

Prince Edward North Pastoral Charge
Wesley United Church Friendship United Church
Mountain View Demorestville
October 4, 2009

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Gathering Hymn VU 315 Holy, Holy, Holy(1st verse)
Welcome and Announcements
The Lighting of the Christ Candle

Hymn VU 402 We Are One

Call To Worship

In our desire to find common ground and community,

We come to you, O God, to show us the way.

As we remember the words of Jesus, For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among you.

Your presence is felt all around the world.

Opening Prayer

Source of our hope and joy of our hearts, we gather in union with people from the far corners of the world, thankful that your love is able to overcome all that divides us from one another. We gather as disciples of Jesus to share the mystery of faith as we unite with one another and with your people everywhere. Feed us by your life-giving Spirit as we break bread and remember the story of our faith. All glory is yours, God, now and forever. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

On this World Communion Sunday, we confess to insensitivities of spirit. We have not savoured each new day. We have not seen injustices right before our eyes. We have withheld touches that can heal. We have closed our ears to cries of pain. And yet we are yours and in this we find our hope. By your grace, may we flavour the world with good news, look toward a peace-filled future, extend

ourselves for the sake of others, and listen to hear what hurts. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Assurance of God's Love

Love never gives up. Love puts up with anything, always looks for the best, never looks back, love keeps going to the end.

God is love and we are loved.

Amen

Hymn VU 226 For The Beauty Of The Earth
Caregivers In Action
Children's Time

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

Choir

First Scripture

Second Scripture

Sermon

RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE

Hymn VU 469 We Gather Here

Communion

God's banquet is coming. A time when all will gather from north, east, west and south. A banquet where the rich and powerful will sit with the weak and poverty-stricken. A table where young and old will learn from each other. A time when all will sit together in peace. "And the wolf will lie down with the lamb." Here at this table we get a foretaste of God's banquet. This is indeed God's table, not the church's, and so all who seek to follow the Way are welcome to eat and drink from it. Come and taste the grace eternal. Come and see that God is good.

The Spirit of God be with you.

And also with you.

It is time to give thanks to God.

God of the table, as we gather to taste your banquet, we offer prayers of thanksgiving. In this season of harvest, we give thanks for the fruit of the earth, for the food on our tables. In this global village, we give thanks for our brothers, sisters, neighbours both near and far. In this world of strife and broken relationships, we give thanks for your hope, for the ways you draw us together. God of banquet, we give thanks for your witness and work in the world across the ages.

We remember Moses and Miriam and the people they led to freedom.

We remember the prophets who arise over and over again to call your people back.

We remember the countless saints who have gone before us, preparing the path, and we join our voices to theirs in hymns of thankfulness and praise.

Holy, Holy is your name indeed.

Amen.

And in the midst of our thankfulness, we remember the one in whose name we gather, Jesus, child of Mary.

We thank you for his witness, for his commitments to your Way, for the way he brought healing to broken spirits and broken bodies. Thankfully we remember his death, his resurrection, and his promised return for the banquet of grace.

And now, as we gather at the table, we remember the last meal he shared with his friends. How they gathered in an upper room to celebrate the story of liberation and freedom. How he took bread, blessed it, broke it, and passed it among them saying, "Take, eat. This is my body broken for you. When you eat this, remember me and look for the hope in your world." Then later he took the cup. He blessed it and passed it saying, "This cup is the cup of the new covenant, made in my death. Whenever you drink from it, remember."

And so, God of the cross, empty tomb, and banquet, we remember the life and death of Jesus and we give thanks for the love he poured out on all he met: sinner and saint; leper and clean; Jew and Gentile. We remember and we share that great and terrible mystery:

Christ has died,

**Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

God of the banquet that is and is to come, we gather with your people all around the world to remember and share this meal. Creator, Source of Love; Christ love incarnate; Spirit love's flowing power be praised. Now and forever, Amen.

The bread we break is the bread of life. The cup we share is the cup of love. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come and eat the banquet awaits.

Offerings of Our Life's Work "Take These Gifts"

**Take these gifts and let them be
Used as blessings sent from thee
Take our lives and use us all
For your glory and your call.**

Hymn

VU 457

As We Gather at Your Table

Commissioning & Benediction

Choral Amen