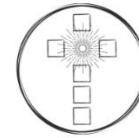




WORSHIP WITH ZION

Autumn 2024



Serve & Enrich
Zion United Church
of Christ

World Communion Sunday

Prelude

Andante in G

Gathering— Let us gather on this World Communion Sunday with gratitude and thanksgiving for God’s global church. We lift up our hearts in praise for God’s uniting love. Let us celebrate the diversity of God’s people near and far. With joy we give thanks for our friends and partners in Sri Lanka. Let us commit our lives to God’s work of justice and peace. We will love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and will love our neighbors as ourselves.

****Hymn**

As We Gather At Your Table, 695

Prayer—Majestic God, your realm encompasses the universe, the earth, and our community. All creation declares your glory. May we unite with our kin around the world in celebrating you and the connections we share. As we gather in your name, may we remember those we join in faith, hope, and worship on every continent representing every tradition. May we declare in spirit and in truth...one bread, one body...the church striving to one as you, Sustainer, Redeemer, and Spirit are one.+

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.

Exploring God’s Word for All Ages

We Hear God’s Word—*Mark 10:13-16 (NRSVUE)*

Greg Miller

¹³ People were bringing children to him in order that he might touch them, and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴ But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the children come to me; do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” ¹⁶ And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

Meditation

We Gather at the Table

Hymn

Let Us Break Bread Together, 699

Set Your Place at the Table— 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.

Our Invitation—Faith communities around the Earth gather to observe World Communion Sunday. Some call it Holy Communion, others refer to it as the Great Thanksgiving (Eucharist) or Lord's Supper...Every language and tongue, every tribe and nation, every continent and hemisphere represented as the Body of Christ accepts the invitation to unity around a meal prepared by the One who entered a body, the human condition, and the brokenness of the world. Let us join together in the name of Jesus the Christ to commune as one.+

A Prayer for Transformation (from our partners in Sri Lanka)— Dear God, as we come before you, on this special Sunday, we are so grateful that we are so nourished with your own Body and Your own Blood, that gives us Confidence that You are constantly, physically and spiritually, present with us and uniting everyone. We are so comforted in knowing that You are our shelter and refuge in times of trouble. You created everyone equally, in Your image in all aspects. You taught us to pray with Your Model Prayer, the Lord's Prayer, but the context in which we live makes us question the essence of that prayer. You taught us to pray for Your Kingdom and Thy will to come among us, but we are always establishing our own kingdoms and our selfish will around us. You taught us to pray for our daily bread. We do pray so, yet we are often tempted to feed ourselves only and not consider the needs of others. Whatever trespasses we commit against you, when we confess them, You forgive them all and remember no more, but we are very much reluctant even to think about forgiving the smallest thing done against us. We are always scheming to do evil to others. We humbly ask You to change our hearts and minds so that we can be influencers in our society to show Your presence among us as well as with others. We ask this in the precious name of the Living Bread, Jesus Christ. Amen!

Assurance of Grace— Jesus said, Let the children come to me, do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Seeing our

repentant hearts, Jesus will embrace us in grace and comfort us with mercy. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. We are children of God! Live in peace! =

Special Music

Come, Share the Lord, Dennis Frische-Mouri

The Words of Institution—For it was the night of betrayal when Jesus enjoyed a meal with his community of faithful disciples. Imperfect people committed to follow his way encircled that table. The one who would deny him was at the table. The one who would betray him was at the table. Many who would flee in fear of the risk to their own lives sat at that table. All were welcomed. All were known. All were loved.

All were nourished as Jesus took the bread, gave thanks for it, and broke it. As he offered the bread to the gathered, he declared, “This is my body. Take and eat in remembrance of me.”

After supper, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks, and blessed it. As he offered the cup to the gathered, he declared, “This is the cup of the new covenant in my blood. Take and drink in remembrance of me.”

Ministering in the name of Jesus, we offer bread and cup as we proclaim Christ lived, Christ died, Christ rose, and Christ lives again.+

Blessing Our Meal—Communal God, we give you thanks that as you shared in life and death, you lead us into the resurrected life. At this table, we acknowledge your abiding presence among us. You offered us bread and cup, which we receive in remembrance and expectation of your movement in human history. Form us as your faithful community and shape us as servants and stewards of your realm. By your Holy Spirit, may your covenant reign within our hearts and manifest in the witness of our lives now and forever. Amen.+

We Share the Bread and the Cup

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.`

We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving

Invitation—As we have offered our prayers and our praise to God, now may we offer our gifts and our tithes for a world in need of our church and our ministry.~

Opportunities to Serve

Blood Drive

Hurricane Relief—Church World Service Hygiene Kits

October Benevolence—Neighbors in Need

****Doxology**

We Give Thanks—Holy One, we thank you for our abundance and the privilege to share in the flourishing of our community and the world. Bless these gifts and be glorified by our generosity and trust in your provision, sufficiency, and renewing power. Amen.+

Hymn

They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love, 595

Benediction—People of God, go into the world and speak God's blessing and God's grace in word and action. Amen.~

Postlude

Go Forth with Knowledge