



World Communion Sunday
October 4, 2020

Prelude

Oh, How I Love Jesus, Martha Main, YouTube

We are Called to Worship - Creator God, we are here, together in hope! With community and creation, with neighbors near and far, with those known and new, with Christians across geography and across time, together in hope! Let us worship!+

Gathering Prayer - Holy and gracious God, let us be open to your presence among your people, those gathered for worship, and all of your people, throughout your creation. May we receive you fully and respond to you wholeheartedly. Amen.+

Song 1

A Place at the Table, 617, YouTube

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

A Time of Prayer

You are welcome to send prayer requests to Pastor Sarah. Spend a few moments connecting with God and lifting up your prayers.

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

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.

We Hear God's Word

Matthew 26:19, 26-30

¹⁹So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

26 While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is my body.' ²⁷Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you; ²⁸for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.'

30 When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Ephesians 4:1-6

4I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

Meditation

Searching for Communion

We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving - You're invited to take out your checkbook in these moments. As you write out your offering, be prayerful with each letter and number. In times such as these, when money becomes tight and our economy is under strain, God invites us to be generous and give what we can. These are gifts we freely give, as we are able and as we are called.

We ask that you please mail in your offerings to our office.

Zion United Church of Christ

8916 E. Troy Ave.

Indianapolis, IN 46239

You can now submit your offerings on our website through a secure PayPal donation button. Please know that PayPal receives a 2.2% processing fee and a \$0.30 transaction charge. You are able to set up reoccurring, monthly payments. Check it out on our website at www.zionuccindy.net/donate.

The Doxology (Please sing the version that is most meaningful to you)

Version 1
Praise God from whom all blessings
flow;
Praise him all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

Version 2
Praise God from whom all blessings
flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit One.
Amen.

We Give Thanks – These gifts represent the best of ourselves, O God – we attest, with joy, that we can do no better. Receive them with our prayers. Take and use them for your goodness. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

We Gather at the Table

Song 2

One Bread, One Body, 689, YouTube



Set Your Place at the Table—Communion was first celebrated in the homes of those in the early church. Friends and family would gather together to pray, singing songs, and break bread. We carry on that tradition today. Whatever you have on hand to celebrate communion will work just fine, because this ancient ritual is not about what we use for this meal or where we partake of it. Instead, it is about the act of remembrance. So gather around the table, prepare your place, and remember that Christ is in our midst.

World Communion Sunday Celebration – *You're invited to read the stories from our friends in Sri Lanka, the Philippines, and Germany about how God has been at work in their lives. If you are following along on the internet, the stories will be included in our Scripture, Reflection, and Communion video.*

Our Invitation— As part of the world-wide community of Christians, we remember Jesus' meal with his disciples. We've heard from our friends thousands of miles away, a reminder of the range of Christian experience, both close to us and around the world.

Jesus sets the table where we dine today. Jesus' welcome extends to all of humanity. People of all ages, of all genders, of all cultures and cultures,

of all economic conditions are welcome here.

No one can earn a place at this meal. Come of your own choice. You need only desire a deeper relationship with the risen Christ. Bring your hopes and your history. Bring your deliberations and your doubts. Come as your whole self.+

The Words of Institution—On the night when Jesus was to be betrayed, he gathered with his friends in that upper room to celebrate the Passover meal, a meal of remembrance of the liberation of God’s people from slavery in Egypt, a journey that would lead them deep into the wilderness. After the meal was over, Jesus took the bread that was left, broke it, blessed it, and said, “Take and eat, this is my body broken for you.” In the same way, he took the cup, the fruit of the vine, and pouring it out he said, “This is the cup of the new covenant, my blood shed for you and the forgiveness of sins. As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, remember me.” Today, we remember Christ’s body broken for us and blood shed for us as bread is transformed into mercy and wine into compassion. As we prepare to receive this holy meal, let us ready our hearts by confessing our sins to God. Let us pray.

Our Confession—God-made-flesh, Bone of our bone, we confess that we think we can go it alone, that we try to do it all, that in doing so, we neglect the gifts you have given us: the bone of our bone, the flesh of our flesh, the bodies you created, and the relationships you created us for.

Jesus Christ, you who lived in a human body, call us to community. Remind us that in you we are one. Awake in us a respect for one another, and celebrate with us the diversity within that unity. May it be so now and forever. Amen.+

Assurance of Grace— You are part the divine creation, and it is not right for you to be alone. Know now that you are forgiven and called back into relationship with God and with one another. Thanks be to God. Amen.+

Blessing Our Meal— Promise of salvation, thank you for this gift of grace. As we gather at your table and eat of this bread, nourish us with the truth of your word and the blessing of your covenant. As we drink of this cup and share table together, 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. Amen.

We Share the Bread and the Cup – As you eat the bread, remember, “This is the body of Christ broken for you.” Take and eat. As you drink the cup, remember, “This is the blood of Christ shed for you and the forgiveness of sins.” Take and drink.

We Give Thanks—Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior’s presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ’s body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.=

Song 3

In Christ There is No East or West, 600, YouTube

We Are Sent Forth with a Blessing – May the blessings of God, the Creator, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit go with you into the world. Go forth this day to love and serve the LORD. Amen.+

Postlude

Glory to His Name/Holy Manna Medley, Martha Main, YouTube

Worship Notes: +UCC Worship Ways; =UCC Book of Worship.