

Eastminster Presbyterian Church
SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
World Communion Service
October 4, 2020-11:00 a.m.

CALL TO WORSHIP AND OPENING PRAYER

From east and west, north and south, we gather in God's name, to worship, to fellowship, to celebrate the Lord's Supper. We give thanks that we are part of a large, diverse faith family. We are old. We are young. We come from tribes of all kinds. We give thanks that God's family is one of many colors. We give thanks that the good news story we proclaim belongs to everyone. We stand with our friends and family around the world, reclaiming the name of Jesus. We give thanks for Jesus' resurrection, a truth that tells us that God's love wins. We give thanks and praise to the Triune God: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer. May we worship God as we gather at God's wide and wonderful table.

PRAYER

On this World Communion Sunday, give us eyes to recognize your reflection in the eyes of Christians everywhere. Give us a mind to accept and celebrate our differences. Give us a heart big enough to love your children everywhere. We thank you for setting a table with space enough for us all! Amen.

VOLUNTARY

Duet #1 in C Major
Yashmine Bougach, Violin and Carlos Vargas, Cello

Johann Stamitz

CALL TO CONFESSION

Great indeed is the faithfulness of God, and yet our hearts are not so reliable. We wander. We argue. We forget. We divide ourselves with anger and bitterness and falsehood. Let's try to come back together again, and let's start with the truth. Let's confess our sins, to God, and also, to each other.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, mother of mercy, father of grace: You have called us to one table, but we have pursued our own course. You have promised us the abundance of all creation, but in our greed, and in our envy, the world goes without. You have promised us the bread of life itself, but in our pride, and in our arrogance, the world goes hungry. You have promised us the waters of peace and justice, but in our violence, and in our discord, the world goes thirsty. And now we are famished, too, Lord. Have mercy on us. Forgive us, again. Transform us, at this table, and for this table, and send us from this table as servants of your righteousness, by the power of your Son, our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Even when our cups run dry, God's grace overflows. Even when our plates are empty, God's generosity overflows. And even when our hearts feel barren, God's love overflows. Friends, you have been called and claimed by the God of all things, and by the abundance of God's grace, and by the power of God's love, your sins have been forgiven. Go in peace. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

As we are gathered here today, we ask you, our living God, to shower onto us your wisdom and knowledge. We pray that as we listen to your word, we may have the ability to clearly see what God has called us to do. We seek to live to fulfill your purpose so that we can see your kingdom. Illuminate our eyes and reveal to us your glory. Amen.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 17: 5-10

⁵The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" ⁶The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you. ⁷"Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, 'Come here at once and take your place at the table'? ⁸Would you not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink'? ⁹Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? ¹⁰So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, 'We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!'"

HOMILY

Enough

Sherry Holloman

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(adapted from the *Belhar Confession*)

We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the unity of the communion of saints of the entire human family. And we believe that that this unity of the people of God must be manifest and active, in that we love one another; that we give ourselves willingly and joyfully to one another, that we share one baptism together, that we eat of one bread and drink of one cup together, that we confess one name, one Lord, for one cause, with one hope, which is the height and the breadth and the depth and the love of Christ, forever and ever. Amen.

CALL FOR OFFERING

We approach the table today but we don't approach it alone. We approach it on this World Communion Sunday with Christians around the world, in congregations large and small, speaking every language and one language. And part of our approach this morning is to remember in our offering our connection to the work of the church in every corner of God's creation. Truly, God has blessed us with the rich, varied, and abundant gifts of creation. From God's abundance, let us also give abundantly.

MUSICAL OFFERING

One Bread, One Body
Sanctuary Choir

John Foley

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Gracious God, you create more than we could ever hope to return. You share more than we could ever hope to deserve. And yet, we pray, accept these humble gifts. May they honor and glorify you in all creation and may they empower us for the work of witness and service, for the sake of justice, and for the sake of peace, now and forever. Amen.

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

This Table is for all of us, near and far, high and low, east and west and north and south. This Table is for all of us, but it is not our table. It's not a Presbyterian table. It's not an American table. It's the Lord's table, for all of us, and it's a table of grace. The place you sit is holy ground. Before each of you is, in spirit, the Table of the Lord, each of you an invited guest to that Table and all of us together make up the one Table of the Lord. The Lord has invited you and now welcomes us all to this table of grace.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord is with us, as we offer the right and reverent response, lifting our hearts together as one. Loving God, you created us to be your people and to declare our Maker's praise throughout the earth. We bless you for the abundance and diversity that surrounds us. We thank you that we can witness to your saving deeds throughout the ages and throughout the world.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

We gather this day in remembrance of Jesus Christ who walked among the people and showed deeds of power and healing that their faith might grow and be strengthened and for all the apostles that heeded the Gospel and planted the seed of faith throughout the lands. May we be united with every corner of his story, united in hope, united in vision, united in purpose, united in ministry in every place as we proclaim the mystery of our faith: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

May we be vessels for your Holy Spirit that your grace and mercy might grow in us as a seed that produces a great harvest, moves mountains, and enables us to humble servanthood on behalf of all who inhabit your creation.

May we be one with all who share this feast, on this day, of all days, with all your children at every corner of your table. May we share this abundant cup with all those who thirst for your justice. May we share this abundant bread with all those who hunger for your righteousness. By this broken bread may we each be restored for the work yet to come. By this shared cup may we each be claimed for the proclamation of your Kingdom. At this shared table may we be united as children of your promise, as we pray these words of God's always enough provision: 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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION, THE BREAKING OF BREAD AND SHARING OF CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us from this table to be the body of Christ in all the world. Send us with a spirit of courage, a spirit of power and love, that we may be witnesses in all creation to the unending story of your word breathing life into the dust. Keep us faithful, and fruitful, and hopeful, and peaceful, until we come at last to the one table of your Kingdom, to feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm, with you and with your Word, through Christ and in Christ. Amen

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

You and I were called to this table. We were fed at this table. We were united at this table. Now, we are sent from this table into all the world. Go therefore into the world, with courage. Set a place for all who hunger. Fill the cup of all who thirst. And as we go, may the Spirit of power and love attend us, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ uphold us and may the great faithfulness of our God sustain us, now and forever. Amen

MUSIC *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*