

A Celebration of Unity & Creation

World Communion Sunday & the Feast of St. Francis



October 4, 2020

City of Bluefield, West Virginia



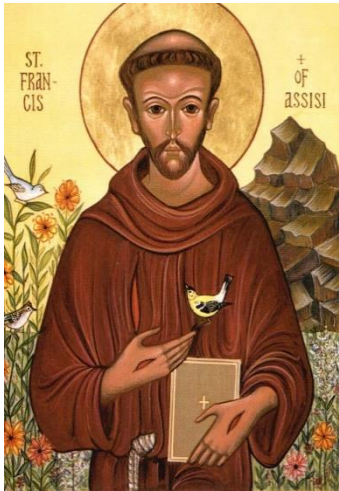
Christ Episcopal Church
First Presbyterian Church
Immanuel Lutheran Church

What is world communion Sunday?

World Communion Sunday is a celebration observed by several Christian denominations, taking place on the first Sunday of every October, that promotes Christian unity and ecumenical cooperation. It focuses on an observance of the eucharist. The tradition was begun in 1933 by Hugh Thomson Kerr who ministered in the Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.



It was his desire to bring churches together in a service of Christian unity—in which everyone might receive both inspiration and information, and above all, to know how important the Church of Jesus Christ is, and how each congregation is interconnected one with another.



Who was St. Francis of Assisi?

Francis, the son of a prosperous merchant of Assisi, was born in 1182. His early youth was spent in harmless revelry and fruitless attempts to win military glory. Various encounters with beggars and lepers affected the young man's conscience, and he decided to embrace a life devoted to Lady Poverty. Despite his father's intense opposition, Francis totally renounced all material values, and devoted himself to serve the poor. In 1210, Pope Innocent III confirmed the simple Rule for the Order of Friars Minor, a name Francis chose to emphasize his desire to be numbered among the "least" of God's servants.

The Order grew rapidly all over Europe. By 1221, however, Francis had lost control of it since his ideal of strict and absolute poverty, both for the individual friars and for the Order as a whole, was found to be too difficult to maintain. His last years were spent in much suffering of body and spirit but his unconquerable joy never failed. Not long before his death, at a retreat on Mt. La Verna, Francis received, on September 14, Holy Cross Day, the marks of the Lord's wounds, the stigmata, in his own hands and feet and side. Pope Gregory IX, a former patron of the Franciscans, canonized Francis in 1228, and began erection of the great basilica in Assisi where Francis is buried.

Of all the saints, Francis is the most popular and admired, but probably the least imitated; few have attained to his total identification with the poverty and suffering of the Christ. He is especially remembered for his humble love of all of God's living things.

Why do we celebrate them together today?

This year both feasts fall on the same day—October 4th. Now, more than ever, we should strive to work together as neighbors, friends, and stewards of creation for the common good of our world.



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

At this time announcements for the Congregation will be made.

CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 148, *Laudate Dominum*

Let all of Creation:

Praise the Lord! Hallelujah!

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights! Praise the Lord, all his angels; praise him all the host! Praise him, sun and moon, and all you shining stars!

Let all of Creation:

Praise the Lord!

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for God commanded and they were created. The Lord established them forever and ever.

Let all of Creation:

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling God's command! Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and cedars! Wild animals and cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

Let all of Creation:

Praise the Lord!

Rulers of the earth and all the nations, young men and women alike, old and young together! Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; God's glory is above earth and heaven.

Let all of Creation:

Praise the Lord! Hallelujah!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

The minister stands and addresses the congregation.

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

HYMN OF ADORATION

All creatures of our God and King



- 1 All crea - tures of our God and King, lift up your voic - es, let us
- *2 Great rush - ing winds and breez - es soft, you clouds that ride the heavens a -
- *3 Swift flow - ing wa - ter, pure and clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to
- 4 Dear mo - ther earth, you day by day un - fold your bless - ings on our
- 5 All you with mer - cy in your heart, for - giv - ing o - thers, take your
- *6 And ev - en you, most gen - tle death, wait - ing to hush our fi - nal
- 7 Let all things their cre - a - tor bless, and wor - ship him in hum - ble -



