

**SERVICE OF WORSHIP
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
OCTOBER 4, 2020**

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *OUR FATHER, THOU IN HEAVEN ABOVE* - M. Praetorius

A PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Today, God, we confess fumbings and failures in accomplishing unity, as we set aside yet another day to remind ourselves of the task. On this World Communion Sunday, give us eyes to recognize your reflection in the eyes of Christians everywhere. Give us a mind to accept and celebrate our differences. Give us a heart big enough to love your children everywhere. We thank you for setting a table with space enough for us all! Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

SENTENCES OF ADORATION

OPENING HYMN: *JESUS TOOK THE BREAD*

CALL TO WORSHIP:

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

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

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

Unison: 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.

REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE

CALL TO AND CONFESSION OF SIN:

Unison: 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.

ASSURANCE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Old Testament: Exodus 20:1 – 4, 7 – 9, 12 – 20

New Testament: Matthew 21:33 – 46

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON: *Yes, Even Freedom has Rules*

**SPECIAL MUSIC: *BLESSED QUIETNESS* - W.S. Marshall, arr. by J. Fillmore
Performed by Bryan Jones**

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD'S WILL AND WORK

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *In the Silence*

**Unison: Into the silence of the void the Creator spoke,
and the world came into being.
The Word of God in the vastness brought light from darkness,
matter from nothing,
flesh from dust,
life from lifelessness.**

**In the quiet of a small town in Palestine
the Word of God came to us.
Even though of one being with the Creator,
Jesus our Christ, taking on human form, was born,
lived and walked among us,
speaking the words of life.
He was crucified, died, and was buried.
He rose from the dead and speaks to us today.
He is the one who saves us from ourselves.**

**In the stillness of our souls the Spirit of God,
who is one with the Creator and the Christ,
whispers the Word,
and calls us back to the Creator,
back to the Christ,
back to the wholeness of everlasting life
in the unity of the Creator, Christ and Spirit.**

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

THE FELLOWSHIP OF SHARING

SPECIAL MUSIC: *HELLO UNKNOWN* - Darin Jellison

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Unison: Stir within us, spirit of the living God, that our lives may carry the Spirit of your law. May our finest offerings flow through these gifts into the world you love. Amen.

COME TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Communion Hymn: *BE KNOWN TO US IN BREAKING BREAD*

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Story of the Supper

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Words of Institution

Pastor: O living God,
For your blessing in creation, for your image deep within us, for
your life in all its fullness,

Unison: We give thanks.

Pastor: O Jesus our brother,
For your coming to earth, calling of us as your friends, for your
sharing of our life and death,

Unison: We give you thanks.

Pastor: O Spirit of grace and truth,
For revealing yourself in community, healing us in our brokenness
and inspiring us with courage to share,

Unison: We give you thanks.

Pastor: 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,

Unison: We give you thanks.

Prayer of Concern and Blessing

Pastor: 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 . . .

(Silently offer prayers for those in special need of God's grace)

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

(Silently offer prayers for those in special need of God's grace)

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

(Silently offer prayers for those in special need of God's grace)

Pastor: 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.

Unison: Where shall we go from your spirit? Your presence is there, and here, and everywhere.

Pastor: 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 . . .

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.

Sharing of the Gifts of Bread and Wine

Prayer After Communion

Unison: 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.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

CLOSING HYMN: *CHRIST HAS MADE THE SURE FOUNDATION*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *VOLUNTARY IN B FLAT - M. Greene*

*Special thanks to **Darin Jellison** and **Bryan Jones** for their offerings and gifts of music and song, and to **Noah Jellison** for editing the service.*

Blessings to all!