

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**Special Meeting of the Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ**  
**September 26, 2009                      Wayzata Community Church**

**\*Opening Litany:**

*R 1: I will light a light in the Name of the Maker, who lit the world and breathed life into us.*

*R2: I will light a light in the name of the Son, who saved the world and stretched out his hand to us.*

*R3: I will light a light in the name of the Spirit, who encompasses the world and blesses our souls with yearning.*

**ALL: We light three lights for the Trinity of love:**

**God above us, God beside us, God beneath us;**

**The beginning, the end, and the everlasting One. Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn:** Enter, Rejoice, and Come In                      #73 New Century Hymnal

**\*Sharing the Peace:**

**Readings:** Philippians 1: 3-11 and John 17: 13-23

**Reflection:** Prayer in Three Movements

**Offering:** Today's offering is for Our Church's Wider Mission. 34.75% is forwarded to the national offices of the United Church of Christ; 65.25 % is for the ministries and mission of the Minnesota Conference.

**Invitation to Communion:**

*R1: He was always the guest.*

*R2: In the homes of Peter and Jairus, Martha and Mary, Joanna and Susanna,*

**All: he was always the guest.**

*R3: At the meal tables of the wealthy, where he pled the case of the poor,*

**All: he was always the guest.**

*R1: Upsetting polite company, befriending isolated people, welcoming the stranger,*

**All: he was always the guest.**

*R2: But here, at this table he is the host.*

*R3: Those who wish to serve him must first be served by him. Those who want to follow him must first be fed by him.*

*Those who would wash his feet must first let him make them clean.*

**All: For this is the table where God intends for us to be nourished. This is the time when Christ can make us new.**

*R1: So come, you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith, for a better life, for a fairer world.*

**All: Jesus Christ, who has sat at our tables, now invites us to be the guest at his.**

**Words of Institution:**

**Holy Communion:**

**Concluding Prayer: Faithful God, in baptism you claimed us, and by your Holy Spirit you are working in our lives, empowering us to live a life worthy of our calling. We thank you for leading us to this time and to this place.**

**Establish us in your truth and guide us by your Holy Spirit, that in your service, we may grow in faith, hope, and love, and be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ to whom, with you and Holy Spirit be all honor and glory, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

**\*Closing hymn:** This is a Day of New Beginnings                      #417 New Century Hymnal

**\*Blessing**