1 sing: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Bright burn - ing
2 loft, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Fair ris - ing
3 hear, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Fire, so in -
4 way, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! All flowers and
5 part, O — sing now: Al - le - lu - ia! All you that
6 breath, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! You lead back
7 ness, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God the



1 sun with gold - en beams, pale sil - ver moon that gen - tly gleams,
2 morn, with praise re - joice, stars night - ly shin - ing, find a voice,
3 tense and fierce - ly bright, you give to us both warmth and light,
4 fruits that in you grow, let them his glo - ry al - so show:
5 pain and sor - row bear, praise God, and cast on him your care:
6 home the child of God, for Christ our Lord that way has trod:
7 Fa - ther, praise the Son, and praise the Spi - rit, Three in One:

Refrain



O praise him, O praise him, Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

The refrain may be sung antiphonally, by phrase; all join in the final Alleluia.

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GREETING

The minister greets the congregation.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.

A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

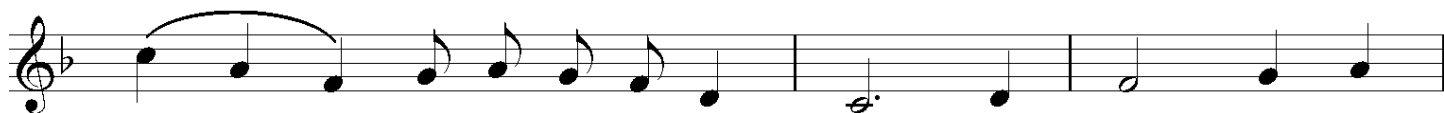
A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men

HYMN OF PRAISE

Gloria in excelsis



1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and



peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly



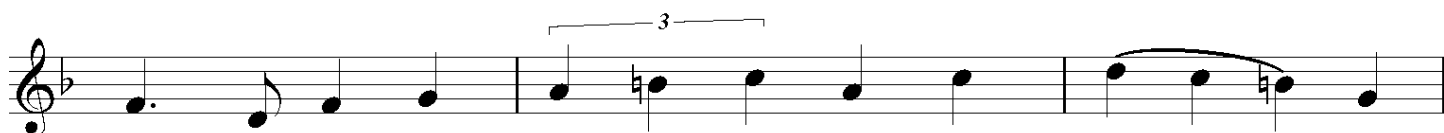
King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we



give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus



Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you



take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy



on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -



ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,

you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
 High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Savior, the Prince of Peace: Give us grace seriously to lay to heart the great dangers we are in by our unhappy divisions; take away all hatred and prejudice, and whatever else may hinder us from godly union and concord; that, as there is but one Body and one Spirit, one hope of our calling, one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all, so we may be all of one heart and of one soul, united in one holy bond of truth and peace, of faith and charity, and may with one mind and one mouth glorify you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

(BCP page 818)



THE FIRST LESSON

The First Lesson is from the 1st chapter of the Book of Genesis.

And God said, ‘Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.’ And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, ‘Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.’

So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.’ God said, ‘See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.’ And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.

Here ends the reading.

THE PSALM

Psalm 133

Ecce, quam bonum!

We will read the Psalm together in unison

- 1 Oh, how good and pleasant it is, when brethren live together in unity!
- 2 It is like fine oil upon the head that runs down upon the beard,
- 3 Upon the beard of Aaron, and runs down upon the collar of his robe.
- 4 It is like the dew of Hermon that falls upon the hills of Zion.
- 5 For there the Lord has ordained the blessing: life for evermore.

THE GOSPEL LESSON



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 17th chapter



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost

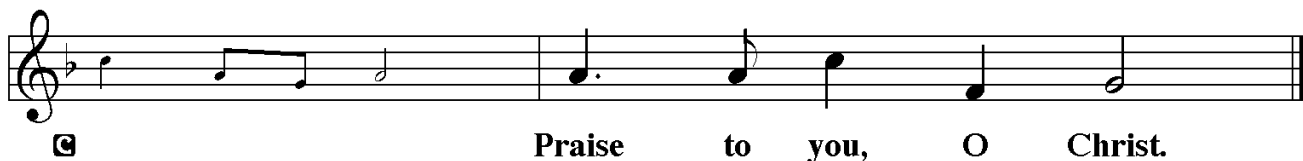
except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

‘I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

‘Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.’

