



204.256.8792

windsorparkunitedchurch.com

1062 Autumnwood Drive, Wpg, MB, R2J 1C7

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Communion

(Portions of the service that are in **BOLD** are to be said by all.

All points marked \* those who are able are invited to stand.)

## Approach

- \* Gathering Hymn VU #630 – “*Oh Christ, in Thee My Soul*”

Call to Worship

One: We organize and make plans and imagine possibilities.

**All: Then the Holy Spirit turns them upside down.**

One: When we are so sure of the ‘rightness’ of our direction,

**All: The Spirit discloses something unexpected and wonderful.  
Let us worship!**

- \* Hymn VU #253 – “*Sing Your Joy*”

Prayer of Approach

**We are here to worship. It feels like the right thing to do, gentle God. We come to hear the familiar and challenging stories of scripture. The tales of people surprised by the twists and turns of life resonate with us. We feel the tug of your Spirit taking us to places and encounters we never anticipated. You enrich our lives in ways we could never have foreseen. So we are ready and open to have our minds and hearts grow in wisdom and understanding. Shape us and guide us in the ways of faithfulness. We are your servants and ready for whatever you have in store for us. Trusting in the Spirit of Christ to be with us always. AMEN**

## The Word

-  Scripture Reading – Acts 16: 9-15

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

**THANKS BE TO GOD!**

- \* Hymn – “*Lead Me Lord in the Right Direction*” (back page of announcements)

Meditation – “Healing old wounds... an unlikely woman can be ‘saved’... and play hostess.”

(a quiet time for your personal reflection and prayer)

Anthem – “Here We Stand Lord”

## The Response

Announcements

- \* Offering / Response (VU #541)  
**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures high and low;  
Give thanks to God in love made known;  
Creator, Word and Spirit, One. Amen**

Celebration of Communion

One: When Paul wanted to go in one direction

**All: God called on him to go another way.**

One: When Lydia worshipped by the river with her friends

**All: God opened their fellowship to a stranger.**

One: When Lydia heard the word of Jesus taught with sensitivity and conviction,

**All: She professed her faith and was baptized.**

One: When Paul was ready to move on

**All: Lydia insisted that he stay, rest and eat.**

The Great Thanksgiving / Fracture / Invitation

Post-Communion Prayer

**Wherever we go in life, we take the precious gift of faith with us. Whenever we hunger for meaning, we taste the bread of life assured that Jesus will give us purpose. Whoever we encounter along the way, we see a friend, a fellow believer and marvel at what the Spirit makes possible. This, wondrous God, is our prayer of thanks today and always. AMEN**

- \* Hymn VU #483 – “*Now Let Us From This Table Rise*”

- \* Benediction / Response

**O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise You.**

**O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise You.**

**I will seek you in the morning,**

**And I will learn to walk in Your ways,**

**And step by step You’ll lead me,**

**And I will follow You all my days.**