

World Communion Sunday, October 1, 2023 at 10:15 AM

Quiet Time Prayer

**Your children around the world, O God,
are one family around your table.
May our hearts also be as one in
our love for you and one another. Amen.**

Welcome

Prelude “Gavotte Pastoral” *Frederick Shackley*
“Communion” *Richard Purvis*

Greeting God is good **all the time**. All the time **God is good**.

Question of the Day How big is God’s table?

A) the ends of the earth B) beyond our universe C) big enough for all

***Hymn** #2126 *FWS* “All Who Hunger”

***Call to Worship**

Praise the Lord who is our provider.

The Lord is our hope. Our trust is in God.

God brought us out of bondage and has made us free.

The Lord is our hope. Our trust is in God.

Glorious are the deeds of our God, and mighty are his acts.

The Lord is our hope. Our trust is in God.

***Prayer of Invocation**

O God, fill us with our Spirit and humble our hearts so that we can hear your Word. Amen.

Exodus 17:1-7 The Message

Directed by GOD, the whole company of Israel moved on by stages from the Wilderness of Sin. They set camp at Rephidim. And there wasn’t a drop of water for the people to drink. The people took Moses to task: “Give us water to drink.” But Moses said, “Why pester me? Why are you testing GOD?”

But the people were thirsty for water there. They complained to Moses, “Why did you take us from Egypt and drag us out here with our children and animals to die of thirst?”

Moses cried out in prayer to GOD, “What can I do with these people? Any minute now they’ll kill me!”

GOD said to Moses, “Go on out ahead of the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel. Take the staff you used to strike the Nile. And go. I’m going to be present before you there on the rock at Horeb. You are to strike the rock. Water will gush out of it and the people will drink.”

Moses did what he said, with the elders of Israel right there watching. He named the place Massah (Testing-Place) and Meribah (Quarreling) because of the quarreling of the Israelites and because of their testing of GOD when they said, “Is GOD here with us, or not?”

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16 New Revised Standard Version

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old,

things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us.

We will not hide them from their children; we will tell to the coming generation

the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done. . . .
In the sight of their ancestors he worked marvels in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan.
He divided the sea and let them pass through it, and made the waters stand like a heap.
In the daytime he led them with a cloud, and all night long with a fiery light.
He split rocks open in the wilderness, and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep.
He made streams come out of the rock and caused waters to flow down like rivers.

Philippians 2:1-13 New Revised Standard Version

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Response: *The Word of God, for the people of God! Thanks be to God!*

Hymn #166 UMH “All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine”

Time of Prayer

How Is It With Your Soul?

Call to Confession

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor, trusting in the promise of forgiveness.

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, we have been wandering in the wilderness of sin. We have complained in the face of your mercy. We have been selfish and conceited in the face of your sacrifice. We have not done your will. Teach us humility. Teach us gratitude. Infuse your spirit into our beings so that we might be reconciled to you. (Time of Silent Prayer)

Assurance

People of God, our sins are forgiven. The Lord is loving, and we are reconciled to God. Therefore, let us humble and surrender ourselves to the will of God for the glory of the Lord.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Answer to the Question of the Day

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Time of Offering *Thank you to everyone for your faithful generosity.*

Offering Prayer

O God, use these gifts to do your will in the world and prepare us for your coming kingdom. Amen.

***Song of Offering #94 UMH** “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Message “God at Work” Rev. Joyce Rich

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving Using Musical Setting #2257-a to -d FWS

We begin our prayer by singing the Preface. *Sing #2257-a*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. . . . And so, with all your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your holy name and join in singing the Sanctus. *Sing #2257-b*

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. . . . And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving, as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith in the Memorial Acclamation. *Sing #2257-c*

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and upon these gifts of bread and wine. . . . Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. Join together in the Great Amen. *Sing #2257-d*

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray together:

The Lord's Prayer

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. 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 Elements

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

Prayer After Receiving

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Commission and Blessing**

Beloved, let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus.

Love the Lord and serve others for the glory of God.

May the God who is always near bless and keep you on your journey.

**Glory, honor, and praise be to God, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
now and always.**

Amen. **And Amen.**

***Hymn #2238 FWS "In the Midst of New Dimensions"**

Announcements

Postlude "He Leadeth Me" *Albin Whitworth*

Read for Next Week Exodus 20:1-20; Psalm 19

Liturgical resources drawn from: Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion; Liturgies for Year A, Volume 2, Kimberly Bracken Long, editor © 2014 Westminster John Knox Press; and The United Methodist Book of Worship © 1992 The United Methodist Publishing House.