

October 1, 2023  
World Communion Sunday

**All:** *“Take this, all of you, and eat. This is my body, given for you. Each time you do this, remember me.”*

**Pastor:** After supper, he took the wine, and again, O God, gave you thanks, and then, passed it to those gathered, saying:

**All:** *“This cup is the new covenant poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. Each time you drink it, remember me.”*

**Pastor:** O Lord, our God, send your Holy Spirit in power to move through us and over these gifts of bread and wine. By sharing in this communion meal, may we become one in Christ, with our brothers and sisters around the globe, with the hope that one day, all people will be free, all divisions healed, and all creation will be able to sing your praise.

**All:** *Through Christ, we pray. Amen.*

#### DISTRIBUTION OF ELEMENTS

*Both, grape juice (CLEAR) and wine (RED) are provided. Please commune as you feel called.*

#### COMMUNION HYMNS

HYMNS	<i>God is Here</i>	Chalice, #280
	<i>Come Down, O Love Divine</i>	Chalice #582

#### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

**All:** *Gracious and loving God, you have made us one in the body of Christ and nourished us at your table with holy food and drink. Now send us forth to be your people in the world. Grant us strength to persevere in resisting evil, and to proclaim in all we say and do your Good News in Christ Jesus, our Savior. Amen.*

HYMN	<i>Be Thou My Vision</i>	Chalice, #595
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#### BENEDICTION

**Pastor:** The Banquet of God’s love has been given to you. You have received blessing upon blessing. Go now into the world in which noise and confusion reign. Bring peace and hope in Christ’s name to all you meet. God’s peace and God’s love be with you now and always.

**All:** *Amen!*

#### POSTLUDE

#### GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS JOYS AND CONCERNS

Marta Dennis

#### PRELUDE

Mr. Kevin Crone, Music Director

*(Please stand in body and/or spirit)*

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

**Pastor:** This morning, when we gather on what has become known as *World Communion Sunday*, you may be wondering “why?” 1936, during a time of fear and growing tension, the first Sunday in October, for the first time, was celebrated as Worldwide Communion Sunday in Presbyterian churches in the United States and overseas. From the beginning, other denominations were invited to participate, and over the decades the idea has spread. So, we gather today as the people of God, as a community of Christ’s followers.

**Congregation:** **We gather to share Word and Sacrament, to discern the ways of faithful service.**

**Pastor:** Where in the world shall we serve our God?

**Congregation:** **At home and school. at our places of business and leisure, in this community and throughout every land.**

**Pastor:** How in the world shall we serve our God?

**Congregation:** **By working toward justice where there is oppression, by offering comfort where there is pain, by sharing love where there is hatred.**

**Pastor:** Why in the world shall we serve our God?

**Congregation:** **Because the Spirit beckons us, because Jesus calls us to enact our faith. Let us now worship the One who calls us.**

HYMN	<i>Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service</i>	Chalice, #461
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#### CALL TO CONFESSION

**Pastor:** Jesus prayed that we might be one. One in Spirit, one in mission. On this day when we gather around the Lord’s Global Table, let us confess how we have not lived as God’s beloved children.

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All people:** *O God, we confess our fumbling and failure in accomplishing unity, as we set aside yet another day to remind ourselves of the task. On this World Communion Sunday, give us eyes to recognize your reflection in the eyes of people everywhere. Give us a mind to accept and celebrate*

*our differences. Give us a heart big enough to love your children everywhere. We thank you for setting a table with space enough for us all! Amen.*

#### **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS** (Based on Psalm 36:10)

Pastor: The good news is that God continues to love and save us - in and through Jesus, whom we confess as Savior and Lord, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Friends, believe these words of grace: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

*All people: Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen.*

#### **PRAISE HYMN**

*Halle, Halle, Halle*

**Chalice #41**

*(The congregation may be seated, as the children & youth come forward)*

**JESUS SAID, "LET THE CHILDREN COME"**

#### **HYMN**

*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

**Chalice, #91**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING – 1 Samuel 13:1-7a, 19-23**

**EPISTLE READING – Philippians 2:1-13**

**GOSPEL READING – Matthew 21:23-32**

#### **SERMON & PASTORAL PRAYER**

**Rev. Dr. Christopher Anderson**

#### **OFFERING INVITATION**

Liturgist: Having received life through the generosity of God and the hope Christ brings, let us give thankfully and abundantly that we may be called God's generous people and accompany our offering with the Doxology and prayer.

*(Please stand in body and/or spirit)*

**DOXOLOGY** *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below.*

*Praise God above ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

#### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

*All people: O God, most gracious and merciful, of whose bounty we have all received: accept, we pray, this offering of your people. May our gifts be a sign for each other and the world, that we pledge to work together in your name for the healing of this broken and hurting world. Follow it with your blessing that it may promote peace and goodwill among all people and advance the realm of our Savior, Jesus the Christ who taught us to pray, saying: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in*

*heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And, forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And, lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

#### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

*Unto Thee, O Lord*

#### **SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Pastor: As part of the world-wide community of Christians, we remember Jesus' meal with his disciples. The variety of bread, being served, is a physical reminder of the range of Christian experience, both close to us and around the world.

Jesus sets the table where we dine today. Jesus' welcome extends to all of humanity. People of all ages, of all genders, of all cultures, of all economic conditions are welcome here.

No one can earn a place at this meal. You need only a desire to deepen your relationship with the Risen Christ. Bring your hopes and your history. Bring your dreams and your doubts. Come as your whole self.

#### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: God be with you.

**Congregation: And also with you!**

Pastor: Lift your hearts.

**Congregation: We lift them up to God!**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God most high.

**Congregation: It is right to give God thanks and praise!**

Pastor: Creating God, we give thanks that you brought this world and all of humanity into being, breathing life into us. You show yourself in each face we encounter, all created in your image.

We thank you for your commandments. You taught us how to serve you, and how to honor each other. To bring us into relationship with you, you sent us prophets and teachers. We offer thanks that when we sinned and turned away from your guidance, you persisted in reaching out to us. We thank you most for the life and ministry of Jesus. The death and resurrection of Christ taught us that nothing, not even death, can separate us from you. Through your Holy Spirit, you breathe through us, gathering us as the church. Thank you for continuing to bring us together so that we may celebrate you.

#### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

Pastor: On the night when Jesus was betrayed, he took bread, broke it, gave you, O God, thanks, and then, gave it to his disciples, saying: