

St. Paul's United Church

October 4th, 2020 - World Communion Sunday

Portions of the service printed in **bold** are spoken by the whole congregation.

Today's worship is a "unified" service in that the communion liturgy is combined with our regular worship liturgy. The elements of our sacrament are spread throughout the worship experience rather than something separate that we do near the end. Be blessed as we share in this experience.

Centering Passage: *Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.*

-Luke 22:19-20

GATHERING TOGETHER

Prelude

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship & Give Thanks (Responsive):

May God be with us as we seek shelter from the darkness of the world.

God is here among us. God's light shines on us.

Let us open our hearts to God, to God's word, to God's wisdom.

We open them to God and to one another.

Let us give thanks to God, who is behind us, beside us, and before us on the way.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Song of Creation (Responsive):

Eternal God, (...) every time and every place to give you praise and glory:

Holy, holy, holy God, Power of life and love!

Heaven and earth are full of your glory!

Hosanna through the ages!

Blest is the One who comes to bring your justice to earth!

Hymn:

Your hand, O God, has Guided

VU 274

Remembering Jesus at Table (Responsive):

Let us remember together that vision of God's reign shown to us in Jesus at table:

he shared food with followers and friends,

with saints and sinners,

with crowds of thousands on the hillside,

and a few friends in an upper room.

On the night before he died, he had supper with his companions.

He took a loaf of bread, and after giving thanks, he broke it, and gave it to them, saying:

"Take, eat. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then, he took a cup, and after giving thanks, he passed it among them, saying:

"Drink this. Do this in remembrance of me."

Through this loaf and cup, Jesus lives within us.

In word and deed, Jesus lives among us.

Prayer of Self-Giving & Affirmation of Hope (Responsive):

Eternal God, (...) we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Today's Scripture: Exodus 12:1-3, 6-8, 12-13, 13:1-8

This is the Word of our God.

Praise be to you, O Creator.

Message

When we Gather at Table

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn: I have called you by your name MV 161

Prayer for Transformation and Blessing (Unison):

Send your Holy Spirit, God, on us and what we do, on what has been given and on these elements that as we break bread and drink of this cup, we may be united with Christ, he in us and we in him, that we who are many may be one in him. Make us strong in faith and love, that we may become truly human, as Christ was truly human. Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, God most holy, now and forever. AMEN

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

Breaking & Pouring Sharing the Meal

Prayer after Communion (Unison):

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world united in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Commissioning (Responsive):

The shadows of the world are not gone,
but God's light goes before us.

We won't always choose the right way to go,
but Christ will always be beside us.

We may not know how to respond to the troubles of the world,
but the Holy Spirit will continue to move in and speak through us.

Benediction Postlude

Announcements

Office Coverage; Eric will be out of the office Monday October 5th through Thursday October 8th. There will be coverage from 10-2 each day to connect with someone in the office to pick up or drop off. We are very grateful for our volunteers helping. Thank you.

Looking for Singers!: We have been lucky to have Alexis, Muriel, and Ralph sing for us over the last few months, and their voices will continue to guide us through worship in the month of October. But variety is the spice of life, and **your voice could be a part of what makes St. Paul's a wonderful place to worship**, even in the midst of these strange and difficult times.

You can contact Rev. Richard for more information at **(506)262-2150** or by email at rev.bowley@outlook.com to join your voice with our worship experience!

Choir Director Retiring: Many of you will have heard by now that our Choir Director **Alexis Ervin** will be retiring from her position. There are not enough words to express our appreciation for all that she has done over the years for this community of faith. We have been blessed by her gift, her teaching spirit, and her music. We will miss your leadership in the choir, but will do our best to hold onto all that you have shown us along the way!

We are looking for people to serve!: We have 2 initiatives that will need some passionate individuals. **The first** is our **Community Faith Profile Group**. We need 6 individuals to work through this process (with the wider community of faith) as we rediscover who we are as followers of Christ. **The second initiative** is getting **Fundscrip** off the ground. This is an easy way to give back to the church by buying things you were already going to buy! We need 2 or 3 dedicated people to get this project off and running.

For more information on both of these, please contact Rev. Richard at **(506)262-2150** or by email at rev.bowley@outlook.com.