After the reading the minister may say:

The Gospel of the Lord.



THE SERMON

A period of silence may follow for reflection

HYMN OF THE DAY

We Are One in the Spirit

Peter Scholtes, 1966

ST BRENDAN'S
Peter Scholtes, 1966



1. We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord;
2. We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand;
3. We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side;
4. All — praise to the Fa - ther, from — whom all things come,



We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord,
We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand,
We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side,
And all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's — on - ly — Son,



And we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
And to - geth - er wil'll spread the news that God is in our land:
And we'll guard hu - man dig - ni - ty and save — hu - man pride:
And all praise to the Spir - it, who — makes — us — one:



And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our love;



yes, they'll know — we are Chris - tians by our love. —



THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

THE LITANY FOR THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

O God, we pray for the gifts of ministry. Inspire our minds with a vision of
your kingdom in this time and place.

Hear us, O Christ.

Touch our eyes, that we may see your glory in all creation.

Hear us, O Christ.

Touch our ears, that we may hear from every mouth the hunger for hope and
stories of refreshment.

Hear us, O Christ.

Touch our lips, that we may tell in every tongue and dialect the wonderful
works of God.

Hear us, O Christ.

Touch our hearts, that we may discern the mission to which you call us.

Hear us, O Christ.

Touch our feet, that we may take your Good News into our neighborhoods, communities, and all parts of the world.

Hear us, O Christ.

Touch our hands, that we may each accomplish the work you give us to do.

Hear us, O Christ.

Strengthen and encourage all who minister in your name in lonely, dangerous, and unresponsive places.

Hear us, O Christ.

Open the hearts and hands of many to support your Church in this and every place.

Hear us, O Christ.

Almighty Father, whose blessed Son before his passion prayed for his disciples that they might be one, even as you and he are one: Grant that your Church, being bound together in love and obedience to you, may be united in one body by the one Spirit, that the world may believe in him whom you sent, Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the same Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

THE LITANY FOR CREATION

Let us give thanks to God our Father for all his gifts so freely bestowed upon us....

for the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea;

We thank you, Lord.

For the richness of the mountains, plains and rivers;

We thank you, Lord.

For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women;

We thank you, Lord.

For all creatures that breathe, and move, and have life;

We thank you, Lord.

For the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers and trees;

We thank you, Lord.

For the trust you have shown in giving into our care these, our pets;

We thank you, Lord.

That each pet here may be treasured with care;

We pray to you, Lord.

That all animals might shelter and all pets find homes and love;

We pray to you, Lord.

That we may love and honor all your works, O God;

We pray to you, Lord.

That all shelters and rescues may have the resources to carry out their work.

We pray to you, Lord.

That we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation;

To the honor and glory of your name, now and forever, we pray to you, Lord.

Almighty and everlasting God, Creator of all things and giver of all life, let your blessing be upon all these animals. May we be faithful stewards to them and mirror your love for all of creation. We pray that our care for them be an example of your bountiful mercy. Grant these animals health and peace. Strengthen us to love and care for them as we strive to imitate the love of Jesus Christ our Lord and of God's servant, blessed Francis of Assisi.

Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

The ministers and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Given the present circumstances, please refrain from physical touch. Wave to one another and wish each other the Peace of God.



OFFERTORY HYMN

I come with joy to meet my Lord

Unison or harmony

1 I come with joy to meet my Lord, for -
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to
3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each
4 And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, we'll

1 giv - en, loved, and free, in awe and won - der
2 find, as all are fed, the new com - mu - ni -
3 proud di - vi - sion ends. That love that made us
4 pres - ence, al - ways near, is in such friend - ship
5 go our dif - ferent ways, and as his peo - ple

1 to re - call his life laid down for me.
2 ty of love in Christ's com - mun - ion bread.
3 makes us one, and stran - gers now are friends.
4 bet - ter known: we see, and praise him here.
5 in the world, we'll live and speak his praise.

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THE INVITATION

It began last night as we were going to bed – World Communion Sunday.

Our brothers and sisters in the Korean Church met by the thousands to share rice bread and wine. House churches across China met in secret so that they would not be arrested. Christians in the Middle East gathered in some of the same places where Christ's disciples first celebrated the Eucharist. In Europe, Christians came together in cathedrals and in storefronts, worshiping in multiple languages with long-time neighbors and refugees who have just arrived at their new homes. In Africa, the sacrament was celebrated in great numbers by the faithful.

