

September 7, 2008
Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

RECOVENANTING SUNDAY

The hymns are from the small, blue hymnal.

We Gather As God's People



1. Lighting the candle:

2. Processional Hymn No. 397

“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!”

(Hyfrydol)

3. Call To Worship:

Leader 1: God called the people of Israel to be ready to leave slavery in Egypt.

Leader 2: Are you ready for God to lead you into new life?

People: Yes, we are ready!

Leader 1: St. Paul reminds us of Jesus' call to love our new neighbours as ourselves.

Leader 2: Are you ready to love one another?

People: Yes, we are ready!

Leader 1: Jesus calls us to work out our differences, and find ways to get along.

Leader 2: Are you ready to work together to proclaim the gospel?

People: Yes, we are ready!

Leader 1: Our psalm calls us to sing a new song to God.

Leader 2: Are you ready to sing praises to God?

People: Yes, we are ready!

Leaders: Then let us worship God!



4. Opening Prayer:

God of freedom, God of love, God of new life: we gather here within the sacred circle of this community to learn about your love. We want to love one another, and we want to love you. We know that those things go hand in hand. Help us to be your loving people. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.



5. Hymn No. 728

“Praise Him, Praise Him”

(Praise Him)

6. Prayer of Confession (based on Romans 13:8-14):

One: St. Paul tells us that, in order to fulfill all of God’s law, we simply need to love one another.

All: It’s not always easy.

One: Love does no wrong to another.

All: It’s not always easy.

One: God wants us to conduct ourselves properly all day long.

All: It’s not always easy.

One: We are not to get caught up in fighting, in jealousy, in not caring about others, in living as if there were no tomorrow and nothing mattered.

All: It’s not always easy.

One: Forgive us, O God, for the times when we give up; the times when we feel like failures because we don’t walk in your way; the times when we forget about others, and think only of ourselves. Help us remember how to be the people you dream of.

All: Guide us in all of our life’s journey, O God.

7. Assurance of Pardon:

One: God is loving and forgiving, ready to give renewed hope and assurance, ready to give strength and salvation. So let us celebrate the good news...

We are a forgiven people!

All: Thanks be to God.

8. Passing the Peace:

Today is Recovenanting Sunday, a time when we re-gather after a summer filled with a variety of experience. Some of us haven’t seen each other for a while. Others among us are new. We have gathered together in the sacred circle of our church family to worship God and to make some promises to God and to each other, about the year that lies ahead. We have confessed our sin and been assured that we are forgiven. Now in joy and freedom as God’s forgiven people, let us reach out in friendship to one another, passing the peace of Christ saying, “God be with you” and responding, “And also with you.”

9. Children’s Time

Alethea Power

10. Hymn No. 724

“When He Cometh”

(Jewels)

We Listen For God's Word



11. Stories and Blessings from Sarah's Circle:

Sarah: *(steps forward with Abraham)*

My name is Sarah and this is my husband, Abraham. A long, long time ago, God called us to leave the land where we lived and to set out on a journey to a new land. All we had was a promise that God would bless us with many descendants and give us this new promised land in which to live. We trusted that God would guide us, and help us along the way. When we arrived in Canaan we knew that this was the land that God had promised, but we still had no children.

We were getting old and having children seemed no longer possible. Then one day some messengers came to see us and said that God had sent them to tell us that we were going to have a child. Well, when I heard that I almost split my sides laughing. I know it was impolite, but couldn't help it and neither could Abraham. Two old folks like us having a child? And strange as it may seem I did become pregnant and we did have a son. We decided to call him Isaac, which in the Hebrew language means "laughter." And so it was, that in our last years together, life was full of the laughter and fun of Isaac's childhood. I pray that God will bless your community here with the laughter of many children.



