

## Naramata Centre Sunday November 15, 2009 Worship Service in BC and ABNW Congregations

### Theme: Come to the Table ... at Naramata Centre

**Setting:** On a table at the front have people place symbols of Naramata Centre as the service begins and say a sentence or two about why they chose that symbol and what the Centre represents for them. Ideal if these can be folks who have attended the Centre at some time and preferably include people of different ages.

### Call to Worship: The Table

One: This table looks big to me!

**All: What kind of table is it?**

One: It's a table where everyone is welcome whoever they are, whatever they do.

**All: What can we bring to this table?**

One: You can bring anything you want: whatever makes you afraid; whatever gives you hope; whatever makes you happy; anything you love; all that you feel sorry about; and, of course, all your questions.

**All: That sounds like a lot for one table!**

One: It's the kind of table where you can share as much of yourself as you want.

**All: Even the broken pieces?**

One: You can bring whatever is complete and whatever is unfinished. You can bring the bits and the broken of your life, the whole and the healed.

**All: Perhaps someone will bring me to this table?**

One: It's the kind of table where someone could bring you if you are just not able to get there on your own.

**All: When do I come to this table?**

One: You can come anytime, but especially the times when you just don't know where else to go.

**All: Can I bring someone else with me?**

One: This is the kind of table where you could bring your neighbour.

**Sing:** (a list of possible songs from *Voices United* and *More Voices* is listed at the end: or you may have other selections you'd like to use.)

**Scripture:** Luke 14:15-24 Ideally this would be acted out in contemporary language. Eugene Peterson translation is used as the basis.

### The Story of the Dinner Party (adapted from *The Message* by Eugene Peterson)

The Narrator reads the parts in bold print

**"How fortunate the one who gets to eat dinner in God's kingdom!"**

**"Yes. For there was once a man who threw a great dinner party and invited many. When it was time for dinner, he sent out his servant to the invited guests, saying,**

(Party Host says): 'Come on in; the food's on the table.'

**“Then they all began to beg off, one after another, making excuses.”**

Have three or four people of different ages walk by the host making excuses true to their lives: e.g. “Have to look after the grandchildren tonight.” “I want to finish downloading to my iPhone.” “I have to work overtime or I’ll never catch up.” “I promised my friend I’d go to the hockey game, sorry.”

**“The servant went back and told the master what had happened. He was outraged and told the servant”....**

(Party Host says): ‘Quickly, get out into the city streets and alleys. Collect all who look like they need a square meal. Bring children and youth, disabled folks, people of other cultures and faiths and bring them here.’

**“The servant reported back, ‘Master, I did what you commanded— and there’s still room.’**

(Party Host says): ‘Then go to the country roads. Whoever you find, bring them in as well as all others who haven’t heard the invitation in the past. I want my house full!’ “

**Sing:**

### **An Invitation to Naramata Centre: Common Table Common Wealth**

*(This invitation may be read by one voice or divided into parts for multiple readers.)*

#### ***Common Table Common Wealth***

The markets are down and up and down

We come and go and come again to the table to eat.

The harvest is in.

The catch is good.

The crop is poor.

The bank said yes. The bank said no.

And we come again to the table

to make sense of our days.

Will there be enough?

Someone stole my bike.

I got a good deal.

Don’t throw it out!

And we come again to the table.

How was your day?

I don’t understand what’s happening

I don’t know what I believe anymore

I can’t keep doing this job

And the world comes with us to this common table

In the food we choose to prepare

In the labour of those who produced it

In the agreements that set its price

In the scarcity and abundance of our own resources  
to bring it to the table.

And in the ones we meet there – a nine year old who loves  
sushi, a neighbour who is going to move, a new friend from  
the soccer team, the women who run the coffee shop, the  
elder who lives most happily in the days of long ago, the  
auntie, the babe, the exchange student, the CEO, the  
paramedic, the dearest friend.

We sit at common table and  
Talk, or not  
Fight, or not  
Eat or drink, or not  
Read news, do homework, play monopoly  
Reconcile, wonder, pray, laugh laugh laugh  
Discover, deny, and uncover what might be really true.  
And it is in this sharing of the common wealth of our lives  
that the common table is also a place  
of communion with the Holy.  
The table is set.  
Join us next summer for a week or two at our table.  
There's a place for you here.

