

World Communion Sunday

October 4, 2009

While World Communion Sunday is not part of the church's historic liturgical calendar, it has been an ecumenical observance since 1936. On every Lord's Day, Presbyterians can celebrate our unity with believers around the world at the Lord's Table. On this particular Sunday, we reaffirm our commitment to faithful witness in the world as we await the coming fullness of God's reign of peace. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has ecumenical relations with nearly 200 church partner communions and with many other organizations around the world. As we celebrate World Communion Sunday, remember our unity with all Christians and pray especially for our partners, who will also be receiving Communion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah Smith

CALL TO WORSHIP

In Christ there is no east or west, no south or north,
But one Spirit of hope and peace, throughout the earth.
*Sisters and brothers from all places, saints from all times,
Are gathered with us at the table of our Lord.*

The bread which we break, Is it not a sharing in Christ's body?
*Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body,
for we all partake of the one bread.*

The cup of blessing which we bless, Is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ?
*Because Christ's blood was shed, we who are sinners are reconciled to God,
for we all participate in Christ's death and in his resurrection*

CALL TO CONFESSION

*HYMN "In Christ There Is No East or West" 439

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of all the earth, you have created us to live together. Jesus loves all the children of the world. And yet, children all over the world are hungry, children all over the world lack clean water, children all over the world live as refugees. We are overwhelmed by their needs and throw up our hands. Forgive us, O God, and call us to faithfulness. Remind us that each of us is your child, all of us brothers and sisters. As Jesus Christ invites us to his table this day, remind us that the whole world is present. As we are fed, lead us forward to care for your children.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***GLORIA PATRI**

***CONFESSION OF FAITH**

a portion of The Brief Statement of Faith
(PC(USA) 1991)

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, Fully human, fully God.

In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, Come, Lord Jesus! With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

PC(USA) Peacemaking Offering

The Peacemaking Offering was created in 1980 to support the efforts of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to live out a deeper commitment to peacemaking as part of our faithfulness to God. It is one of four special offerings designated by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s General Assembly. Each congregation is encouraged to retain 25 percent of the Offering it receives to use for local ministries of peacemaking within the church and its community. 25% is used by presbyteries and synods, and 50 percent is used by the General Assembly ministries through the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program.

OFFERATORY

Berceuse

Arr. Ritter

***OFFERATORY RESPONSE** "Now Thank We All Our God) (v.1)

*Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in whom the world rejoices,
Who, from our mothers' arms, has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.*

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Matthew 26:26-29

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom."

READING

"Lord's Supper" (by Frederick Buechner)

ANTHEM

Gentle Shepherd

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, loving God, creator and sustainer of all life. . . of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, 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 the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of majesty, . . . to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

***Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.***

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us . . . almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

READING OF SCRIPTURE

John 13:1, 3-5, 12-15, 34-35

It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

READING

"Here We Come" (by James E. Magaw)

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Matthew 13:33

He told them still another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough."

READING

"Yeast Thoughts" (by Mike Hodge)

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

READING OF SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 10:16-17

Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.

READING

"Thoughts on Communion" (by William Willimon)

*HYMN

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

*Let us break bread together on our knees,
Let us break bread together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.*

Let us share the cup together on our knees . . .

Let us praise God together on our knees . . .

READING OF SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

OFFERING OF THE BREAD

THE SERVING OF THE BREAD TO GOD'S PEOPLE

READING

"The Lord's Supper" (by W. C. Smalley)

OFFERING OF THE CUP

THE SERVING OF THE CUP TO GOD'S PEOPLE

(This is the table of our Lord. All of His followers are welcome here.

Please come forward to partake of communion.

Tear a piece of bread from the loaf and dip it into the cup.)

(Those who are unable to come forward will be served.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *(unison)*

We give you thanks, eternal God, that you have fed us in this sacrament. Fill us with a hunger for justice and a thirst for what is right until all people may taste and see your goodness; through Jesus Christ, the bread of life. Amen.

*HYMN

"As Grain on Scattered Hillsides"

(Tune = "Lead On, O King Eternal")

*As grain on scattered hillsides, when gathered, makes one bread,
God, gather all your people as one in Christ our head.
We come from many places, and we are not the same,
Yet your strong love has called us to meet in Jesus' name.*

*A grain of wheat is fruitless until in earth it lies;
Then, dying to its old life, it bears and multiplies.
So may we die to hatred, to all our hurtful ways,
Reborn to common living, to love, to work, to praise.*

*Like yeast that brings new ferment so lifeless dough may rise,
Your Spirit is the leaven of life that satisfies.
As salt enhances flavor, enriches, and preserves,
May earth rejoice to savor a church that heals and serves.*

*O Christ, our risen Savior, O spirit, holy dove,
Come now and move among us; make us a sign of love.
Come, knead and blend each texture with strong and gentle hands,
That we may be one body, one loaf in many lands.*

*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

*CLOSING RESPONSE

Jesus, Remember Me

599

*POSTLUDE

We Give Thee Thanks

Rand