Leah: *(steps forward with Rachel and Jacob)*

I'm Leah, and this is Rachel, my younger sister. Both of us are Jacob's wives. Don't be shocked. We live in a very different time from you and it was perfectly acceptable for any man who could afford it, to have more than one wife and many, many children. Anyway that is not what I want to tell you. What I want to tell you about is an event which has changed the life of our whole family. It all happened one night when we were on our way back to Jacob's homeland, the land that had been given to his grandparents—

Abraham and Sarah. Jacob had run away from home as a teenager, because he had tricked and hurt his twin brother, and he was afraid. He had lived in Haran and we raised our family there, but now it was time to go back and face his brother and ask for forgiveness for what he had done.

Jacob had been troubled for days because he was afraid that Esau would still be very angry with him. One night he asked us all to go ahead and set up camp because he wanted to stay behind and spend the night alone. Apparently, from the moment he lay down, he realized that he was not alone. Someone or something seemed to be wrestling with him. He wasn't sure whether it was real or a dream. Sometimes he felt as if he was struggling with himself, sometimes he felt as if he was struggling with God. Whatever it was, Jacob struggled all night and hung on for dear life. He would not let go until the

stranger gave him a blessing. And Jacob not only received a blessing, the stranger also gave him a new name "Israel," which means "the one who struggled with God." "Israel" is now the name of our whole family. We are called "the people of Israel. The next day we met Esau and his family. Esau welcomed all of us and forgave Jacob. What a homecoming that was, back to the land God had given to Abraham and Sarah. And what a big family we were!...Abraham and Sarah's many grandchildren and great-grandchildren!

And you can be assured that God will travel with you through your happy times and worried times, as God did with all of us.



Dinah: *(steps forward with Joseph)*

I'm Dinah, daughter of Jacob and Leah. Abraham and Sarah were my great grandparents. Joseph, my half-brother, was our father's favourite child. My brothers were terribly jealous of him to the point where they wanted to get rid of him. One day when they were out in the fields with the sheep, they took Joseph and sold him to a passing caravan that was on its way to Egypt. Then they told our father that Joseph had been killed by a wild animal. My poor father! He cried and cried. My brothers knew they had done a terrible thing!

In the meantime, Joseph ended up in Egypt and to make a long story short, he became Pharaoh's prime minister. The Prime Minister of Egypt! Incredible! We found all this out during a famine when our brothers had to go to Egypt to buy food. They didn't recognize Joseph at first, but he told them who he was and forgave them for what they had done. He persuaded them to bring our whole family to live in Egypt where he could take care of us. I've never seen anything like the reunion between Joseph and our father Jacob. I'll never forget the celebration we had. So that's how the people of Israel came to be living in Egypt. And I hope that your community will have great times of reconciliation and celebration like we did.



Miriam: *(steps forward with Moses)*

My name is Miriam and this is my brother Moses. A lot of years and generations went by as our people lived and flourished in Egypt. Then some of the Egyptians became resentful of our prosperity and forced the people of Israel to become slaves. We were treated very badly. I will never forget when the order came to kill all our new baby boys and mother and I hid my baby brother Moses in the bulrushes at the river's edge. The princess found him as we hoped she would, and raised him in the palace. The princess hired my mother to look after him, so we're able to tell him the stories of our people and who he really was. Then one day Moses saw a slave driver beating one of our people very badly, so he beat up the slave driver. He

knew he would be in big trouble, so he ran away to Midian and we did not see him for a long time. Life was very hard. We had no freedom—only hard, hard work to do. We cried a lot, and prayed asking God to please help us. We wanted to return to the land of our ancestors—the land given to Abraham and Sarah. And then one day my brother Aaron came running to tell us that Moses had returned. God had spoken to Moses out in the wilderness and asked him to lead us all out of Egypt. And I understand that this very exciting story of our escape from the cruel king Pharaoh, and our travels through the desert back to the Promised Land, are the stories that you are going to be hearing over the next few weeks. I hope you will enjoy our story and feel God close to you, showing you how to live, just as we did. *(All speakers exit during the singing of this last chorus.)*



12. Participation Story based on Exodus 12:1-14

Reader: Moses went to see the Pharaoh and told him “God says, “Let my people go!” But Pharaoh would not let the people go. Then some terrible things happened like plagues of polluted water and frogs and flies and grasshoppers and sick animals. But still, Pharaoh would not let the people go. Then God spoke to Moses and said, “Get the people ready, because this last plague that is coming will cause the Pharaoh to let you go.” As I tell the story I need you to help with the chant **“It’s time to get ready—let’s go!”** As we say it we will slap our thighs twice and clap our hands twice.

