

19th Sunday After Pentecost
October 3rd at 10:00 a.m. World Communion Sunday
“Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry...’”
John 6:35

Greeting and Welcome

Prelude Music

Call to Worship

All around the world,

People rise to greet the morning and sing praise to the Creator.

All over the earth,

People hold hands around a table and offer thanks.

All around the globe,

Some cry for food, some are filled with laughter, all search for truth.

All around the world,

Hearts hear a sacred melody and yearn for peace.

Throughout this day, across many lands,

Sisters and brothers touch the bread of life and drink the cup of joy.

All around the world,

People sing, and we join the unending chorus of praise.

Hymn of Praise UMH #547 “O Church of God, United” Words: Fredrick B. Morley, 1953. Music: Gesangbuch der H. W. k. Hofkapelle, 1784. Alt. *Used with permission under CCLI License #11306163.*

1. O Church of God, united

to serve one common Lord,

proclaim to all one message,

with hearts in glad accord.

Christ ever goes before us;

we follow day by day

with strong and eager footsteps

along the upward way.

2. From every land and nation the ordered

ranks appear; to serve one valiant leader

they come from far and near. They chant their

one confession, they praise one living Lord,

and place their sure dependence
upon his saving word.

**3. Though creeds and tongues may differ,
they speak, O Christ, of thee;
and in thy loving Spirit we shall one people be.
Lord, may our faithful service and singleness of aim
proclaim to all the power of thy redeeming name.**

**4. May thy great prayer be answered that we
may all be one, close bound, by love united in thee,
God's blessed Son: to bring a single witness,
to make the pathway bright, that souls which grope
in darkness may find the one true light.**

Affirmation of Faith "A Modern Affirmation"

Let us affirm our faith together.

We believe in God -

**who brings forth life from death, joy from sorrow, blessing out of disaster;
who meets us behind our closed hearts and speaks a word of peace;
who is known in the simple act of breaking bread, gathering around a table;
who never forgets our name, who feels our pain, who renews our lives from
the inside out.**

We believe in the risen Christ -

**who bears wounds so that we might not hide from our own;
who is present to us in our loneliness, our fear, our doubt;
who embraced the hard questions, faced death's door and walked ahead into
every experience so we might know we have a Companion on the way.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit -

**who is as close to us as the air we breathe; who inspires the church
to be a beacon of light, an oasis of peace and a fountain of joy;
who blows free as the wind, touching souls, changing hearts.**

We shall live as the people of God.

All glory and praise be to God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit now and forevermore. Amen.

Gloria Patri #70 "Glory Be to the Father" Used with permission under CCLI License #11306163.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Gospel Reading John 6:24-35 NRSV

So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

The word of God for the people of God

Thanks be to God

Sermon "Bread That Satisfies" Rev. Matthew B. Sergent

Hymn of Preparation for Communion "Eucharist Hymn" Words by: W. Richard Turner, 2007. Tune: Beach Spring 87.87.D. *Used with permission under CCLI License #11306163.*

**1. Celebrate our Lord's Communion, sacrament of bread and wine.
All God's children come together, church on earth and church divine.
He is calling; he will bless us. Eucharistic mystery present in our eating drinking.
"Do this to remember me."**

**2. Celebrate our Lord's Last Supper on that Holy Thursday night.
When our fears exceed our vision; when we know not wrong from right.**

He is praying; he will save us. Eucharistic mystery present in the blood and body. "Do this to remember me."

3. Celebrate our Savior's triumph, life eternal is our gain.

We remember Jesus' passion, broken body suffered pain.

He will heal us; he sustains us. Eucharistic mystery present in our grief and sorrow, "Do this to remember me."

4. Celebrate God's Son among us, people come from every land.

All are welcome at the table joining every heart and hand.

He forgives us; he unites us. Eucharistic mystery present in our caring, loving. "Do this to remember me."

Litany of Five Loaves (Pastor Matt and Sherry will offer a brief introduction to this litany for World Communion Sunday)

Challah bread is used in the Middle East and elsewhere to celebrate Shabbat, the Sabbath. This bread represents a connectivity that we share with God, and in community with one another, as brothers and sisters in Christ. In the midst of global religious conflict, systemic injustice, and fear of universal change, O God, help us to always remember and celebrate our call and intertwined destinies, as we live to serve you in word, truth, and deed....

Lord, we are one in community and faith.

Corn tortillas, a luxury for many people in Latin America, demonstrate our communal privilege and wealth, and our common struggle to be effective leaders in eradicating poverty. But the gift of God's love comes to us without any cost. We celebrate in communion the hope of those living in a world of scarcity, despair, and hazardous conditions. O God, may your spirit of universal love guide us in recognizing the areas in which we have failed to effectively lead, and give us strength to help empower our neighbors....

Lord, we are one in community and faith.

Naan bread is eaten in the countries of India, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. While the waters of raging storms have surfaced in war, political disagreements, and catastrophic events within these countries, let us remember that we are one body in Christ. As we seek to celebrate these cultures in the sharing of this bread, O God, we also share our collective prayers for peace, harmony, cultural understanding, and healing within our local and global communities....

Lord, we are one in community and faith.

Pita bread is an international favorite of North Africa, Arabia, and the eastern Mediterranean. Most pita bread is baked in high temperatures, causing the flattened rounds of dough to puff up dramatically. Like pita bread, we are often placed in unpleasantly warm and tumultuous situations, sometimes causing our failure to conduct ourselves with one another in Christian love. As we break bread together today, O God, help us to offer hands of kindness, grace, and mercy towards all people, as was demonstrated through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ....

Lord, we are one in community and faith.

Chapatti bread is eaten in Eastern African countries. The bread has a flat surface and is unleavened. Unlike most bread, chapatti does not rise, but remains still before being cooked. Let us look to chapatti as a symbol of peace, unwavering faith, and stillness in the presence of God. When we are faced with difficult decisions in our Christian faith, O God, help us remember the gift of communal serenity....

Lord, we are one in community and faith.

By Elliott Wright. Adapted and Revised, October 19, 2009.

Anthem "Bread of the World" Words: Reginald Heber and Byron A. Moss. Music: Byron A. Moss. 2002 Belwin-Mills Publishing Corp. *Used with permission under CCLI License #11306163.*

Invitation to Holy Communion

Prayer of Confession

God of mercy, your love has never been far from us. Even when we turn our backs on people in need, when we seek our own comfort and neglect opportunities to help others, when we, by our thoughts and actions, betray you, you are always with us. Forgive us for all those acts of cowardice and self-centeredness that have drawn us away from you. Heal our spirits and rebuild our lives. You have placed us in a global community in which illness, oppression, greed, fear, and anger abound. You ask us to proclaim your words of hope and love, of healing and mercy for all your people. Place us again on the path of peace for all your children. For we ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ.

Words of Assurance

Hear the good news, friends! While we wandered in fear, God was with us, offering us hope and courage. God is with you this day, this very minute, lifting you from despair to hope. This is the good news! God is always with us. In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen.

Musical Setting A UMH p. 17 *The United Methodist Publishing House, Adapt. 1989. Used with permission under CCLI License #11306163.*

The Lord's Prayer

Receiving of Communion

Sending Forth Hymn TFWS #2223 "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love" Words and Music: Peter Scholtes, 1966 F. E. L. Publications, assigned 1991 to The Lorenz Corp. *Used with permission under CCLI License #11306163.*

**1. We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
And we pray that our unity may one day be restored:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**2. We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**3. We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
and we'll guard human dignity and save human pride.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**4. All praise to the Father, from whom all things come
and all praise to Christ Jesus God's only son,
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

Benediction

Postlude