

October 4, 2009, 9:15 am -Fresh Spirit Worship - World Communion Sunday

**As we gather for worship,
please introduce yourself to those around you.
There are no strangers in God's house.**

CALL TO WORSHIP (see insert) *Who Is Like You?* Mac Powell

WELCOME

REFLECTION FOR PEACE

GATHERING THE PEOPLE

One: We gather as members of Knox Church faith community; to pray, to praise, and to remember.

All: In bread and wine unite us, O God.

One: We gather in solidarity with Christians of every continent; Christians of many denominations.

All: In bread and wine unite us, O God.

One: We gather as disciples of Jesus Christ, to hear words of truth, compassion, and justice.

All: In bread and wine unite us, O God.

One: We gather in the tradition of the saints, to be strengthened and serve faithfully.

All: In bread and wine unite us. Let us worship God!

OPENING SONG (see insert) *All the Ends of the Earth* Bobby Fisher

RENEWING THE COVENANT

One: Have we thought, "Who are our neighbors?"

**All: They are the family members and friends we know.
We love them, we listen to them, we argue with them.**

One: Who are our neighbors?

All: They are the members and friends of our faith community.

We worship with them, we work with them, we disagree with them.

One: Who are our neighbors?

All: They live in our locality. We chat with them, we share news with them, we have common problems, and enjoy a joke with them.

One: Who are our neighbors?

All: They live far from our home and church; we do not know their names. We support them with our gifts, we speak and act with them for freedom, out of a living standard we take for granted.

One: Jesus reminds us that there is a measure of neighborliness. "Love your neighbor as you love yourself."

-----Time for silent reflection-----

One: We will take our responsibility to our neighbors seriously.

All: The ones we love, the ones we like, the ones we don't get along with.

One: As you make the "Golden Rule" your own, wonderful things happen, surprising changes take place.

All: Quarrels are forgotten, prejudices are overcome, sharing is second nature.

One: And God's peace is yours, the peace that lasts.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE

TIME WITH CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 9:38-50 CEV

John said, "Teacher, we saw a man using your name to force demons out of people. But he wasn't one of us, and we told him to stop."

Jesus said to his disciples:

Don't stop him! No one who works miracles in my name will soon turn and say something bad about me. Anyone who isn't against us is for us. And anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name, just because you belong to me, will surely be rewarded.

It will be terrible for people who cause even one of my little followers to sin. Those people would be better off thrown into the ocean with a heavy stone tied around their necks. So if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off! You would be better off to go

into life crippled than to have two hands and be thrown into the fires of hell that never go out. If your foot causes you to sin, chop it off. You would be better off to go into life lame than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. If your eye causes you to sin, get rid of it. You would be better off to go into God's kingdom with only one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell. The worms there never die, and the fire never stops burning.

Everyone must be salted with fire. Salt is good. But if it no longer tastes like salt, how can it be made salty again? Have salt among you and live at peace with each other.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS BACK TO GOD

OFFERING SONG *We Are Called to Serve* Julie & Tim Smith

We are called to serve, we are called by grace to cherish
We are called to serve, we are called by name, and in all we

Christ in every face. God's love proclaim.

Solo verses:

Called beyond our human understanding,
Called before the world came into view.
Within your mother's womb, your name was known to me,
For you did not choose me, no, I chose you.

Called to be a light amid the darkness,
Called to help a doubting world believe.
"Empowered by my Spirit, anointed with my love,
You are called to give and share what you believe."

© 1990 Resource Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 10:25-37 CEV

An expert in the Law of Moses stood up and asked Jesus a question to see what he would say. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to have eternal life?"

Jesus answered, "What is written in the Scriptures? How do you understand them?"

The man replied, "The Scriptures say, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind.' They also say, 'Love your neighbors as much as you love yourself.'"

Jesus said, "You have given the right answer. If you do this, you will have eternal life."

But the man wanted to show that he knew what he was talking about. So he asked Jesus, "Who are my neighbors?"

Jesus replied: "As a man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, robbers attacked him and grabbed everything he had. They beat him up and ran off, leaving him half dead.

A priest happened to be going down the same road. But when he saw the man, he walked by on the other side. Later a temple helper came to the same place. But when he saw the man who had been beaten up, he also went by on the other side. A man from Samaria then came traveling along that road. When he saw the man, he felt sorry for him and went over to him. He treated his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put him on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. The next morning he gave the innkeeper two silver coins and said, 'Please take care of the man. If you spend more than this on him, I will pay you when I return.'" Then Jesus asked, "Which one of these three people was a real neighbor to the man who was beaten up by robbers?"

The teacher answered, "The one who showed pity."

Jesus said, "Go and do the same!"

SERMON *Say It and Mean It* The Rev. Thomas D. York

INVITATION TO COMMUNION (in unison)

As bread that was scattered on the hillside, was gathered together and made one, so too, we, your people, scattered throughout the world, are gathered together around your table and become one.

As grapes grown in the field are gathered together and pressed into wine, so too are we drawn together and pressed by our times to share a common lot and are transformed into your life-blood for all.

So let us prepare to eat and drink as Jesus taught us: Inviting the stranger to our table and welcoming the poor. May their absence serve to remind us of the divisions this Eucharist seeks to heal. And may their presence help transform us into the Body of Christ we share.

INVITATION SONG (see insert) *In This Place* Trevor Thomson

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING and PRAYER OF OUR LORD

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

COMMUNION SONG (see insert) *Bread For the World* Bernadette Ferrell

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (in unison)

We thank you God for this time of communion with you. We give you praise that we are no longer hungry because we have been filled by your holiness. We give you thanks that we are no longer thirsty because we have been filled with your great love. Help us to go out into your world with courage, taking our gifts and sharing them with others. Amen.

CLOSING SONG (see insert) *In Christ There Is No East or West* M. McClellan

BLESSING THE PEOPLE

Sources for today's liturgy: Gathering - *Prayers to Share, Year C*, David Sparks; Renewing the Covenant - *Prayers to Share, Year C*, David Sparks

Thanks to Heidi Knellinger and Craig Richmond for serving as liturgists this morning.

If you feel called to serve God by researching, writing or speaking liturgy in future services, please feel free to talk with any of the worship leaders or drop a note in the offering plate.

Fresh Spirit Prayer Request cards and offering envelopes are available in the black fellowship pad folders. If you have a prayer request, concern or joy you wish to share, please fill out a card and place it in the offering bags. All concerns and joys are welcome!