Moses has gone to see the king many times. He told the king, “God says: Let my people go!” But the king has not let us go. Still Moses continues to tell us, “God loves us. God wants to help us. **It’s time to get ready – let’s go!**” Soon we will be freed from slavery in Egypt! Soon we will be on our way to the promised land and a new life! **It’s time to get ready – let’s go!** This is what God wants us to do right now: we must gather together all of the silver and gold we can find. And prepare animals and clothing and food for a journey. And find a lamb for each family. God will tell us the last things to do before it’s time to go. **It’s time to get ready – let’s go!**”

We all believe Moses. We listen to what he says. Every one of us – fathers, mothers, grandfathers, grandmothers, little children – even the babies listen. We hurry home to do what Moses has said. **“It’s time to get ready – let’s go!”**

We’re getting very excited, and a little bit scared. **It’s time to get ready – let’s go!** Quiet. Moses is giving the final instructions. We cook the lambs that we gathered, and have a big meal. We take some of the blood from the lambs and put it outside on the doors of our houses. **It’s time to get ready – let’s go!** The women bake bread that is flat because there is no time to let it rise. **It’s time to get ready – let’s go!**

The king is terrified. He calls for Moses and says “Get out of here!” **It’s time to get ready – let’s go!** And so we get up. Moses and Aaron and Miriam say to hurry! **It’s**

time to get ready – let’s go! We all get dressed and put on our best sandals. It is going to be a long, long walk. **It’s time to get ready – let’s go!** Miriam helps the women pack. Moses and Aaron help the men with loading the donkeys and getting the animals ready. **It’s time to get ready – let’s go!**

As we get ready, we know we will always remember this night. “We will tell our children about this night. Our children will tell their children. We will never forget how God helped us!” And so in the middle of the night, we leave our homes. We walk quickly. We walk with Moses out into the desert. As we walk, we feel God’s love all around us. God is saying, “I love you. I am with you.”

Reader: And Jewish people, every year, eat a special Passover meal of lamb and flat bread and remember the story of how God saved them from slavery in Egypt, and give thanks to God.

We Respond To God's Love

13. Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

14. The Offering and Procession of Communion Elements

15. Hymn No. 779

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

(What a Friend)

16. Commissioning of Teachers and Leaders

Leader: Today we recognize the beginning of the church school for this year, a vital part of our congregation’s ministry.

Congregation: When children are baptized among us, we promise to love and support them. We need people to help us keep this promise; we need people to love our children with us and to share with the children their time, their energy, and their faith.

Teachers: We’re excited to accept the call to serve in this way. We’re nervous, too, and feel a little inadequate. We need the moral—and material—support of the adults of this congregation, and the patience, questions, acceptance, and enthusiasm of the children and the youth here. We look forward to learning with the children and youth as we share together.

Children and Youth: We’re glad there are opportunities for us to learn more about Jesus and about how we can help God love and heal the world. We want to find ways we can share the gifts God has given us. We want to share with you in this church’s ministry.

Leader: Let us pray:

All: God, you have called us from our summer wanderings. You have brought us together as newcomers and familiar members, into this community of faith.

We are grateful for your promise to lead us, to teach us, and to love us. Help us give each other—child and adult, newcomer and old-timer—an equal place in this part of your family. Help us to be honest with each other, and sensitive to one another's needs and gifts. May we learn from each other, and serve you faithfully in this your hurting, wonderful, troubled, and loving world. We ask this in the name of Jesus whose words we treasure and share together: Our Father...