*(by Allison Rennie: adapted from 2009 Naramata Centre program Calendar)*

### **Sermon Time Options: choose one of the following depending on your situation**

- A Video and a Power Point presentation will be available on the Naramata Centre website [www.naramatacentre.net](http://www.naramatacentre.net) by October 1 (or email [dransom@naramatacentre.net](mailto:dransom@naramatacentre.net) for info)
- Testimonials from two or three people who have attended the Centre
- Worship leader talks about the significance of Naramata Centre in the life of individuals, families and churches in BC and Alberta

### **Suggested Anthem: A Place at the Table (Music: Lori True, Lyrics: Shirley Murray) Hope Publishing**

#### **Different Voices Share the Following:**

**Naramata Centre's Mission** - *To be a place of learning, spiritual nurture and renewal*

**Our Vision** - *People are inspired to make a difference in the world*

#### **Naramata Centre Theological Identity**

*We believe in God, who has created and is creating,  
Who calls us into respectful relationship with all of Creation.*

*God's love has been shown to us in Jesus, through his life and teaching,  
and through his prophetic practice of healing, hospitality and radical inclusion.*

*We believe this way of unconditional love is open to all people,  
... those who are trusting, doubting, seeking and knowing.  
God is never separate from us.*

*Our Christian story gives us language and metaphor to share our stories,  
and is one path to deeper relationship with ourselves, one another and God.*

*The Spirit is active in the world, embodied in us,  
moving us into a life of bold love,  
seeking justice and acting with compassion.*

*Rooted in gratitude and wonder,  
experiencing God's unending grace and Holy mystery,  
we listen for and live out God's call for the world.*

### **Sing: Offering received and prayer of your choice**

## **Pastoral Prayers**

O God of creation, we are deeply grateful for the sacred nature of the earth, the sea, the sky and all that you have made. Help us to see the interconnectedness of life including our human species. Today, we especially give thanks for the many species of the South Okanagan with whom we share the Naramata bench. Help us to steward this tableland and all that you have entrusted to us.

O Holy One, by your grace; **call us to your table.**

O God of the nations, we offer profound thanks for the diversity of human life and culture. Help us to celebrate the wonder and mystery of it all. Yet, we know too the cries of despair, death and destruction from brothers and sisters near by and those around the world. Be with us as we work and pray for peace with your justice, so that your common table and your common wealth might be shared with all.

O Holy One, by your grace; **call us to your table.**

O God of human community, you call us to be the best we can be for the sake of serving others. Help us to nurture those places in our lives where true community can flourish. Today we especially give thanks for the community of Naramata Centre. May it continue to be a place where all are invited to the table of learning, spiritual nurture and renewal. Restore us, refresh us and create us anew that we might make a difference in your world.

O Holy One, by your grace; **call us to your table.**

O God incarnate, in Jesus the Christ you know all our joys and sorrows. Today we bring before you some of the joys of our lives: times of birth, partnerships and special occasions. We also bring before you our sorrows: for those who are suffering, for any who are ill or grieving. We pray for those we name in the silence of our hearts

O Holy One, by your grace; **call us to your table.**

O God of the Spirit, your mighty wind and still small voice blows where you will, through people of faith, through those of good-will and indeed throughout all of creation. Challenge your church to move with your Spirit. Feed us at your common table and send us forth to share your common wealth.

We offer our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ as we sing/say together the Lord's Prayer ...

## **Sing:**

**Invitation:** Watch for Naramata Centre's 2010 programs in the mail and on its website in January to learn more about learning and retreat opportunities for you and your family. You are invited to Come to the Table at Naramata Centre in 2010.

## **Commissioning and Benediction**

### **Music Suggestions**

#### *MV More Voices*

#### *VU Voices United*

**MV # 21** Open Our Hearts  
**MV # 37** Circle of God  
**MV # 79** Spirit Open My Heart  
**MV # 145** Draw the Circle Wide  
**MV # 154** Deep in Our hearts  
**MV # 156** Dance With the Spirit

**MV # 209** Go Make a Difference  
**VU # 224** Sing a Happy Alleluia  
**VU # 374** Come and Find the Quiet Centre  
**VU # 402** We are One  
**VU # 460** All Who Hunger  
**VU # 595** We are Pilgrims on a Journey

### **From Licensing:**

Blessed Are Those Who Come to the Table *by Linnea Good*

We're Standing on Holy Ground *by Jim Strathdee*

A Place at the Table Music *by Lori True, lyrics by Shirley Erena Murray*