Christ followers have met today in public and in secret, in freedom and under threat. They have worshiped with organ music and drum beat, with loud clapping and quiet whispers. In well-dressed sanctuaries and in simple tents, the Spirit of the Lord is pleased to dwell today with all who gather to share the sign and seal of grace. Siblings in Christ from hundreds of denominations and traditions have joined together in unity around the Body of Christ.

And now it is our turn.

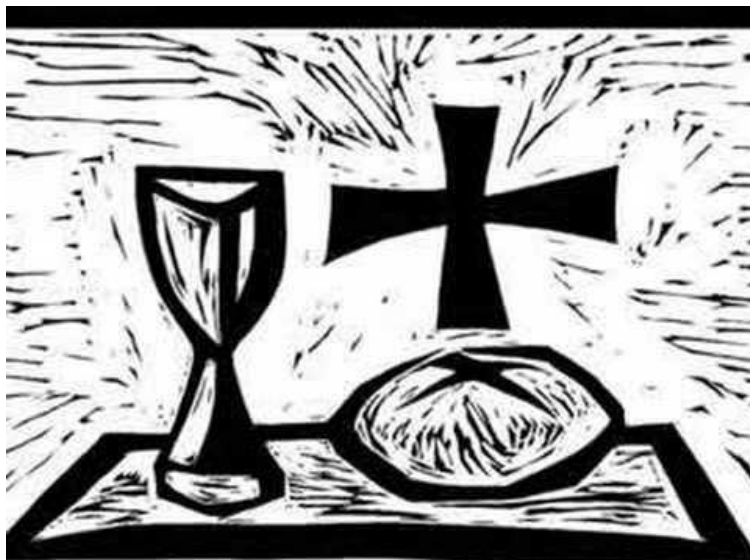
This table is for all of us, near and far, high and low, east and west and north and south.

This table is for all of us, but it is not our table. It's not a Presbyterian, Episcopal, or Lutheran table. It's not an American table.

This is the Lord's table. This is a table of grace.

So come and take your place at the feast of grace.

You are welcome, you are invited, you are called: Come, let us share this feast together.



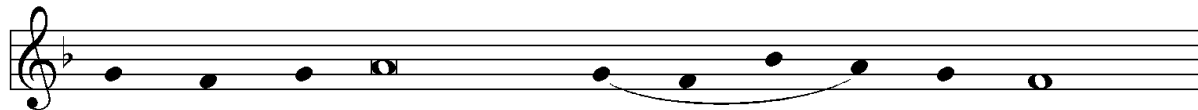
THE PRAYER OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST



P The Lord be with you. **G** And al - so with you.



P Lift up your hearts. **G** We lift them to the Lord.



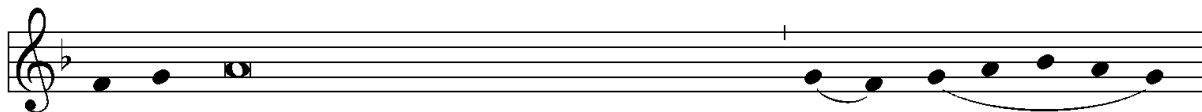
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



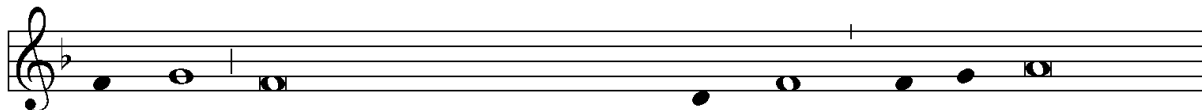
G It is right to give him thanks and praise.