17. The Great Thanksgiving Prayer

One: God be with you

All: And also with you

One: Lift up your hearts

All: We lift our hearts to God

One: Let us give thanks to God

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise

One: We give you thanks and praise, eternal God for you have created us in your love and made us your own people. Long ago you saved our ancestors from slavery in Egypt and led them safely through the desert to the Promised Land. Even when they grumbled and forgot your saving actions you did not forsake them or ever stop loving them. You have given us this church community and church communities throughout the world to be our home. Your presence and love surround us, like those of long ago.

Therefore, with those who love you on earth and in heaven,
we praise you and sing (say):

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

One: We give you thanks and praise, loving God, because in sending your child Jesus to us, you showed us how much you love and care for us. And like the Hebrew people of old, we are being led out of our slavery to material things and unloving ways to new life through Jesus, who has shown us how to truly be your people. Jesus healed the sick, comforted the lonely, and was friend to the poor and rejected. Even when he was betrayed and abandoned and nailed to a cross, he did not give up hope. Though sinned against, he continued to love. In raising Jesus from death you showed us how your love brings life and hope to everyone.



And we remember... that on the night before Jesus died while he was at supper with his friends, Jesus took the bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them saying, "Take and eat this bread, which is my body given for you." After supper he took the cup of wine and gave thanks to you and gave it to his friends saying, "Take and drink this wine, which is my blood given for you. Eat and drink this, in memory of me." God of life, with this bread and wine we celebrate the life,

death and resurrection of Jesus. Send your Holy Spirit upon these simple gifts so we may know Jesus' presence in the breaking of bread and share in the full life you promise everyone. Bind us together as your covenant community and fill us with courage and compassion through the power of your Holy Spirit today and always. Amen.

18. Communion

19. Hymn No. 713	“Jesus Loves Me”	(Jesus Loves Me)
Hymn No. 243	“Jesu, Gentlest Saviour	(Eucharisticus)
Hymn No. 221	“And now, O Father, Mindful of the Love”	(Unde Et Memores)

20. Benediction:

One: Let us go now into the world to fulfill our shared calling as members of the sacred circle of life.

Many: **We go in the name of Christ and in the company of many witnesses.**

One: May the Spirit which has blessed us here go with us along life's ways.

Many: **We go in peace. Amen.**

21. Recessional Hymn No. 558

“Stand Up, Stand Up, for Jesus”

(Morning Light)

† † † † † †

The altar flowers are given in loving memory of Audrey and Alan Petts.

Following the service please join us for refreshments in the Lower Hall.

Liturgical Ministers

Presiding:	The Rev. Jagdutt Singh
Organist:	Margaret Kosa St. Barnabas Choir
Lay Assistant:	Cheryl Shiels
Sunday School Coord.:	Alethea Power
Crucifer & Server	Ben Marasco
Sidespeople:	Bert Standing's Team
Altar Guild:	Marian Standing, Susan Marasco, and Kay Robertson

UPCOMING AT ST. BARNABAS

Today:

Tuesday, Sept. 9
Thursday, Sept. 11

Sunday, Sept. 14

Altar Guild Meeting in the Choir Room
Sunday School Teachers will meet in the Board Room
Trinity Women meet at 7:30 pm in the Lower Hall
Eucharist at 10 am followed by Bible Study
Choir Practice at 7:30 pm – everyone is welcome.
Harvest Thanksgiving Service
Eucharist: 8:30 am – **Eucharist:** 10:15 am.
Readings: Numbers 21:4b-9; 1 Corinthians 1:18-24;
John 3:13-17
Lay Assistant: Suzanne Roberts
Readers: Brenda Watts and Nan Schneider



Our winter UNDERCROFT outreach will be for the “Jacket Racket.” We are asking for donations of gently used winter jackets, snowpants, mitts, gloves, and hats. Wednesday, October 12 is the last day that we will accept donations – no exceptions. A bin is available in the narthex for the items. Thank you.



