

Sermon for Oct. 4, 2009-09-23

Prayer: Lord may the words of my mouth and the meditations of all our hearts be acceptable to you, our rock and redeemer. Amen

Today is a very special day in the Christian world; today we celebrate Worldwide Communion. Christians from all over the world are celebrating Holy Communion just as we are going to today. We celebrate what Jesus did for us, and for Christians in every part of the world. We celebrate Jesus and what he is still doing for us through the power of the Holy Spirit.

We celebrate the Jesus who emphasised the importance of family. We celebrate Jesus who took children into his arms and blessed them. Children of ancient times held no status or rights and were considered unimportant in society. We celebrate Jesus who treated everyone equally: the rich, the poor, the prostitute, the sick, the lame. Jesus blessed them all. He loved them regardless of what others thought of them.

Jesus is our Lord and Saviour. The one God had promised to send to us; a man who would be human like us. A man who struggled with

his faith. A man who loved his neighbour as himself and a man who faced temptation just as we are tempted. Most importantly of all, a man who knows suffering and suffers with us.

The letter to the Hebrews was written to encourage a group of Christians who were facing exceptional opposition. The author is unknown but some believe the letter to be written by Paul. This letter speaks of Jesus as “reflecting God’s glory”, “as the exact likeness of God’s own being” and the one who “sustains the universe with his powerful word.” (1:3). Our whole faith is based on these concepts and this letter speaks to these beliefs.

This letter also reminds us of something else. It reminds us that here on earth, Jesus was made just like us. Jesus was born of a woman, he is our brother and he journeys through life with us.

Jesus shares our lives. He sympathises with us and he identifies with us. Jesus celebrates our times of great joy. Jesus knows our deepest sorrows. Jesus suffered on the cross for us. Jesus intercedes for us

before God, his Father, and our God. Jesus is one with us, our Saviour and our brother.

The symbols here on the Table today—the bread and the wine—remind us of how Jesus became our saviour. The bread and the wine also remind us of how much his love and faithfulness cost him. Jesus died on the cross to save us from sin. Jesus wanted us to be one with him before God, our maker and higher power.

Everyone has heard about Superman. If we haven't seen the movies, then we might have seen comic books or heard about him from our children or grandchildren. In every movie Lex Luther, the evil one is trying to destroy the world and he's at it again. Luther sends a missile into the California fault zone causing an earthquake. Turmoil and destruction is everywhere. Superman flies over the area surveying the damage. He also sees an accident about to happen! A passenger train heading toward a broken section of track has no time to stop! But Superman flies down, stretches his body to form the missing section of rail and save the hundreds of passengers on the train.

Jesus too stretched his body to save us. Jesus stretched out on a cross. Jesus is not like Superman. Superman is a fictional character, an alien from another planet who performs heroic deeds. Jesus was human like you and I. He laughed. He cried. Jesus lived in a real time and a real place.

God believes in us and loves us. God comes to us through Jesus. God gave us Jesus as an example to live by. God forgives us our sins. God believes that we are not beyond help. We can become what God wants us to be. We can do this through our faith, hope, and love in Jesus Christ. It is Jesus' coming to us that we celebrate today.

We are a family here at Lincoln Road United Church and a part of a worldwide family of Christians. We are a part of a family that is called to love as we have been loved, to forgive as we have been forgiven, and to give as we have been given. Today we share in a family meal; to thank God that we are not alone, to thank God that we have each other and that the Spirit of Christ is among us today and every day. Amen.

