

2025-10-12 Eric Schrag and Communion – Words of Welcome, Morning Prayer, etc.

Good morning! **Welcome...** Although World Communion Sunday was formally observed last Sunday, since Sheri Elwood was here as our guest speaker last week we opted to move it back a week and do it today.

Opportunities?

- Sr Coffee on Friday – Katie Schmidt from the Dyck Arboretum will be here.
- Lots of good things happening – read the announcement sheet!

Call to Worship

Prayer – Great God, give us open hearts and minds. Grant us a vision of you as you are and of the world as it might be. Touch our lips; give us words of truth for one another. Then set us free to do what you ask of us. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

Hymns

Morning Prayer –

Loving God, we're grateful for the beauty of your creation – for the changing of the seasons, for the harvest, for this time when we can see the supermoon and the beautiful night-time sky, for the sounds of the birds and the insects. All around us we can be witnesses to your creativity and love.

Along with gratitude for your creativity, we give you thanks for the gift of Jesus having come into this world to model for us who you are and who we can be as we follow his examples. We pray for courage and conviction to be faithful to Jesus and his teachings, to accept fully his ways of humility, love, and the salvation and liberation that comes with being his disciples.

We pray for teachers and students and all who are involved in the school calendar – for a time of end-of-quarter break and the rest that might be had. We pray for energy and perseverance as they rest and then gear up for the next quarter.

Gracious God, we pray for all who are grieving losses - the loss of loved ones who have died or are dying. The loss of relationships. The loss of something hoped for. The loss of our bodies doing what they've always done for us as we age. This morning we pray especially for DJ and Marilyn and others who have traveled to Washington to grieve and celebrate the loss and life of DJ's sister Dorene. We pray for those who haven't been physically at the service but who are there in spirit. May your Holy Spirit give comfort for their grief and joy in their memories.

God, we confess that sometimes as we think about the troubles of the world we don't quite know exactly how to pray. So this morning we bring to you the anxiety and frustration, the grief and the fear, the sadness and the anger that we feel as we recognize the many situations in the world that are troublesome. We also bring you the hope we dare to have, the love and the joy we feel when we're with those we love – or when we're spending precious, quiet time alone. We bring to you the compassion and the passion that we have for your peace with justice to finally prevail in this world. Walk with us, give us courage, give us conviction, guide us and move our thoughts, our words and our actions in your ways.

Lord God, we pray your blessing on us as we commune together and with you this morning. May your Spirit be present as we remember Jesus in his words and actions. Amen.

We'll worship now through music as the choir sings.

Let's worship God by **giving our gifts and tithes**. As we're doing that, a few more photos of one more service group from the "Love Your Community" day will be shown. This group was preparing freezer meals and the photos were accidentally left out last week.

Prayer of Dedication –

God, you have shown us the meaning of generosity
in the beautiful diversity of creation,
in the overflowing love of Jesus Christ,
in the never-ending gift of the Holy Spirit.
You have abundantly blessed us and called us
to be a community that honors each other,
to be servants to others with joy,
to share our love and material possessions.
Let us rejoice in what we have been given and in what is ours to give.

Children's Story

Scripture Readings

Matthew 26:26-28 - ²⁶While they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take and eat. This is my body." ²⁷He took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from this, all of you. ²⁸This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many so that their sins may be forgiven.

John 6:32-35 - ³²Jesus told them, "I assure you, it wasn't Moses who gave the bread from heaven to you, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³The bread of God is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

³⁴They said, "Sir, ^[a]give us this bread all the time!"

³⁵Jesus replied, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

Isaiah 55:2 - Why spend money for what isn't food,
and your earnings for what doesn't satisfy?
Listen carefully to me and eat what is good;
enjoy the richest of feasts.

Communion

Words of Invitation –

As we come to the Table this morning, we see just a tiny representation of different kinds and varieties of bread – a reminder of Christians all around the world, joined together (today) in this

act of remembering Jesus and bringing us together in our common love for him and desire to follow him in our lives.

This Table is open to all who know and love Jesus and who want to follow him.

As we prepare ourselves to receive the bread and the juice, I invite you to turn to number 936 for words that can help us to focus our attention...

At the table of Christ, we eat this bread and drink this cup to remember the life and death and resurrection of Jesus, to be united with Christ and with one another as the church, and to look toward a time when all will be one. As we eat and drink with thanksgiving, Jesus Christ is present with us and we are empowered by the Spirit to follow Jesus' way of love as the body of Christ, broken and blessed for the life of the world.

I invite the deacons (and Judy) to come forward...

Justine, Karl, Tim, Jenny, Kris, Karen. Judy helping Tim

Justine, join me in the center to help me serve bread. "_____ the body of Christ for you."

Tim and Judy "rove" on the floor for those who don't come forward, nursery, balcony

Karl and Karen, north side

Jenny and Kris south side. "_____ the blood of Christ; given as the new covenant with God."

While I'm giving the instructions below, Karen and Karl, take the elements to Marcia. Then return to your places.

As Marcia plays you may come forward up the center aisle, open your hands to receive the bread here at the table and then go down either side to receive the cup. Please eat the bread and drink the cup as they're served to you, here in the front, and then return to your seats down the side aisles. There are corn tortillas for those who wish to leave out the gluten. There's a receptacle for your cups; you can drink and then put the cup right into the basket. Remember, we're not in a hurry here. I invite you to take your time so you can be attentive to the occasion. **Let's pray.**

Oh God, we're mindful that your children all around the world join together to remember that as Jesus was sitting at the table with his friends, he took bread, broke it, gave thanks for it and said, "This is my body, broken for you. Whenever you eat it, remember me." Loving God, we thank you for the bread of life made known to us through your servant Jesus and as we eat it, we will remember the goodness of your love.

And we also remember that after supper Jesus took the cup and said, "This cup is the new covenant with God made possible by my death. Whenever you drink this cup, remember me." We give you thanks, loving God, for sending Jesus to us – the one who showed us what sacrificial love looks like as he died on the cross and rose again on the third day. As we drink the cup we will remember the covenant we have with you, God and with one another. (please come forward.)

Please raise your hand to let the deacons know if you haven't been served yet.

Deacons, you may return to the front now. *(Bring bread and cup trays to the front; I'll put it all back on the stage. Then I'll serve each of you a piece of bread. Eat it right away. Justine, serve me last. Same process with the cup.)*

Prayer of Thanksgiving –

O God, with deep gratitude, we thank you for this moment, this meal, this congregation and for your children everywhere. Having tasted your goodness, let us share your peace. Send us out, to live as your people, ordinary people that you have called to follow you, to share your love, to live for you as people of this earth and citizens of your kingdom. Amen. (*return to your seats.*)

Song of Sending – VT 829

Benediction – VT 942

Blessed are you, Eternal God;
through this holy meal you have joined us to yourself and to one another.
Blessed are you, Incarnate God;
you have put your life into our hands; now we put our lives into yours.
Blessed are you, Breath of God;
as we go forth, set us free to follow where you lead. Amen