

Western North Carolina Association
United Church of Christ
10/1/16

Gathering Music	Annette DeJong
Welcome:	Diane Tugel
One: May the peace of Christ be with you	
Many: And also with you.	
* Call to Worship	Dawn Wilson
One: God gathers the outcasts and heals the brokenhearted...	
Many: We will sing praises to God!	
One: God supports the afflicted and cares for the sorrowing...	
Many: We will sing praises to God!	
One: God builds us up and strengthens us....	
Many: We will sing praises to God!	
One: Our God knows the infinite and counts the stars above...	
Many: We will sing praises to God!	
One: Great is our God and abundant is God's love...	
All: Praise God from whom all blessings flow!!	
	Psalm 147
* Passing of the Peace	Dawn Wilson
* Hymn: It is Well with My Soul	
Scripture Reading:	Michael Baldonado
New Testament: 3 John 1:2	
Old Testament: Psalm 103: 1-8	
Pastoral Prayer	Diane Tugel
Offertory Invitation	Colleen Samson
The offering today will in support of the WNCA staff.	
* Offertory Response:	Annette DeJong
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!	
Praise God, all creatures here below!	
Praise God, above, you heavenly hosts!	
Praise God, our Christ, and Holy Ghost! Amen.	
Offertory Dedication	Colleen Samson
Commissioning of New Officers and Elected Positions	Jerry Rhyne
	Edward Davis

Celebration of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Meal

One: This is the joyful feast of the people of God! We've gathered from across western North Carolina around Christ's table, meeting with gratitude for our life together. This table is for all who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people.

Call to Confession

One: God calls us in our lives to be like the mustard seed and the leavening of Jesus' parables. We must use our hands to be incorporated into the world and grow. Let us ponder for a moment opportunities that we ignore, keeping God's seeds of justice from germinating or bread for the hungry from rising. (silence)

Prayer of Confession

All: Creator God, you made us to be neighbors, members of one family blessed with great diversity. You created us to be helpers and friends to one another, entrusting to us your justice and your joy. Yet we have denied justice and joy to many, creating worlds of poverty, pain, lost opportunities, and absence of hope. In so many ways, we break each other's hearts. Still, you do not reject us. We ask your forgiveness and pray to be transformed.

Time of Reflection

All: Loving God, you restore us to each other and to you, mending our hearts and repairing the world. Through the power of your Spirit, you shape us to be for others what Christ is for us: pardon and peace, new life and blessing. We give you thanks for your love, forgiveness, and constant presence. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

One: The One who makes a covenant on our hearts is faithful, and forgives us our sins and failures. In Christ, God offers forgiving grace and welcome into a community of trust, abundance, and hope. Let us give thanks for the mercy of God.

*** Communion Prayer and Prayer of our Savior**

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts!

All: We lift them to God!

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High!

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise!

One: We give you thanks, God of majesty and mercy, for calling forth the creation and raising us from dust by the breath of your being.

We remember the covenant you made with your people Israel, and we give you thanks for all our ancestors in faith. We rejoice that you call us to reconciliation with you, with our current communities of faith and all people everywhere, and that you remain faithful to your covenant even when we are faithless.

We rejoice that you call the entire human family to this table of sacrifice and victory. We come in remembrance and celebration of the gift of Jesus Christ, whom you sent, in the fullness of time, to be the Good News. Born of Mary, our sister in faith, Christ lived among us to reveal the mystery of your Word, to suffer and die on the cross, to be raised from death on the third day, and then to live in glory.

Because you have done the completely unexpected deed, because you have raised Jesus to eternal life, because you grant us the presence of the risen Christ among us, because you offer eternal life to those who trust in you, we praise and magnify you name.

We bless you, gracious God, for the presence of your Holy Spirit in the church you have gathered. With your sons and daughters of faith in all places and times, we praise you with joy:

*Holy, Holy, Holy, God of love and majesty,
The whole universe speaks of your glory,
O God Most High
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God!
Hosanna in the Highest!*

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, and on the eve of death, Jesus gathered the disciples for the feast of Passover. Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying, "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

*Christ has died.
Christ has risen.
Christ comes again.
Glory be to you, O God!*

Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know you as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives forever.
We pray now as Jesus taught us.....(debts and debtors)
Our God who art in heaven.....

* **Breaking Bread and Pouring Cup**

One: The bread which we break is the brokenness of the body of Christ.
The cup that we pour is the new life Christ gives.
The gifts of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God!

One: Come for all things are ready.

* **Sharing the Elements**

* Hymn of Communion – One Bread, One Body

* **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

One: Let us give thanks.

All: God of welcome, we are so thankful to be called into relationship with each other.
Using this meal to sustain us, guide us into Your service. Let us truly be your hands and feet in a world that searches for your presence. Amen.

* **Benediction and Sending Forth**

Worship Leaders

Rev. Jerry Rhyne, WNCA Minister for Church Affairs
Rev. William Sowers, President, WNCA Board of Directors
Rev. Dr. Edward Davis, Southern Conference Minister
Annette DeJong, Bethany UCC, Musician
Communion Servers and Ushers are Board Members of the WNCA.
Rev. H. Warren Casiday - Parliamentarian