

## ***Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time***

***July 11, 2010***

***Worship 9:30***

### **THE FORMING CHURCH**

The first followers of "The Way" of Jesus were a minority movement within Judaism. They believed Jesus to be God's promised Messiah, who would usher in a Kingdom of Justice and Peace. Three other groups within Judaism disliked and even hated Jesus. The Pharisees, who were strict observers of Jewish religious laws and traditions, spoke against Jesus because he broke their rules. The rich and powerful opposed Jesus because he criticized them threatening their status and, like the prophets before him, called for compassion and sharing with the poor. The third group of people, to turn away from Jesus, were those who wanted him to use his power and influence to lead a revolt that would drive the Roman conquerors out of Judea. When Jesus refused to lead Israel in a war of rebellion, this last group turned against him. Consequently, the followers of Jesus were not a large or popular group within Judaism.

Outside of the Jewish community, the Gentile population began to hear about and embrace the evolving message concerning Jesus, the Son of God, who had come to bring God's justice and peace to the world. The justice and peace that Paul preached in Jesus Christ, was very different from the justice and peace of Rome that Caesar, the Son of God, offered the world. These Gentiles would have accepted Jewish monotheism, respected Jewish morality, family ethics, and communal values, and, most especially, attended the synagogue regularly. Paul's message resonated with the Gentiles and it was from their numbers that a new religious sect emerged, Christian.

As the Gospels were being written, in the last half of the First Century, communities of Jesus' followers were forming. These followers of Jesus came together on the first day of each week to share a meal, to look backwards to Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, to look forward to his "return" in judgment, and to experience the Spirit's presence. By the middle of the Second Century these "Lord's Day" gatherings began to take on their own fixed forms of worship. Central to that worship was teaching concerning "The Way" of Jesus, and celebrating the fellowship of the new community, the "Spirit of Christ", the "Body of Christ."

The worship service that follows, is an attempt to share some of the flavor of what such a service might have been like.

## HOUSE FELLOWSHIP WORSHIP

Greeting and Introduction

Musical Prelude

Presentation of the People's Offering

(The Bread and Juice is brought forward.)

\*Praising God

Psalm 15 (pg. 627)

\*Hymn

*"Enter, Rejoice, and Come In"*

#73

\*Song of Praise

\*Kiss of Peace

Fellowship and Prayers

Reading for the Day

From the Prophets

Isaiah 62:8-12

A Letter from Paul

I Corinthians 11:17-22

A Saying of Jesus

St. Mark 10:28-31

Children's Message/Teaching

Adult Message/Teaching

The Lord's Supper — Eucharist (To Give Thanks)

Remembering Jesus' Last Supper

Eucharistic Prayer (From a Second Century Liturgy)

As for the poured cup: We thank you, our Father, for the holy vine of David your servant, which you made known to us through Jesus your servant. Glory be to you forever. And for the broken bread: We thank you, our Father, for the life and knowledge which you made known to us through Jesus your servant. Glory be to you forever. As this bread that is broken was scattered as seed upon the mountains and then gathered together and became one loaf, so let your Church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your Kingdom, for yours is the glory and the power through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.

## Sharing the Bread and Juice

Please pass the bread tray down each pew. The person who holds the tray says, **"This is the body of Christ that is for you. Do this in remembrance."** After the person has eaten the bread, hand them the tray; that person repeats the process.

Please follow the same steps for sharing the juice. The phrase is **"This cup is the new covenant in Christ's blood. Do this in remembrance."**

## Thanksgiving for Christ's presence and this Fellowship

\*Hymn of Petition

*"O Day of God, Draw Near"*

#611

\*Offering for the Church Ministry (Mite Box)

(NOTE: The Deacons would have taken bread and juice to all those members of the faith community not present at the Lord's Day service. They would also have distributed money to the poor and needy.)

\*Postlude