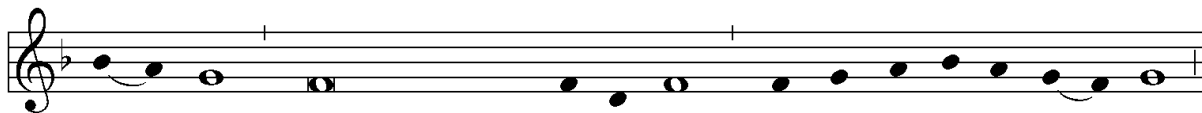
It is indeed right and sal - u - tary that we should at all times and in all plac - es



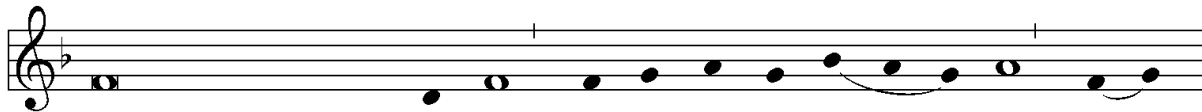
of - fer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ



our Lord. In him you have received us as your children, made us citizens of your




king - dom, and given us your Ho - ly Spirit to guide us in - to all truth.




And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heav - en, we




praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:



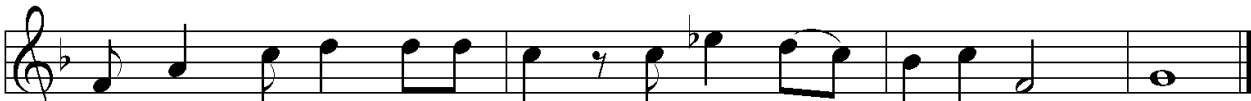
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



 Heav- en and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.

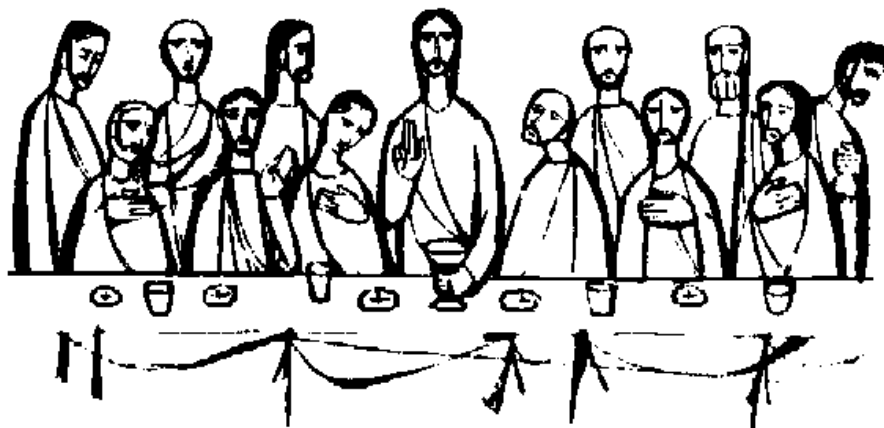


 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who



 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.
 Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.



And now, as our Savior has taught us, let us pray.

**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 trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**



These are the gifts of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Come, taste and see that the Lord is good.



THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST & BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

The receipt of the Bread and Cup, which is the Communion of the body and the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, is an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace. In as much as you listening at home would like to partake of this holy food, the spiritual grace provided by the same is supplied to you.

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. And since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

At this time all are welcome to come forward for the receipt of the elements of the Holy Eucharist, either in both kinds or by Bread only.

Please form a socially distanced single line. After you have received the Bread you may turn to either side as may be most convenient for you to take an individual serving of the Cup. After partaking of the Sacrament you may place the serving cup in the separate receiving plate.

Pastor Maggie and Father Chad will be on separate sides for you to bring your animal, or a photo of your pet, for a blessing. If your pet is here, but you are not able to bring it forward with you, please let one of them know.

