

**The Order of Celebration for the Worship of God
The Last Sunday of Epiphany**

February 14, 2010

To Ponder as we Gather

*"If we did not live venturously, I have no doubt we would all
wind up living faded, fatalistic, and aged lives."*

Virginia Woolf

**Welcome and Greetings
Shared Announcements**

Welcoming Song #503 "Let It Breathe on Me" (cong. seated)
(red hymnal)

The Tone Calls us to Silence

Prelude

A Call to Worship (unison)

**Loving God, you have lead us to this place,
Not to shield us from heartache and the pain of
human life,
But to heal us and inspire us, to gently redirect us, till
we see the world as you do and love it with your love.**

The Ione Community

***Singing** #2242 "Walk with Me" (black hymnal)

The Anthem 9:00am "Do Unto Others"
by Vicki Hancock Wright
Children's Choir

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

One: All things come from you, O God!

Many: And of your own have we given you!

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

We Offer Our Prayers (following the pastoral prayer the
congregation is invited to lift up their own prayers of
concern and celebration.) We close with:

One: Lord, in your mercy

Many: Hear our prayer

An Anthem 10:45 Paula Lomasney, Guitar

Witness from the Ancient Text Acts 17: 22-31

Singing #505 "When Our Confidence is Shaken"
(red hymnal)

A Contemporary Witness

"A Sermon for People Who Feel a Strange Religious
Impulse But Do Not Know What To Make Of It"
Rev. Dr. Brolin Parker

***Singing** #451 "Be Thou My Vision" (red hymnal)

A Final Blessing

The Postlude

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

Bible Notes...Acts 17: 22-31

The Book of Acts was written by the author of the Gospel of Luke as a "second volume" of a two volume work.

Acts begins where the Gospel leaves off. After describing the Day of Pentecost, where the Risen Christ appears in an upper room to the disciples and other followers of Jesus (including Mary, his mother), Luke writes about the work of Paul and the work of Peter.

What Luke says about Paul in Acts is at variance at many points with what Paul says about himself in his letters.

Paul in his letters never mentions going to Athens. Here, in Acts, Paul, in Athens, is speaking brilliantly to a gathered, rather hostile audience. In his letters he confesses to his followers that all know he is not a polished speaker.

This is not to dismiss the message in the Acts passage. Perhaps the most valuable sentence in this passages is that God is not far from us. We may be "groping" to find God, but God is there - waiting for us - ALWAYS.

Interesting that the famous line in Acts, "In God we live and move and have our being" Luke attributes to a Greek poet, probably Zeno, a philosopher/poet who believed God was the world's soul which indwelt in all thing.

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.



Saratoga Springs United Methodist Church

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