

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

October 4, 2020

A Worldwide Celebration of Communion



A Blessing for World Communion Sunday

And the table will be wide.

And the welcome will be wide.

And the arms will open wide to gather us in.

And our hearts will open wide to receive.

And we will come as children who trust there is enough.

And we will come unhindered and free.

*And our aching
will be met with bread.*

*And our sorrow
will be met with wine.*

And we will open our hands to the feast without shame.

And we will turn toward each other without fear.

And we will give up our appetite for despair.

And we will taste and know of delight.

And we will become bread for a hungry world.

And we will become drink for those who thirst.

And the blessed will become the blessing.

And everywhere will be the feast. Amen.

Opening Sentences

- O taste and see that the Lord is good!
- Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

Prelude

Call to Worship

The heavens are telling the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the Creator's handiwork.

They have no speech, they use no words,
yet their witness goes out through all the earth.

Let us join the chorus of creation;
let us raise our voices in resounding praise.

**May the words of our mouths
and the songs of our hearts
be pleasing to the Lord!**

World Communion Sunday



Opening Hymn

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

G to G 509

All who hunger, gather gladly; holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wandering. Here, in truth, we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, never strangers, seeker, be a welcome guest.
Come from restlessness and roaming. Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
We that once were lost and scattered in communion's love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, sing together; Jesus Christ is living bread.
come from loneliness and longing. Here, in peace, we have been led.
Blest are those who from this table live their lives in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

Prayer of the Day

O God,
this day, we are each in our own homes
worshiping through technology rather than in person.
Even so, we gather with siblings from every nation
to share in the sacrament of bread and cup
at the Table of our Lord.
We pray that you will move among us
so that, though we are separated in body
we may be truly the Body of Christ in this world,
united through your Spirit to be channels of your grace.
Make us one in spirit and in purpose and in love.
May we sow righteousness and harvest peace,
through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Call to Confession

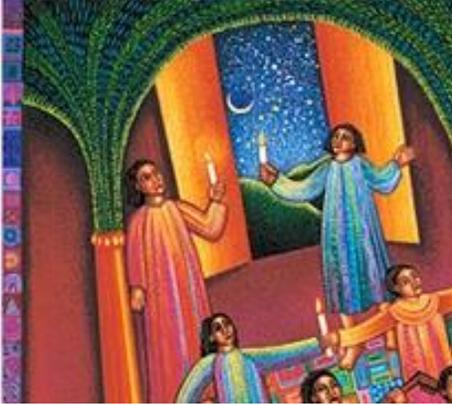
Whatever good we may have done is nothing
compared to the righteousness of Christ.
Whatever wrong we may have done is nothing
compared to the grace of God.
With faith in Christ's righteousness
and confidence in God's grace,
let us offer together our litany of confession.

Litany of Confession

Almighty God: you alone are good and holy.
Purify our lives and make us brave disciples.
We do not ask you to keep us safe,
but to keep us faithful,
so we may serve Jesus Christ.
Amen.

From lack of reverence for truth and beauty;
from a calculating or sentimental mind;
from going along with mean and ugly things;
O God, deliver us.





From cowardice that dares not face truth;
laziness content with half-truth;
or arrogance that thinks we know it all;
O God, deliver us.

From artificial life and worship;
from all that is hollow or insincere;
O God, deliver us.

From trite ideals and cheap pleasures;
from mistaking hard vulgarity for humor;
O God, deliver us.

From being dull, pompous, or rude;
from putting down our neighbors;
O God, deliver us.

From cynicism about others;
from intolerance or cruel indifference;
O God, deliver us.

From being satisfied with things as they are,
in the church or in the world;
from failing to share your indignation about injustice;
O God, deliver us.

From selfishness, self-indulgence, or self-pity;
O God, deliver us.

From token concern for the poor,
for lonely or loveless people;
from confusing faith with good feeling,
or love with wanting to be loved;
O God, deliver us.

For everything in us that may hide your light;
O God, light of life, forgive us.

Silent Confession

Declaration of Forgiveness

Our salvation does not depend
on anything we have done but comes from the grace of God alone.
This is the good news:
in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, healed, and made whole.

Act of Praise

Gloria Patri

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5XTaVJpuFnM>

Passing the Peace of Christ

Anthem

Pan de Vida

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OAvl8Ve0pHc>

Prayer for Illumination

God of all wisdom,
give us your Word
and send us your Spirit
so that we may know Christ. Amen.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 21: 33-46 (Inclusive Bible)

[Jesus said] "Listen to another parable. There was a property owner who planted a vineyard, put a hedge around it, installed a winepress, and erected a tower. Then the owner leased it out to tenant farmers and went on a journey.

³⁴ "When vintage time arrived, the owner sent aides to the tenants to divide the shares of the grapes. ³⁵ The tenants responded by seizing the aides. They beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. ³⁶ A second time the owner sent even more aides than before, but they treated them the same way. ³⁷ Finally, the owner sent the family heir to them, thinking, 'They will respect my heir.'

