"This do in Remembrance." Jesus and 9.11
"This do in remembrance of me."
Jesus and 9/11

The church I am privileged to serve as pastor is located north of the former Twin Towers. The streets are quiet now, 10 years after the events of September 11.

On that September morning, the streets in the vicinity of Manhattan Church, in New York City's Greenwich Village, were jammed with fire trucks, police vehicles, ambulances, nurses, doctors, and legions of support personnel.

The hospital that was serving the injured and dying that day was Saint Vincent's Hospital, now closed. An empty shell of a structure stands there, closed by financial problems that seem to affect all cities and their infrastructures.

There remains, however, a large bold American flag that was placed on the wall that September morning, taking up the entire front facade of the building. It is a reminder of what took place there 10 years ago.

I remember well the march of stunned Wall Street executives who aimlessly walked for miles uptown, their shoes and hair covered with the ash of the fallen Towers, the construction guys in their hardhats spewing words that are best not mentioned here (but who could blame them?).

Ten years later, America is still reeling from the shock of that event. I can still see ghost images of people milling around in Union Square Park with the names and portraits of missing loved ones smiling from pictures of happier times on hand-made posters, which were also pasted to walls all over the City, asking anyone for information about where they might be.

It is good to remember.

It is important to remember.

It is vital to remember.

It helps to keep you in focus and things in perspective. To me, the Communion service is one of those times when we are reminded of what church and coming together is all about: why we pray, Whom we believe in, what forgiveness means, and why humility is an important act of worship.

This Saturday, September 10, 2011, we are having a combined Communion and 9/11 Remembrance Service at Manhattan Church, located at 232 West 11th Street, NYC, just
one-and-a-half blocks west of Seventh Avenue. I hope you can join us.

The fellowship at one of our small groups from The Chapel At Union Square will be joining us and so will many other friends and associates from various parts of New York City. No matter what your faith tradition, this is a Time of Remembrance here in New York City.

It seemed appropriate a few weeks ago to also plan a Communion service to be shared with those in attendance at this service. The following words found in the Bible will be central to our Time of Remembrance:

"For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me." [1 Corinthians 11:23 -25]

This Saturday, we remember. We remember our Lord and we remember our friends and neighbors who have been lost.

Of course this is still New York City--a town full of promise and good people from every nation and faith tradition. Let us come together to remember.

May God bless you and continually give all of us hope for the future and peace.

Best regards,

Tony Romeo, Pastor
The Chapel At Union Square / Manhattan Church / REACH-NYC


*Individual and group Bible study sessions are always available. "Cafe Reach" will be reopening soon. For more information, write to: reachnyc.contact@gmail.com.*
9.10.11
COMMUNION
AND
9.11 REMEMBRANCE
SERVICE

Please join us for a special time of
Remembrance
Saturday, Sept. 10, 2011 - 11:00 a.m.
Manhattan Church
232 West 11th Street, Greenwich Village, NYC

Special Guests:
Kimberly Sogioka - Mezzo-soprano