

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Preacher: 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:

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

Preacher: O Lord, our God, 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 people: Through Christ, we pray. Amen.

Preacher: This is the Lord's Table and all people are welcome to commune. Both grape juice and wine are served. Wine is red. Grape juice is clear. Please commune as you feel called. The ushers will release you from your pew at the appropriate time. Please come forward by way of the center aisle; return to your seat by way of the side aisles or by the windows. Beloved of God, these are the gifts of God for you. Come! All things are ready!

DISTRIBUTION OF ELEMENTS

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 *My Life Flows On* **Blue Hymnal, #619**

BENEDICTION

Preacher: Go forth, as God gives you strength, blameless and upright, persistent in integrity, trusting without wavering, and confident in God's love. Go in peace. Amen.

All people: Amen!

POSTLUDE & CANDLE EXTINGUISHING

Resources

- All music copied with CCLI#1528365; One License 733911-A; CCLI Live Streaming License #20990115

October 6, 2024
World Communion Sunday

PREWORSHIP MUSIC

Mr. Kevin Crone, Music Director

INTRODUCTION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

PRELUDE & CANDLELIGHTING

Acolyte

(Please stand in body and/or spirit)

CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Job 2, Psalm 26)

Liturgist: We gather in the presence of the One who abandons no one.

All people: Come Holy Spirit, our advocate and comforter.

Liturgist: All are welcome in this sacred place, made holy through your presence with us.

All people: Open our hearts and minds this day, guide us into a loving relationship with all your children.

Liturgist: We gather as God's beloved people, leaving no one outside.

All people: Spark us with a word of life and radical belonging—a message that we share with others as we seek to live out Christ's love

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

All people: Gracious God, through whom all things exist, we are mindful this day of siblings in faith around the world. We rejoice in our oneness with them. We are mindful, too, of those near at hand and those far away—those who suffer from ills and calamities, from wars and natural disasters. Be present with them and us, we pray—even as you fix our hearts on you and how we might, in faith, respond to the needs of neighbors around the world. Amen.

HYMN

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

Blue Hymnal, #537

CALL TO CONFESSION (Based on 1 John 2:1-2)

Liturgist: If anyone sins, we have someone who pleads with the Father on our behalf—Jesus Christ, the righteous one. And Christ himself is the means by which our sins are forgiven, and not our sins only, but also the sins of the whole world. Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

LITANY OF CONFESSION

Preacher: Let us cast all our anxiety on you, O Bearer of Burdens, as we seek to follow in your footsteps. Even when we are reviled, even when we feel abandoned, even when we suffer physically and mentally and emotionally, we ask that you help us to remember that we are, no matter what, your children. Even when we pretend to hide from you, ashamed of our wandering, ashamed of our weakness, we know you will find us

and forgive us when we ask. We want to resist evil, and to remain steadfast in our faith, because we know there are many who share in our suffering. Direct us toward them, O Healing God, that we might not shy away but instead deeply engage those who are in need of your love. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (Based on Psalm 26 and Hebrews 1, 2)

Preacher: The good news is that God continues to love and save us - in and through Jesus, whom we confess as Savior and Lord of the perfecter of our salvation. Believe the good news: you are loved and forgiven.

All people: Thanks be to God. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE *Gloria Patri* **Blue Hymnal, #35**

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Preacher: On this World Communion Sunday, we honor the One who created worlds and sustains all things through the divine Word. As we share signs of peace with one another, imagine the deep, creative love that extends—through us, and by the power of the Holy Spirit—to siblings in every time and place. The peace of Christ be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

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

JESUS SAID, “LET THE CHILDREN COME”

HYMN *One Bread, One Body* **Blue Hymnal, #393**

OLD TESTAMENT READING **Job 1:1, 2:1-10**

EPISTLE READING **Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:4-12**

GOSPEL READING **Mark 10:2-16**

SERMON & PRAYER **Mr. Andrew Boyer, Member in Discernment**

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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.

OFFERING INVITATION (Based on Psalm 26)

Liturgist: The psalmist invites us to walk in faithfulness before God. As part of this journey of faithfulness, with thanks for God’s wondrous deeds, and in

support of the church’s ministry in this neighborhood and around the world, let us share our tithes and offerings with a song and a prayer

(Please stand in body and/or spirit)

DOXOLOGY *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* **Blue Hymnal, #46**

(An Offering Collection Box is located on the table in the back of sanctuary, by the exit door)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All people: Holy God, bless these gifts in Jesus’ name, that they may aid a world of need, near and far. May they serve as a means to healing and wholeness: mind, body, and spirit. Amen.

ANTHEM *O Lord, I Cry to Thee* (Arendolt) **Chancel Choir**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor Laura presided over the epiclesis or blessing of the elements earlier this week, as this is the call and duty of ordained clergy in the United Church of Christ.

Preacher: Scripture reminds us that Jesus, whom we remember in this meal, was and is the eternal Word, through whom God created the worlds. On this World Communion Sunday, Christians around the globe join us as we break the bread—at this same moment, and in time zones before and after us. Indeed, God’s love stretches across time, space, and eternity. Let us gather at Christ’s table.

Preacher: God be with you.

Congregation: And also with you!

Preacher: Lift your hearts.

Congregation: We lift them up to God!

Preacher: Let us give thanks to God most high.

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

Preacher: Creating, Healing 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.