³⁸ "When the vine growers saw the heir, they said to one another, 'Here's the one who stands in the way of our having everything. With a single act of murder we could seize the inheritance.' ³⁹ With that, they grabbed and killed the heir outside the vineyard. ⁴⁰ What do you suppose the owner of the vineyard will do to those tenants?"

⁴¹ They replied, "The owner will bring that wicked crowd to a horrible death and lease the vineyard out to others, who will see to it that there are grapes for the proprietor at vintage time."

⁴² Jesus said to them, “Did you ever read in the scriptures,
‘The stone which the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone;
it was our God’s doing
and we find it marvelous to behold’?”

⁴³ “That’s why I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and
given to people who will bear its fruit.

⁴⁴ “Those who fall on this stone will be dashed to pieces, and those on whom it
falls will be smashed.”

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard these parables, they realized
that Jesus was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ Although they sought to arrest him, they
feared the crowds, who regarded Jesus as a prophet.

The Word of the Lord / **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon



Affirmation of Faith

from *The Confession of Belhar*

We believe:

-- that Christ’s work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the
community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one
another;

-- that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the
world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the
church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new
earth in which righteousness dwells.

Presentation of Tithes and Offering

Invitation to the Offering

If we were in the sanctuary today, we would be collecting the Peace and Global Witness Special Offering of the PC(USA). Being away from the sanctuary does not prevent us from supporting the church in this important work. Let's be inspired by the young people in this video:

<https://vimeo.com/448557750>

Without Christ, all that we have is nothing.

With Christ, all that we have is everything.

Let us offer all that we have to the Lord.

You can include a gift for the Peace and Global Witness Special Offering by mailing a check to the church PO box with a note on the memo line, or by adding to your on-line giving for this special offering.

Offertory

Offertory Prayer

We give you thanks and praise, O God,
for all your good gifts to us,
and for the opportunities we have
to use those gifts to bring
your justice, mercy, and peace to your children.
May our offerings of time, talent, and treasure,
bless this world that you so love. Amen.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table

We gather at our Lord's table
to share in this sacrament of thanksgiving and grace.

This is the feast of God's goodness.

Let us break bread together.

This is the Sabbath of our souls.

Let us break bread together.

This is the promise of resurrection and life.

Let us break bread together.

This is the gift of Christ's love for us.

Let us break bread together.



Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you / **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts / **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God / **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Promise of salvation,

thank you for this gift of grace.

As we gather at your table and eat of the bread of heaven,

nourish us with the truth of your word

and the blessing of your covenant.

As we drink the cup of the covenant,

fill us with the hope of your salvation.

Remind us that we are one body in your name

with your disciples throughout time and history.

May our lives proclaim the mystery and majesty of your saving grace.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

all glory to you, O God, now and forever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

And now let us pray silently as brothers and sisters from around the world

lead us in the Lord's Prayer: <https://vimeo.com/453343676>

The Words of Institution

The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread,

and after giving thanks to God,

he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat. This is my body, given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood,

shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.

Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

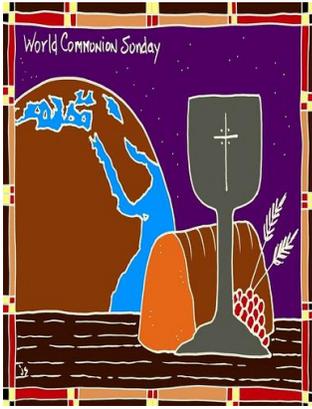
The gifts of God for the people of God.

Whenever we join in this sacrament,

whether gathered in the sanctuary or each in our own homes,

we celebrate our Lord's death and resurrection

until he comes again.



The Feast

The body of Christ, the bread of heaven.

Let us eat.

The cup of the new covenant sealed in Christ.

Let us drink.

Prayer after Communion

We thank you God, for the gifts you give us: for the bread of our being loved; for the wine of our joy; for our life together as people ready to do the work of love and justice. And now we pray that, having been refreshed at your table of grace, we may be bread and wine for each other and the world. Amen.

Hymn

May the God of Hope Go with Us

G to G 765

May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.

May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Praying, let us work for peace; singing, share our joy with all;
working for a world that's new; faithful when we hear Christ's call.

Dios de la esperanza, danos gozo y paz !

Al mundo en crisis, habla tu verdad.

*Dios de la justicia, mándanos tu luz,
luz y esperanza en la oscuridad.*

Oremos por la paz, cantemos de tu amor.

Luchemos por la paz, fieles a ti, Señor.

The Life of the Church

Sending

May the God of glory,
the Lord of life,
and the Spirit of truth
be with you all.
Amen.



Today's Worship Leaders:

Rev. Kathryn J. Escandell
Ann Rowland
Beverly Avila

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Ernie Williams
Robert Garza

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