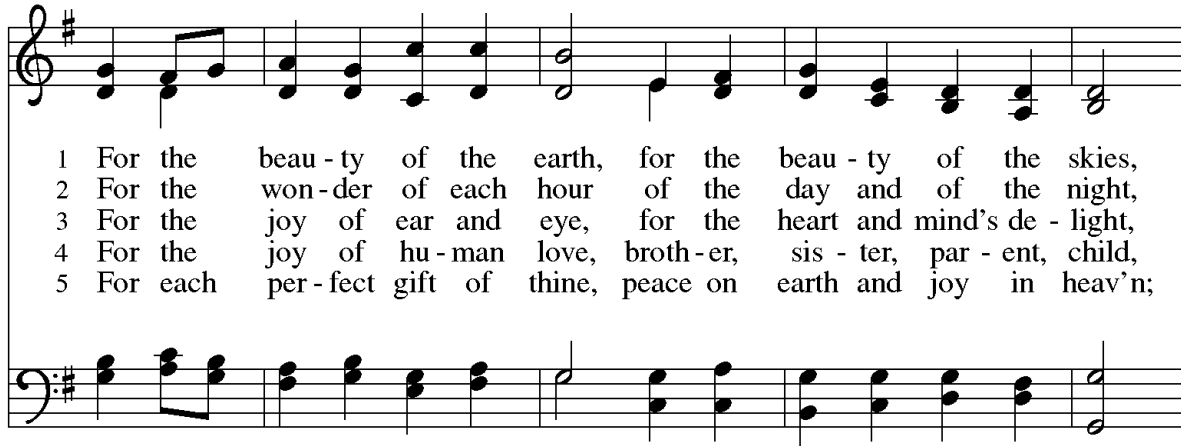
Our collection today is designated to go to the Bluefield Union Mission. The Union Mission is an ecumenical ministry founded over 80 years ago, in part, by our three churches. Baskets to receive the offering are located near the altar.

The following hymns are sung as the Holy Eucharist is being shared and we celebrate our life together with our animal companions.

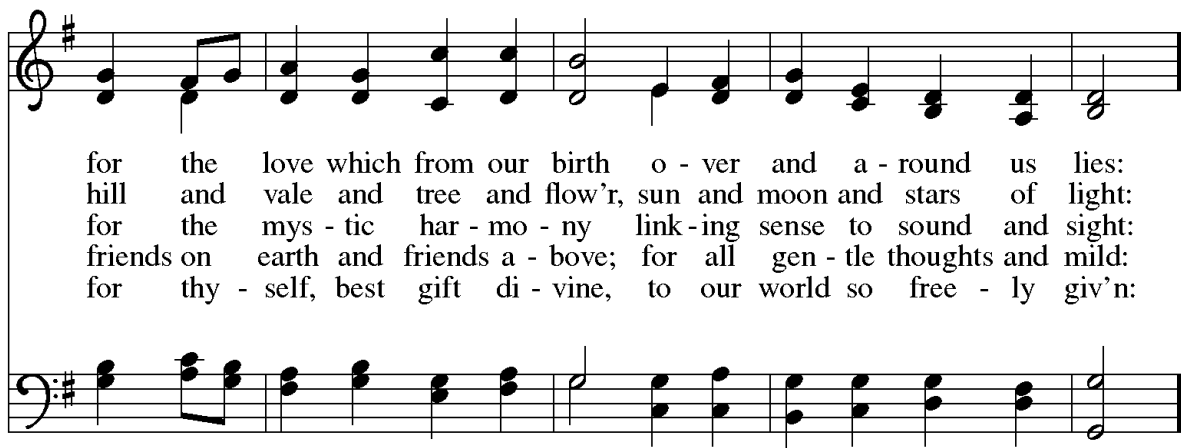
COMMUNION HYMNS

For the beauty of the earth

For the Beauty of the Earth

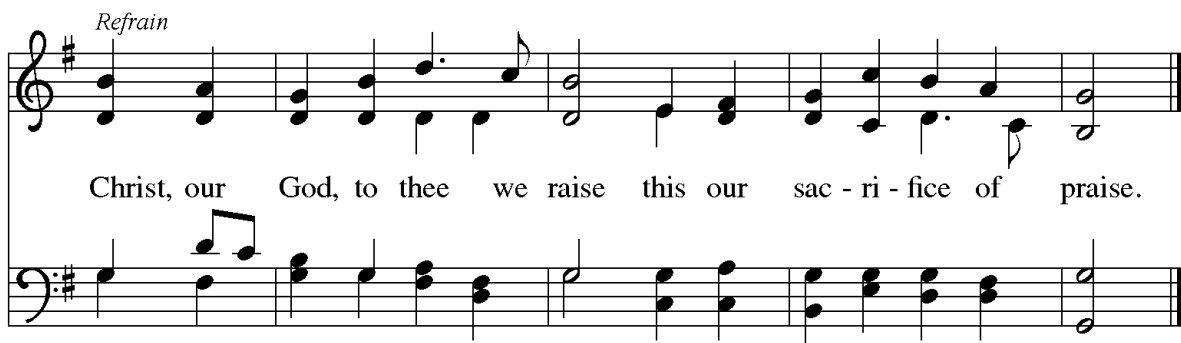


1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:

