



Zion Goshert's United Church of Christ

World Communion Sunday
Sunday, October 3, 2021

Pastor: Bruce Farrell

Ministers: All the Faithful Members

1588 Mount Zion Road, Lebanon, PA 17046
717-865-3286 www.ziongosherts.org

PRELUDE

Tara Zimmerman

WELCOME and Ringing of the Bell

CALL TO WORSHIP

[from 1 Peter 5:9; Revelation 7:9-12]

Pastor: On this World Communion Sunday, let us remember the great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, who will stand before the throne and before the Lamb.

People: We who believe are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that we may declare the praises of Jesus Christ Who called us out of darkness into His wonderful light.

Pastor: The multitude cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, Who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

All: We join all our brothers and sisters here and through the world to worship our God, saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!"

HYMN

As We Gather at Your Table

**¹ As we gather at Your table, as we listen to Your word,
Help us know, O God, Your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;
Teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's victory known.**

**² Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life.
Send us forth to love and serve You, bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, Your great compassion to forgive as You forgave.
May we still behold Your image in the world You died to save.**

**³ Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast
Where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us, nor will pride our peace destroy,
As we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.**

PRAYERS for the People and Pastoral Prayer

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father Who is in heaven, hallowed be Your Name.
Your kingdom come; Your 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.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: A Huge Meal

GORD'S WORD ON GIVING

THE SCRIPTURE: Matthew 26:26; 1 Corinthians 11:23-24; 1 Peter 2:5-9

SERMON: Table Manners Part 3 ~ Table Furnishings

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

PASTORAL INVITATION TO THE COMMUNION TABLE

Jesus was always the guest. In the homes of Peter and Jairus, Martha and Mary, Joanna and Susanna, He was always the guest. At the meal tables of the wealthy where he pled the case of the poor, He was always the guest. Upsetting polite company, befriending isolated people, welcoming the stranger, He was always the guest. But here, at this table, Jesus is the host.

Those who wish to serve Him must first be served by Him. Those who want to follow Him must first be fed by Him.
Those who would wash His feet must first let Him make them clean.
For this is the table where God intends us to be nourished. This is the time when Christ can make us new.
So come, you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith, for a fuller life, for a better world.
Jesus Christ, Who has sat at our tables, now invites us to be guests at His.

CONFESSION

Pastor: First, though, we come in confession. Jesus, You prayed that we might be one: one in Spirit, one in mission, in union and communion with each other and with You.

People: We confess fumbings and failures of unity, with You and with our sisters and brothers in Christ. We don't see Your reflection in them.

Pastor: We are not in communion with our neighbors that You have asked us to love. We don't go out on a limb for them – bringing food or cheer or digging through the rubble of disasters.

People: We don't set a table with enough room for us all.

KYRIE

Pastor: Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Pastor: Christ, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

Pastor: Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Lord, have mercy upon us.

COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor: Holy God, we praise You, for You are the One from whom we will return.

People: You conceived the universe, wove the world together, and hold all life in Your hand.

Pastor: You watch us waking or sleeping. You keep every tear that we shed. You hear every prayer we make. You know both our best and our worst and You will not let us go.

People: So with rain, wind, and sunshine, with all that moves in time with its Maker, we praise You.

Pastor: We praise you for Christ's life which informs our living, for His compassion which changes our hearts, for His clear speaking, for His disturbing presence, His innocent suffering, His courageous dying, His rising to life and breathing forgiveness.

People: We praise You and worship Him.

Pastor: Merciful God, send now, in kindness, your Holy Spirit to rest on us, converting us from the patterns of this passing world, until we conform to the shape of the One whose food we now share. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

[Romans 3:22-23]

Righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. All are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*SERAPHIC HYMN

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth. Heaven and earth are full, are full of the majesty of Your glory.

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is He Who cometh in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the Highest!

COMMUNION

Sharing of the Bread

Behold the Lamb

¹ Behold the Lamb Who bears our sins away, slain for us – and we remember

The promise made that all who come in faith find forgiveness at the cross.

So we share in this Bread of Life and we drink of His sacrifice

As a sign of our bonds of peace around the table of the King.

² The body of our Savior Jesus Christ torn for you – eat and remember.

The wounds that heal the death that brings us life paid the price to make us one.

So we share in this Bread of Life and we drink of His sacrifice

As a sign of our bonds of love around the table of the King.

Sharing of the Wine

Behold the Lamb

**³ The blood that cleanses every stain of sin shed for you – drink and remember
He drained death's cup that all may enter in to receive the life of God.
So we share in this Bread of Life and we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of grace around the table of the King.**

**⁴ And so with thankfulness and faith we rise – to respond and to remember
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ as His body here on earth.
As we share in His suffering, we proclaim Christ will come again
And we'll join in the feast of heaven around the table of the King, around the table the King.**

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

O God, we give You thanks for uniting us as the Body of Christ and for filling us with joy at this table. Lead us toward the unity of Your church and help us treasure signs of reconciliation. Now that we have tasted again the banquet You have prepared for us, may we one day feast together in Your heavenly city. Through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

HYMN

Christ! For the World We Sing

**¹ Christ for the world! we sing; the world to Christ we bring.
With loving zeal – the poor and them that mourn, the faint and overborne,
sin-sick and sorrow-worn, for Christ to heal.**

**² Christ for the world! we sing; the world to Christ we bring
with fervent prayer – the wayward and the lost, by restless passions tossed,
redeemed at countless cost from dark despair.**

**³ Christ for the world! we sing; the world to Christ we bring
with one accord – with us the work to share, with us reproach to dare,
with us the cross to bear, for Christ our Lord.**

**⁴ Christ for the world! we sing; the world to Christ we bring
with joyful song – the newborn souls whose days, reclaimed from error's ways,
inspired with hope and praise, to Christ belong.**

BENEDICTION

NOTES ON PARISH LIFE

POSTLUDE

Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!
Revelation 19:6

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Communion liturgy adapted from <https://www.umediscipleship.org/articles/world-communion-sunday-2021-resources>.
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