Order of Service 16 Dec 2012

9:30

**Title: Wells of Joy**

**Centering**

*Please enjoy the music as you invite yourself to be fully present in this time and place, letting go of whatever distracts you from the present moment.*

**Call to Worship**

*based on Philippians 4:4-7*

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.

*Gentleness is....listen to the words offered and wonder yourself about what gentleness means to you.*

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your hearts be made known to God.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**Song** SFP #20 Heaven is singing for joy

**Welcome**

**Acknowledgement of Land**

**Reading** Luke 3:7-18

**Drawing from Wells of Joy**

*Stories that offer pathways to the wells of joy.*

**Instrumental Music**

*Time for silent reflection on those times when we have enabled others to draw from the wells of joy, and times when we have neglected the opportunity to do so.*

**Prayers of the People**

*based on Isaiah 12:2-6*

*The Song “Come and Find the Quiet Centre” is a part of these shared prayers. We begin with singing:*

**Sing v. 1 Come and Find the Quiet Centre #7 SFP**

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might; God has become my salvation.

*Salvation is...listen to the words offered and wonder for yourself what salvation means to you.*

*time for silent prayer*

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

We pray for those who cannot reach the wells of joy.

*time for silent prayer*

And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God’s name; make known God’s deeds among the nations; proclaim that God’s name is exalted.

**Sing v. 2 Come and Find**

Sing praises to the LORD, for God has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.

We pray for the groaning earth that she may sing anew.

*time for silent prayer*

Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

**Sing v. 3 Come and Find**

**Holy Communion**

*Invitation*

*Great Thanksgiving*

Let us lift up our hearts.

........***We lift them to the Lord.***

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

........***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God.

In your love, the earth and its inhabitants live and move and have their being.

Through your love, you empower faithful prophets like John

to call us to turn to you and bear fruits of justice and mercy.

Out of love, you are made known to us in Jesus.

Liberating the lame and gathering the outcast,

he confronted our oppressors

and lifted us from shame to honour.

Though he was cut down and killed

he is with us always,

renewing us in love, banishing our fears,

leading us to deep wells of joy.

Therefore in company with all creation,

each creature singing its joy to be alive,

we sing:

**Holy, holy, holy One,**

**God of gentleness and joy,**

**Heaven and earth are full of your generosity, kindness and mercy.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of such great Love.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

*Institution*

(The story of the last meal Jesus shared with his disciples before death.)

*Consecration*

(A prayer of blessing over the bread and cup, shared together in the form of a paraphrase of the Lord’s Prayer.)

**God, may your name be holy.**

**May your rule take place.**

**Give us each day our daily bread.**

**Pardon our debts, for we ourselves pardon**

**everyone in debt to us.**

**And do not bring us to trial**

**into a trying situation.**  *(B Mack/Q)*

**Amen.**

*adapted from Mack, B. L. 1993.* ***The Lost Gospel. The Book of Q and Christian Origins.*** *New York: HarperSanFrancisco.*

*Fraction*

(The bread is broken and the cup is lifted.)

*Distribution*

Please come forward to receive and stay in a circle at the front for the blessing.

*Prayer of Thanks*

We are one with the mystery and Source and Sustainer of all that exists.

We rejoice in our human capacity

to wonder and marvel,

to appreciate,

to rejoice,

and to give thanks.

*from Rex Hunt, “Liturgies for the Celebration of Life” at* <http://www.rexaehuntprogressive.com>

**Blessing Song In the Lord be Ever Thankful #26 SFP**

**Blessing**

*based on Philippians 4:4-7*

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your hearts be made known to God.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**Passing the Peace**