

World Communion Sunday – October 3, 2021 – 10:00 AM

Cherie Brooks – Dir., Music Katie Wynkoop – Organist/Pianist & Asst. Dir., Music
Dana Rudmose – Liturgist Erin Wise – Dir., Children’s & Youth Ministries
The Chancel Choir Jason Guthrie – Vocalist
Brian Biller – Media Production Specialist Rev. Joel A. Esala – Pastor

Covenant is an accepting, welcoming community sharing the glory of God’s love with all.

Prelude “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands” arranged by Hayes

Welcome, Announcements, and Prayer Requests

Introit “This Little Light of Mine” Candle

*Call to Worship

Leader: From east and west, north and south, we gather in God’s name

People: to pray, to worship, to sing, to celebrate the Lord’s Supper.

Leader: We give thanks that we are part of a large, diverse faith family.

People: We are old. We are young. We come from tribes of all kinds.

Leader: We stand with our friends and family around the world,
reclaiming the name of Jesus.

People: We give thanks for Jesus’ resurrection, a truth that tells us that God’s love wins.

Leader: Come, let us worship and gather at God’s wide table.

Hymn #504 “We Come as Guests Invited” Ribbon

1 We come as guests invited
when Jesus bids us dine,
his friends on earth united
to share the bread and wine;
the bread of life is broken;
the wine is freely poured
for us, in solemn token
of Christ our dying Lord.

2 We eat and drink, receiving
from Christ the grace we need,
and in our hearts believing
on him by faith we feed;
with wonder and thanksgiving
for love that knows no end,
we find in Jesus living

our ever-present friend.

3 One bread is ours for sharing,
one single fruitful vine,
our fellowship declaring
renewed in bread and wine:
renewed, sustained, and given
by token, sign, and word,
the pledge and seal of heaven,
the love of Christ our Lord.

Prayer of Confession

Cross

God of love, you have created us to live in community, and still we separate ourselves from others and from you. Jesus loved the children, but there are still children in the world who live in hunger or fear, rejected and unloved. Forgive us, and heal us. Bind all your children together as sisters and brothers, and nurture us with your love and forgiveness, that we might share what we have been given, and receive your kingdom with the wonder and gratitude of children. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

(Silence for Personal Confession)

Assurance of Pardon

Hymn #447 "We Are Forgiven"

Ribbon

We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

Passing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord, be with you all. **And also with you.**

Prayer for Illumination

Cross

The First Reading--Genesis 2:18-24 (CEB)

Notepad

18 Then the Lord God said, "It's not good that the human is alone. I will make him a helper that is perfect for him." 19 So the Lord God formed from the fertile land all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky and brought them to the human to see what he would name them. The

human gave each living being its name. 20 The human named all the livestock, all the birds in the sky, and all the wild animals. But a helper perfect for him was nowhere to be found.

21 So the Lord God put the human into a deep and heavy sleep, and took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh over it. 22 With the rib taken from the human, the Lord God fashioned a woman and brought her to the human being. 23 The human said,

“This one finally is bone from my bones
and flesh from my flesh.
She will be called a woman
because from a man she was taken.”

24 This is the reason that a man leaves his father and mother and embraces his wife, and they become one flesh.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Talk With Children

Erin Wise

Hymn #188

1 Jesus loves me! This I know,
for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong.
They are weak, but he is strong.

Refrain:

Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

[As the children return to their seats, we sing:]

2 Jesus loves me! This I know,
as he loved so long ago,
taking children on his knee,
saying, "Let them come to me." [Refrain]

The Gospel Reading—Mark 10:2-16 (CEB)

Notepad

2 Some Pharisees came and, trying to test Jesus, they asked, “Does the Law allow a man to divorce his wife?”

3 Jesus answered, “What did Moses command you?”

4 They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a divorce certificate and to divorce his wife."

5 Jesus said to them, "He wrote this commandment for you because of your unyielding hearts. 6 At the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. 7 Because of this, a man should leave his father and mother and be joined together with his wife, 8 and the two will be one flesh. So they are no longer two but one flesh. 9 Therefore, humans must not pull apart what God has put together."

10 Inside the house, the disciples asked him again about this. 11 He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; 12 and if a wife divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

13 People were bringing children to Jesus so that he would bless them. But the disciples scolded them. 14 When Jesus saw this, he grew angry and said to them, "Allow the children to come to me. Don't forbid them, because God's kingdom belongs to people like these children. 15 I assure you that whoever doesn't welcome God's kingdom like a child will never enter it." 16 Then he hugged the children and blessed them.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon "The Upside-Down Kingdom-Where..." Notepad

Invitation to the Offering

Offering Notepad

Offertory "One Communion" by Lantz The Chancel Choir

*Hymn #606 "The Doxology" Ribbon

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication Cross

Hymn #507 "Come to the Table of Grace" Ribbon

1 Come to the table of grace.
Come to the table of grace.
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine.
Come to the table of grace.

Portions of today's liturgy were reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion. Copyright 2014.