

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH
A UNITED METHODIST/PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) COMMUNITY
WILDE LAKE INTERFAITH CENTER • COLUMBIA, MARYLAND
UNITED IN LOVE – UNITED FOR SERVICE

October 6, 2024

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST // IN-PERSON & ONLINE SERVICE
WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

All music used by permission. CCLI License #1325764; CCLI Streaming License #20116748

Liturgist: Nancy Gabie

[CC] = closed-captioned

Have your juice and bread/crackers prepared for holy communion.

WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME

PRELUDE

Patricia Hammer
Accompanist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Why World Communion Sunday?

Pastor Steve Nofel

OPENING SONGS

“Holy Ground”

TFWS #2272

We are standing on holy ground,
and I know that there are angels all around;
Let us praise Jesus now;
we are standing in his presence on holy ground.

(Sing three times)

“We Are Marching in the Light of God”
(Siyahamba)

TFWS #2235

Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos
We are marching in the light of God.

We are praying...

We are dancing...

CALL TO WORSHIP

O Lord, our God, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

We praise you in the midst of this congregation.

O Lord, our God, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

We proclaim your name along with the whole human family.

OPENING PRAYER

O God, 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 all your children. We thank you for setting a table with space enough for us all! Amen.

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

SCRIPTURE READING #1 Ephesians 4:1 – 7

ANTHEM “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands” SJU Chancel Choir
(*Traditional spiritual; arr. Sandy Willard Rogers*)

He's got the whole world in His hands.
He's got the little bitty baby in His hands.
He's got you and me, brother, in His hands.
He's got you and me, sister, in His hands.

SCRIPTURE READING #2 Ephesians 4:11 – 16

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Get to Know God Using Seven Senses Pastor Steve Nofel

MESSAGE “CAPTAIN KIRK’S FAVORITE QUESTION” Pastor Steve Nofel

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

CALL TO GENEROSITY

Generous God, we return to you these gifts, not only of our resources, but also of our lives. Sanctify us and use us to work out your purposes in the world. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to The Lord’s Table

Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God! They will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at table in the kingdom of God. This is a foretaste of the Kingdom.

According to Luke, when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples on the Road to Emmaus, he took the bread, and blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him in the breaking of the bread.

This is the Lord's Table. Our Savior invites those who trust him, who need him this day to share the feast which he has prepared.

The Great Thanksgiving

Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is a right, good, and a joyful thing, to give you thanks and praise.

Holy God, we praise you. Let the heavens rejoice, and the earth be glad. We bless you for creating the whole world, for your promises to your people Israel, and for Jesus Christ in whom your fullness dwells.

Born of Mary, he shares our life. Eating with sinners, he welcomes us. Guiding his children, he leads us. Visiting the sick, he heals us. Dying on the cross, he saves us. Risen from the dead, he gives new life. Living with you, he prays for us.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy One, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in your holy name.

Hosanna in the highest.

With thanksgiving we take this bread and this cup and proclaim the death and resurrection of our Lord. Receive our sacrifice of praise. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us that this meal may be a communion in the body and blood of our Lord as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Make us one with Christ and with all who share this feast. Unite us in faith, encourage us with hope, inspire us to love, that we may serve as your faithful disciples until we feast at your table in glory. We praise you, eternal God, through Christ your Word made flesh, in the holy and life-giving Spirit, now and forever.

And now help us to pray as Jesus taught us ...

The Lord's Prayer

Our God in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

The Breaking of Bread and Sharing of Cup

On the night that Jesus was betrayed, he took the bread. He gave God thanks and praise. He broke the bread and said to his disciples, "Take this all of you and eat it. This is my body broken for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you eat it, do this in memory of me."

Then he took the cup. Again, he gave God thanks and praise. He gave the cup to the disciples and said, "Take this all of you and drink it. This is the cup of my blood. The new and everlasting covenant given for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you it, do this in memory of me."

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim his saving death and resurrection until he comes again.

Come, all is prepared. The gifts of God for the people of God.

For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead,

Refrain:

***and God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy!***

For woman and man, a place at the table,
revising the roles, deciding the share,
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,
for woman and man, a system that's fair,

Refrain

For gay, bi, and straight, a place at the table,
a covenant shared, a welcoming space,
a rainbow of race and gender and color,
for queer and for trans, the chalice of grace,

Refrain

For everyone born, a place at the table,
to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
for everyone born, the right to be free,

Refrain

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Majestic and eternal God, you have fed us with the bread of life and satisfied us with the cup of salvation. As we rise from this table, may we remember its expanse, and our connection to our siblings in Christ around the globe. Make us instruments of your peace and messengers of your love in thought, word, and deed. Make us one with you and all of creation through the power of the Holy Spirit we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

COMMUNION SONG

“Praises Heard Around the World”
(Songwriters: Tony Martin, James Craig)

(Devon Sparks; video)

Lord, your love has saved us (Lord, your love has saved us)
Precious blood has bathed us (precious blood has bathed us)
Now your message takes us (now your message takes us)
All around the world (all around the world)

Chorus

***Can't you hear them, hear them singing?
The people they're rejoicing with one voice, they are shouting
Singing halle—, hallelujah
Praises heard around the world***

All of your creation (all of your creation)
Each and every nation (each and every nation)
Sending your salvation (sending your salvation)
All around the world (all around the world)

Chorus

Against the demons fighting (against the demons fighting)
Holy Spirit guiding (Holy Spirit guiding)
Family we're uniting (family we're uniting)
All around the world (all around the world)

Chorus

Can't you hear them (can't you hear them),
hear them singing (hear them singing)
The people they're rejoicing with one voice, they are shouting
Singing halle—, hallelujah
Praises heard around the world (praises heard around the world)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Patricia Hammer
Accompanist

Readings are NRSV unless otherwise noted. CEB=Common English Bible; CEV=Contemporary English Version; KJV=King James Version; MSG=The Message; NIV=New International Version; NLT=New Living Translation; TIB=The Inclusive Bible

Ephesians 4:1 – 7

¹ I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

⁷ But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift.

Ephesians 4:11 – 16

¹¹ The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

¹⁴ We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

