

Communion Liturgy for World Communion Sunday

October 4, 2020

Instructions for accessing communion elements in wafer/cup kit:

If you have not picked up a communion prepacked wafer/cup kit as you came into the sanctuary, please be sure to pick one before communion. As we celebrate communion, Pastor René will walk us through opening our communion kits to partake of communion. **The standard communion kit** has two lids. The top lid gives you access to the communion wafer. Once you have access to the communion wafer. You will see the second lid. Please be careful as you open it. that second lid will give you access to the communion juice. **The Gluten free option** is two pieces. The wafer is individually wrapped separate from the juice container.

By Emily Brewer (*used and adapted with permission*)

Invitation

Friends, siblings, on this World Communion Sunday we are invited to gather around this sacred table. Physically and virtually. This is not Trinity's table, it's not the United Methodist Church's table. This is God's table, and we are, each one of us, invited to share as honored guests.

On World Communion Sunday, as we and thousands of Christians around the world gather to celebrate the Lord's Supper, we are reminded that this table stretches beyond all borders and all walls. It is a table that crosses divisions and divides, parties and politics, oceans and hemispheres.

This table does not ask for citizenship status nor any other status that we could come up with. This table doesn't ask for gender definitions or gender identities. This is a table where all the languages of our lips and our hearts are spoken and understood. This table has no room for weapons or hatred, but is ever-extending to make more room for anyone who seeks a place here. Today, we gather with Christians around the world who are also celebrating this meal today.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Creating God, source of our being, we give you thanks and praise for you have brought forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. In the beginning you created people in your likeness. In your likeness, you created people who multiplied and became many— people of many genders, races, nationalities, thoughts and abilities. You created the world and all that is in it without factions, borders or walls and you called it “good.” For this we praise you, saying:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the Highest! Blessed is the one Who comes in the name of God; Hosanna in the highest.

Jesus, our sibling, born of Mary in a stable in Palestine, you confronted the powers and principalities of your time, and welcomed as your friends those who society had cast aside and demonized. For love and liberation of your people, you risked your life and were executed by the brokenness of an empire. Yet even death could not put an end to the love you embody. Out of death, you arose to new life to live again among your people. With joy we celebrate what you have done, and with dedication we follow you, transformed by your love, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ has risen; Christ will come again.

Boundless God. Pour out your Spirit on this bread and this cup, and on the cups of the those who join us at this sacred table, where not even the divide of COVID-19 can separate us. Through these ordinary gifts that sustain us, nourish us and transform us, that we might remember that we belong to each other and to you. Through this remembering, let us be reconciled to each other and to you.

Through this remembering, may we tear down all boundaries, factions and divides that we have built. Through this remembering, may all peoples in all places and times be united in you as we share this sacred meal, and pray this prayer:

Our Parent, who is among us, blessed be your Creation. May your reign be a reality here on earth. May we become more interested in building your kin-dom here and now than in waiting for it to come down from above. Let us share our bread with those who hunger. Let us learn to forgive as well as to receive forgiveness. Help us through the time of temptation, delivering us from all evil. For ours are the eternal blessings that you pour upon the earth. Amen. *

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Words of Institution

On the night that he was arrested by the authorities, Jesus was gathered in an upper room to celebrate Passover, a story of liberation, with his closest friends. He took a piece of bread, blessed it, broke it, and shared it with his friends, saying “*Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.*”

In the same way, after supper, he took the cup, saying, “*This cup is a new covenant, sealed in my blood, for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink this cup, do this in remembrance of me.*” Every time that we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the power of Jesus' death and resurrection, until he comes.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Prayer after Communion

O God our mystery, you bring us to life, call us to freedom, and move between us with love. Having been nourished at your table, may we go into your wondrous and diverse world to tear down walls of exclusion, to confront powers and principalities, to live and love boldly in the promise of your resurrection. Amen.