

Service of Worship and Holy Communion on Sunday, July 4, 2021

Welcome

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

Question of the Day Why is independence important to us?

Call to Worship

We have come from far and wide, and we are wearied.

**Let us sit side by side, and share the bread
that quiets the same hunger that makes us weak.**

Then let us stand together as we share the same spirit,

**the same thoughts that draw us together
in friendship and unity and peace.**

Prayer of Invocation

Almighty and everlasting God, in whom we live and move and have our being, you created us for yourself, so that our hearts are restless until they find rest in you. Grant to us such purity of heart and strength of purpose that nothing may hinder us from knowing your will and doing it. In your light may we see life clearly and in your service find perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Music “The Church in the Wildwood”

“Build Your Kingdom Here”

“Shout to the North”

“Shine, Jesus, Shine”

Isaiah 27:2-5 Good News Bible

On that day the LORD will say of his pleasant vineyard, “I watch over it and water it continually. I guard it night and day so that no one will harm it. I am no longer angry with the vineyard. If there were thorns and briers to fight against, I would burn them up completely. But if the enemies of my people want my protection, let them make peace with me. Yes, let them make peace with me.”

Micah 4:1-4 Good News Bible

In days to come the mountain where the Temple stands will be the highest one of all, towering above all the hills. Many nations will come streaming to it, and their people will say, “Let us go up the hill of the LORD, to the Temple of Israel’s God. For he will teach us what he wants us to do; we will walk in the paths he has chosen. For the LORD’s teaching comes from Jerusalem; from Zion he speaks to his people.”

He will settle disputes among the nations, among the great powers near and far. They will hammer their swords into plows and their spears into pruning knives. Nations will never again go to war, never prepare for battle again. Everyone will live in peace among his own vineyards and fig trees, and no one will make him afraid. The LORD Almighty has promised this.

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

Time of Prayer

How Is It With Your Soul?

Unison Prayer

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings, with your most gracious favor, and further us with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life.

(Time of Silent Prayer)

With Christ our Lord we pray. **Amen.**

Answer to the Question of the Day Why is independence important to us?

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

Offering Prayer

Holy God, we offer ourselves and our gifts to you. Amen.

Music "Come Share the Lord"

Holy Communion *Have your bread and cup ready.*

Prayer of Great 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 our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets, who looked for the day when justice shall roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream, when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. At his ascension you exalted him to sit and reign with you at your right hand.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over Jesus took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to the disciples, and said: **"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,**

poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

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.

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

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and upon your gifts of bread and cup. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one in Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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.

Blessing

Go forth in peace. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all. **Amen. And Amen.**

Music "Pass It On"

"It's a Wonderful World"

"Happy Song/I'll Fly Away Medley"

"America the Beautiful"

"God Bless the USA"

Announcements

Readings For Next Week: II Samuel 6:1-19; Psalm 24

*Liturgical resources drawn from: **The United Methodist Book of Worship** © 1992 The United Methodist Publishing House; and **The United Methodist Hymnal: Book of United Methodist Worship** © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House.*