Refrain



Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

All who hunger gather gladly



All who hun - ger gath - er__ glad - ly;__ ho - ly__ man - na
All who hun - ger, nev - er__ stran - gers, seek - er,__ be a
All who hun - ger, sing to - geth - er,__ Je - sus__ Christ is



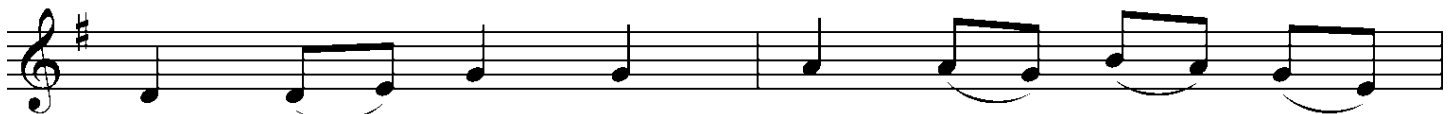
is our bread. Come from wil - der - ness and__ wan - d'ring.
wel - come guest. Come from rest - less - ness and__ roam - ing.__
liv - ing bread. Come from lone - li - ness and__ long - ing.__



Here in__ truth we will be fed. You that yearn for
Here, in__ joy we keep the feast. We that once were
Here, in__ peace we have been fed. Blest are those who



days of__ full - ness, all a - round us is our__ food.
lost and__ scat - tered in com - mun - ion's love have stood.
from this__ ta - ble live their days in grat - i - tude.



Taste and__ see the grace e - ter - nal.__
Taste and__ see the grace e - ter - nal.__
Taste and__ see the grace e - ter - nal.__



Taste and__ see that God is good.
Taste and__ see that God is good.
Taste and__ see that God is good.

Let us break bread together on our knees



1 Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees; _____
2 Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees; _____



let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees; _____
let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees; _____

Refrain



when I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,



O Lord, have mer-cy on me. _____



3 Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees; _____



let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees; _____

Refrain



when I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,



O Lord, have mer-cy on me. _____

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Gracious God, we offer our thanks, for the whole communion of saints who witness to this feast, and for the ministry of churches around the world who gather with us today. 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, children of your word, dying and being made anew, now sent boldly together into the world as servants of your peace.

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let us sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is discord, union;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;

to be understood as to understand;

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;

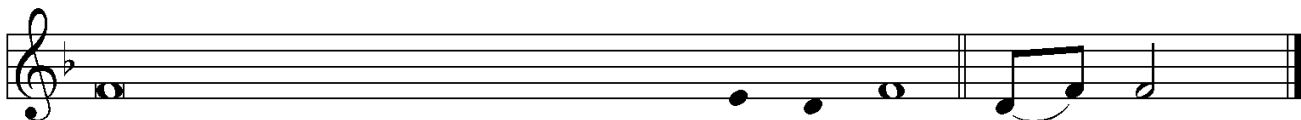
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.

BLESSING

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.



☐ The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

CLOSING HYMN

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,

hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, bloom - ing mea - dow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Bro - ther: all who live in love are thine;

giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each o - ther, lift us to the joy di - vine.

DISMISSAL

The minister may dismiss the congregation.

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Participants in Today's Liturgy

Presiding Minister	the Rev. Maggie Rust
Assisting Minister	the Rev. Dr. Tom Conley
Preaching	the Rev. Chad Slater
Music	Dr. Harold Brown
Song Leaders	Becky Allen Pat Whittaker
Lector	Elise Bowling
Litanists	Benjamin Slater Jim Harvey
Assisting	Marie Blackwell Cathy Saddler Don Williams
Ushers	Becky Kersey Fred Dodson David Dodson Chris Munique Noah Munique



The Flowers today are given for the greater Glory of God
by the following people:

Linda Ammar
Marie Blackwell



We would like to thank the following for their assistance in making today's event happen:

The City of Bluefield, West Virginia
The Bluefield Beautification Committee
97.3 FM Radio & 1440 AM Radio

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