

The Order of Celebration for the Worship of God
The 5th Sunday of Epiphany
February 7, 2010

To Ponder as we Gather

“Everyone wants to be somebody; nobody wants to grow.”
Goethe

Greetings and Welcome
Shared Announcements

Welcoming Song #2030 “The First Song of Isaiah”
(sung twice) (black hymnal)

The Tone Calls us to Silence

Prelude “O Lux Beata Trinitas” setting by Lester H. Groom

A Call to be of this day (unison)

Let us gather in the memory that we are called to be the people of God and to participate in God’s mission in the world. Let us gather to receive again the lives which are given back to us. That we might be the people God intended. Let us celebrate the unknown, meeting it with confidence. All this we do in the name of Christ who welcomes us.

***Singing** #2001 “We Sing to You O God” (black hymnal)

A Time For Children

#2233 “This is Where Children Belong” (black hymnal)

The Lord’s Prayer

We Greet One Another

We Offer Our Gifts

Offertory

9:00 “Troika” by Serge Prokofiev/arr. Douglas Wagner
Handbell Choir

10:45 “Verleih uns Frieden” by John Eggert

One: All things come from you, O God!

Many: And of your own have we given you!

***Song Of Praise #94 (red hymnal)**

The Community of Faith in Prayer (we offer prayers of concern and celebration.) We close with:

One: Lord, in your mercy

Many: Hear our prayer

An Anthem 9:00 “Celtic Laud” by C. Courtney
Chancel Choir, Tara Moore, flute

10:45 “Will The Circle Be Unbroken”
Jubilee Choir

Witness from the Ancient Text Luke 13: 22-30

A Contemporary Witness

“The Narrow Door”
Rev. Dr. Brolin Parker

We Celebrate Holy Communion (see insert)
Singing as the elements are brought forward
#356 “When We Are Living” vs. 1 & 2
(red hymnal)

***Singing** #357 “Just as I Am, Without One Plea”
(red hymnal)

A Final Blessing

The Postlude “Sonata in C minor: I Preludio”
By Alexandre Guilmant

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Unless otherwise noted, the liturgy for today was written by Rev. Brolin Parker.

Bible Notes...Luke 13:22-30

In this Luke passage you can see hints of the wonderful story Matthew tells with the same theme, the story of the Righteous King with the line, "When did we feed you and clothe you and shelter you?" And the answer, "When you did it to someone who needed it."

What Luke has done is to weave several "sayings" of Jesus together. It does not give us a complete idea, as does the Matthew story for him, of what Luke is trying to tell us. Luke does not specify here, as he does in his wonderful story of the Man who Fell Among Thieves, that helping others is a key to the question of who is in Jesus' kingdom.

Still, it is a mistake to think that any of us can "earn" our way into God's love. The idea of first and last in the kingdom is not one of Christianity's best theological ideas. God loves EVERYONE! Whether one responds to that love or not is one's own responsibility.



Vision Statement

In Christ's name, the vision of Saratoga Springs United Methodist Church is to be a growing faith community that unconditionally welcomes, accepts and nurtures everyone wherever they are on their own spiritual journey.

Our Mission Statement

The Mission of Saratoga Springs United Methodist Church is to spread God's word as we embrace persons of any age, gender, race, ethnic background, sexual orientation, economic condition, physical or mental ability as full participants in a loving community of worship, fellowship, study, and outreach.

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