Pastor: After supper, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks, and shared it with them, saying:

All people: ***"This cup is the new covenant in my blood, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sin. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me."***

Pastor: Even knowing what lay ahead, Jesus did not release them from the covenant of love. And so, in remembrance of Christ's life, death, and resurrection, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

All people: ***Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.***

Pastor: Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and cup. Through these gifts, make visible the grace, forgiveness, and presence of Jesus Christ. Feed what is hungry within us, heal what has been wounded, and reconcile what has been divided. Renew us in covenant with you and with faithful people of every age, language, race, nation, and tradition. Strengthen us to listen, discern, speak truthfully, repair harm, and seek Christ together. Make us one - not because we agree about everything, but because we belong to Christ and, in Christ, belong to one another. We continue to pray as Jesus taught us:

All people: ***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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.***

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All people: ***Faithful God, at this table you have met us with grace and bound us again in love. Thank you for receiving us as we are and for refusing to leave us unchanged. Strengthen our covenant with you and with one another. Help us carry what we have received into our homes, our congregation, the wider Church, and the world. Make our lives signs of the love we have tasted here. Amen.***

CLOSING HYMN ***Blest Be the Tie That Binds*** **RED #280**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Go now, held within the covenant love of God. May the God who called you into being remind you that you do not walk alone. May Jesus Christ, Head of the Church and Host of this Table, keep you connected to every member of his Body. May the Holy Spirit give you humility to listen, courage to speak truthfully, grace to repair what has been harmed, and faithfulness to keep seeking Christ together.

All people: ***Amen.***

POSTLUDE & CANDLE EXTINGUISHING **Mr. Kevin Crone & Acolyte**

SENDING WORDS

Pastor: Go now in peace, knowing that no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey - you belong to God.

All people: ***And…we are welcome here! Amen.***

October 4, 2026 – World Communion Sunday

Part Two: The Faith We Make our Own Series

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF CANDLES **Mr. Kevin Crone & Acolyte**

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Good morning, and welcome to worship at Starview United Church of Christ. On this World Communion Sunday, we gather with Christians across nations, cultures, languages, and traditions. We do not come because we are all alike or because we agree about everything. We come because God has called us into relationship with Christ and one another. Whether you have worshiped here for many years or are joining us for the first time, you are welcome within this gathering of grace. We come from different places and carry different experiences.

All people: ***Yet God gathers us in covenant.***

Pastor: We bring questions, convictions, wounds, gifts, and hopes.

All people: ***Christ receives us and calls us to receive one another.***

Pastor: Our differences do not release us from the work of love.

All people: ***We will listen, discern, speak truthfully, repair harm, and seek Christ together.***

Pastor: Across every border and beyond every division, the Spirit is creating and renewing the Church of Jesus Christ.

All people: ***We are one Church, gathered by grace and called into covenant.***

Pastor: Faithful God, gather us fully into your presence. Quiet the voices within us that insist we have nothing more to learn. Open us to your Word, to one another, and to the movement of your Spirit. Renew your covenant people and draw us more deeply into the life of Jesus Christ.

All people: ***Amen.***

OPENING HYMN ***The Church's One Foundation*** **RED #322**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor: Covenant does not depend upon our perfection. It depends upon the faithfulness of God, who calls us back when we wander, offers truth when we deceive ourselves, and makes repair possible when relationships are wounded. Trusting in that grace, let us confess together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All people: ***Faithful God, you call us into covenant with you and with one another, but we often treat our relationships as optional. We listen only when it is convenient. We speak without seeking to understand. We avoid difficult truths in the name of keeping peace. We protect our freedom while neglecting our responsibility. We celebrate belonging while overlooking those who remain unheard, wounded, or excluded. Forgive us. Teach us to listen with humility, speak with honesty, disagree without withdrawing our love, and seek repair when harm has been done. Free us from the need to be right and renew our desire to be faithful. Bind us again to Christ and to one another. Amen.***

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Pastor: God's covenant faithfulness is stronger than our failures. In Jesus Christ, grace meets us, truth restores us, and forgiveness offers another beginning.

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

PRAISE HYMN ***Gloria Patri*** **RED #493**

JESUS SAID, "LET THE CHILDREN COME" ***A Promise That Connects Us***

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING **Ephesians 4:1–7, 11–16**

HYMN ***In Christ, There is No East or West*** **RED #406**

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING **1 Corinthians 11:17–26**

SERMON ***One Church, One Table, Many Members: Bound in Covenant*** **Rev. Laura Baker**

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST STATEMENT OF FAITH

All people: ***We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify: You call the worlds into being, create persons in our own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death. You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin. You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.***

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the Church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your Church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

DOXOLOGY ***Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*** **RED #551**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All people: ***Faithful God, receive these gifts and join them with the offerings of covenant partners near and far. Use them to strengthen congregations, nurture leaders, feed those who hunger, comfort those who suffer, resist injustice, repair what has been harmed, and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. Make our giving part of our promise to seek your realm together. Amen.***

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor: This is not Starview's private table. It does not belong to the United Church of Christ, to one nation, one culture, or one expression of Christianity. This is Christ's Table. Today, Christians around the world gather around tables that look different from ours. They speak different languages, sing different songs, and understand this sacred meal through different traditions. We do not pretend that every division has been healed or that Christians agree about everything. Still, Christ gathers us.

We come not because we have completed the work of reconciliation, but because we need the grace that makes reconciliation possible. We come because baptism has joined us to Christ's Body. We come because our differences do not release us from one another. We come because Christ continues to meet us in bread shared, cup poured, grace received, and love practiced. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome at Christ's Table.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: God be with you.

All people: ***And also with you.***

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

All people: ***We lift them to God.***

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God.

All people: ***It is right to give God thanks and praise.***

Pastor: Faithful God, before we knew how to seek you, you sought us. You called creation into being and formed humanity in your image. You made covenant with your people Israel and remained faithful through every generation……Through his life, death, and resurrection, you revealed that no failure, division, power, or death can overcome your covenant love. Therefore, we join our voices with faithful people of every age, every language, every culture, and every place, praising you together:

All people: ***Holy, holy, holy God, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of God. Hosanna in the highest!***

Pastor: On the night before Jesus was betrayed, he gathered at a table with his disciples. They were not perfect. They did not understand everything. Before the night ended, one would betray him, another would deny him, and others would scatter in fear. Still, Jesus fed them.

Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

All people: ***"Take and eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."***