us songs, and our tormentors, mirth, saying, "Sing to us one of the songs of Zion!"

All: How shall we sing God's song in a foreign land? If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand wither! Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth, if I do not remember you, if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy!

One: How shall we sing God's song in a foreign land?

One: Let us confess those things that separate us from God.

*Silent prayer of Confes

*Psalm 138:3, 7-8 (Words of Hope and Reconciliation)

One: On the day I called you, O God, you answered me, my strength of soul you increased. Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life; you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and your right hand delivers me.

All: God's purpose for me will be fulfilled; your steadfast love, O God, endures forever.

*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.

Offering Ourselves to God in Prayer

Offerings of the People

Offertory

Special Music

THE SYNAGOGUE

Psalter, Song and Praise

Psalm 133, p. 712

A Reading from Israel's History and Prophets

II Kings 6:8-23

*Hymn

"O for a World"

#575

Children's Message

HOUSE FELLOWSHIP

*Invitation and Blessing

One: 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.

One: 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.

*Breaking of Bread and Fellowship (Prayer)

You, O God, provide us with all that is necessary for life. The food that nourishes our bodies is a gift from you. When we become anxious over whether there will be enough to satisfy our hunger, we remember the words of the Psalmist, "*When you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your land, they are filled with good things.*"

Now, as we sit around a table to break bread, we give you thanks for the bounty of the earth. And we give you thanks, also, for sending Jesus, our brother and guide to life abundant. So it is that as we take this first piece of bread we remember his feeding the hungry and his sharing with his followers. Especially are we mindful of Jesus' promise to be present when two or three are gathered in his name, and his commandment to love one another.

Finally, we remember Jesus' words to the twelve disciples at the Passover meal in Jerusalem when he broke bread and gave it to them saying, "*Do this in remembrance of me.*" So we break bread today, remembering Jesus. Amen.

*Kiss of Peace

A Saying of Jesus

(Quelle/Source) QS9

A Writing from Paul

Romans 13:1-7

Fellowship Conversation

Can you recall a time in your life when a literal reading of the words of scripture said one thing, yet you felt, in your heart, God leading you to do another?

Is the practice of historical and literary biblical criticism more helpful or challenging to your faith development?

Community Announcements and Sharing

Pouring of Cup and Blessing

Blessed are you, O God, Sovereign of the universe, who created the fruit of the vine. Today, as we pour juice, we remember Jesus' words at the Passover Seder as he poured the cup after supper and said, "*This cup, that is poured out for you is the cup of the new covenant. I will no longer drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the Kingdom of God.*" As we drink today our prayer is **Come O Kingdom — Come Lord Jesus. Amen.**

The United Church of Christ — **"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."**