



WORSHIP RESOURCES

World Communion Sunday

October 5, 2014



Lectionary Texts: Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20
Psalm 19; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46

PEACE & GLOBAL
WITNESSES
— OFFERING —

Preparation Notes

On World Communion Sunday, as we prepare to celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper with our sisters and brothers around the world and receive the Peace & Global Witness Offering, it is a good time to consider again what it means to live in relationship with God and these distant family members across the globe. One way of framing the theme would be to talk about "table manners" for World Communion Sunday. Another way of shaping the worship experience and sermon is to consider the question: How do we live into the reality of the peace/shalom/salvation that God has provided for us?

On World Communion Sunday some congregations use a variety of bread from different cultures and traditions (white, wheat, brown, pita, flat bread, sweet bread, challah). Loaves may be set on the Communion table at the start of the service, or brought in during the processional hymn or between the offering and the celebration of the Lord's Supper. An additional option is to place the bread and the cup on fabric from somewhere around the world—providing a visual symbol of our shared communion with our brothers and sisters from across the globe.

Call to Worship (from Psalm 19)

One: The heavens are telling the glory of God,
all creation speaks volumes of God's handiwork.

**All: Each sunrise proclaims God's faithfulness
and the night reveals the Creator's awe.**

One: Without a word being spoken, all creation bears witness
to the goodness of the Lord.

**All: So, too, may we join in witness with all creation. May the words of our mouths
and the meditation of our hearts be God's signature in the world.**

**Hymn*

This is My Song

#340 *(Glory to God)*

Call to Confession

God's reconciling work in Jesus Christ and the mission of reconciliation to which he has called his church are the heart of the gospel in any age. Our generation stands in peculiar need of reconciliation in Christ.¹ We confess our need, confident in God's forgiving grace.

Prayer of Confession

God of compassion and mercy,
We are your wounded and wounding children.
We bring our wounded selves, our divided society, and our broken world,
Seeking your healing and transforming grace;
It is easy for us to point the finger at others,

Yet we know that we all need your forgiveness;
So we lift into your presence today,
Not only the victims of conflicts,
But also those we have called enemies.
Break down the walls of hatred, distrust and bitterness
And open a way for us to reach one another in truth and love.
Enable us to build a society where all can belong;
To share our gifts in mutual respect
And to seek for the new future which you offer us
Through Jesus the Christ.
Amen.²

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel. In Jesus Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself. Jesus Christ is God with humankind. He is the eternal Son of the Father who became human and lived among us to fulfill the work of reconciliation. He is present in the church by the power of the Holy Spirit to continue and complete his mission. Therefore, the church calls all people to be reconciled to God and to one another.³

Passing the Peace

**Response* #752 (*Glory to God*)

Dona nobis pacem/sim shalom/Rabbu habna

Old Testament Lesson

Exodus 20:1–4, 7–9, 12–20

New Testament Lesson

Philippians 3:4b–14 or Matthew 21:33–46

Sermon

**Hymn*

We Are Marching in the Light of God/Siyahamba

#853 (*Glory to God*)

Offering and Receiving the Peace & Global Witness Offering

(You may introduce the offering using one of the minutes for mission found at pcusa.org/resource/peace-global-witness-minutes-mission/.)

Doxology

Invitation to the Lord's Table

In the silence of the morning, as the new day dawned around the world, God's people began to gather for worship amid the sounds of drums or pipes, strings or organs. And now we, too, join in this worldwide chorus of those who call upon the name of the Lord. On this World Communion Sunday we remember especially that the Scriptures are fulfilled as "People will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at the table in the kingdom of God."

So come, not because you must, but because you may. Come not because you are strong, but because you seek God's strength. All those who trust in Jesus are invited to come and join in the feast that God has prepared.

The Story of the Supper

Among friends gathered around a table, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying, "This is my body which is given for you. Do this to remember me." Later, after they had eaten, He took a cup of wine and said, "This cup is God's new relationship, made possible by my life and death. Whenever you drink it, do it remembering me." So now, following Jesus' example, we take this bread and wine; for in them He has promised to be with us, making us whole, making us one. And in celebration of God's goodness, let us give thanks.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Words of Institution

O living God,

For your blessing in creation, for your image deep within us, for your life in all its fullness,

We give thanks.

O Jesus our brother,

For your coming to earth, calling of us as your friends, for your sharing of our life and death,

We give you thanks.

O Spirit of grace and truth,

For revealing yourself in community, healing us in our brokenness and inspiring us with courage to share,

We give you thanks.

O Trinity of love,

For the promise of a spreading tree giving shade and protection, for the vision of a body in which each part works for the health of the whole, for the invitation to a feast where the despised will be guests of honor,

We give you thanks.

Prayers of Concern and Blessing

God of justice and peace, you stand with those who are poor.

Now, in prayers spoken and unspoken,

we call upon you for those who suffer the injustice of violence and want . . .

(silence or free prayer in which specific needs are named)

We call upon you for those who carry heavy burdens . . .

(silence or free prayer in which specific needs are named)

We call upon you for those we love and those who love us . . .

(silence or free prayer in which specific needs are named)

Where shall we go from your spirit, and how could we be away from your presence? If darkness covers us and night closes in on us, you are there. For the night is not dark for you but luminous as the day, and the two are one to you.

Where shall we go from your spirit?

Your presence is there, and here, and everywhere.

Spirit of the living God, present with us now, breathe in us and on these gifts of bread and wine, that sharing your blessing and your broken life we may share in your continual presence and reality, and together, as your body, remain in your love. In the name of Christ who taught us to pray . . .⁴

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing of the Gifts of Bread and Cup

Look. Here is your Lord, coming to you in bread and wine.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Songs During Communion

Come Now, O Prince of Peace (O-So-So) #103, Glory to God

Come to the Table of Grace #507, Glory to God

Eat This Bread #527, Glory to God

Prayer after Communion

Gracious God, you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. You have fed us with the bread of life and renewed us for our service. God of peace, may this meal, shared in the Spirit with your son Jesus, strengthen us, your people, to engage in peacemaking, to call for restraint, to plead for diplomacy, to urge the use of international law, to halt the endless, downward spiral of violence in all places. Strengthen us, your people, to raise our voices and to act. Amen.⁵

Hymn

For the Troubles and the Sufferings

#764 (*Glory to God*)

Benediction

1. *The Confession of 1967.*
2. Adapted from a prayer of the Corrymeela Community in Northern Ireland.
3. *The Confession of 1967.*
4. *The Confession of 1967.*
5. Adapted from a prayer by the Rev. Andrea Castner Wyatt, United Church of Christ.