Our Harvest Thanksgiving Service will be held next Sunday, **September 14.** Donations of flowers, fruits, and vegetables would be most welcome. Please bring them to the Church on Saturday, September 13 by 9:30 am (if possible.) Thank you.

From Suzanne Roberts . . .

I am looking for pictures of the VBS this summer. If you have any would you please forward them to me either by hand or by email. My email is suzanne.roberts@shaw.ca The pictures can also be given to Shelagh Gregory. We want to display them on the bulletin board and then put them into an album for the library, so please let me know if you need the photos back.

In preparation for our Blue Christmas Service we are looking for used Christmas cards. If you have any that you are willing to donate, please pass them on to me. Thank you.

Interchurch Youth Group - St. Barnabas will be participating in an interchurch youth group with Holy Cross and Christ Church. Our first meeting, a progressive potluck, will be **September 27th**. More details will follow soon. As meetings will alternate between the three churches, some volunteer drivers may be needed. If you are able to help, please contact Alethea Power (aletheap@gmail.com).

Our annual bazaar is scheduled for November 1. We would be glad to receive donations in the following categories: jewellery, books, CD's and DVD's; handicrafts, baking and preserves, collectibles, Christmas items, and miscellaneous goods. Please bring them to the library; we ask that all donations be clearly labelled "Bazaar."
Thank you.

Eclipsing Empire - This is an invitation to join the communities of St. Laurence, St. Martin, and St. Mark and St. Philip, Calgary for a 12-week series, *Eclipsing Empire: Paul, Rome, and the Kingdom of God*. "Join pre-eminent New Testament scholars Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan on location in Turkey as they trace the Apostle Paul's footsteps throughout the Roman Empire. This 12-session DVD and web-based study explores fresh insights into Paul's message of the Kingdom of God, its challenge to Roman imperial theology, and the apostle's radical relevance for today." Filmed in High-Definition across Turkey, Greece, and Italy.

When: Wednesday (evenings) at 7:00 - 9:00 pm at St. Laurence or
Wednesday (mornings) 9:30 to 11:30 at St. Mark & St. Philip.

Dates: September 24th through November 26th and January 7th through 21st
(12 sessions). Please contact either 403-244-0198 (St. Mark & St. Philip.) or 403-249-6184 (St. Laurence) for more information.

The Calgary Regional Anglican Church Women (ACW) meeting will be held on Saturday, October 18, 2008 at St. Francis of Assisi, 132 Albert St. Airdrie; registration & coffee beginning at 9:30am. There will be a Eucharist, a business meeting and a luncheon. In the afternoon we look forward to hear our guest speaker, Irene Pfeiffer, talk on her work with the the homeless. There is a \$5.00 charge for the lunch. Please contact Jennifer at 403-948-6463 or ingramjm@telusplanet.net to register or for more information. All women are welcome.

Children's Letters To God

Dear God,

In Sunday School they told us what You do. Who does it when You are on vacation? - Jane

Dear God,

I think about You sometimes even when I'm not praying. - Elliot

Dear God,

Did You really mean "do unto others as they do unto you?" Because if you did, then I'm going to fix my brother. - Darla

Dear God,

I didn't think orange went with purple until I saw the sunset You made on Tuesday. - Margret

Dear God,

Are you really invisible or is that a trick? - Lucy

Dear God,

Who draws the lines around countries? - Nan

Dear God,

The bad people laughed at Noah - "You made an ark on dry land you fool". But he was smart, he stuck with You. That's what I would do. - Eddie

Dear God,

I went to this wedding and they kissed right in church. Is that okay? - Neil

Dear God,

You don't have to worry about me. I always look both ways. - Dean

Dear God,

I bet it is very hard for You to love all of everybody in the whole world. There are only 4 people in our family and I can never do it. - Nan

Dear God,

If You watch me in Church Sunday. I'll show You my new shoes. - Mickey D.

Dear God,

We read Thomas Edison made light. But in school they said You did it. So, I bet he stole Your idea. Sincerely, Donna