

ST. DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY OCTOBER 3 2021

Growing and Deepening our Spiritual Lives in an Affirming and Inclusive Community

Sacred Earth: Sacred Work

'World Communion'

World Communion Sunday is an opportunity for the wider Christian Church to move beyond historical and theological differences and worship together in active hope of genuine unity in Christ, even while we recognize and confess that separating walls remain high, and truly ecumenical Communion remains rare. May it help us live into the unity of God's all-inclusive love and receive the blessings of such love.

**Lighting the Affirming and the Treaty 7/Metis Region 3 Candles
Introduction to Worship**

Path I: Recognizing Inherent Goodness

The first path invites us to celebrate! The pulse of creation is singing the goodness of God and God's gift of goodness in all things. We become more aware of the beauty of all that is and tap into gratitude as our first task in creating more goodness in the world.

Gathering and Welcoming

God is good!
All the time!
And all the time!
God is good!

Indeed, on this World Communion Sunday we celebrate the goodness of God.....
I invite us to sing together our gathering chant.

Gathering chant

(adapted from a Chant written by Phil Porter)

**Gathered now in the mystery of this hour
Gathered now as one strong body
Gathered now in the struggle and the power
Spirit draw near**

**Expanding Our Attention 360°
(Call to Worship)**

Directions Ritual

Lighting the Christ Candle

Christ, our Light, is the center of this community!meals of hope,
faith, renewal, connection, and inclusion.
Spirit of the Center, guardian of love,

**You who are the singing heart of the Universe,
we feel your singing heart, singing your love in our hearts,
reminding us of our deep connections to all of life.
May the Creating Spirit who encounters us in our communion time
empower others who this day celebrate a meal of inclusion for the love of the
world.....Amen**

**Gathering chant
Gathered now in the mystery of this hour
Gathered now as one strong body
Gathered now in the struggle and the power
Spirit draw near**

And all God's people said, **"Amen!"**

Praising

As Christians, spiritual beings, we believe that when we share the Agape meal remembering how Jesus shared the same mealMay this World Communion Sunday invite us to "break open" our lives to God's love that can transform our future as a world community.

Hymn

HYMN I Come with Joy vs. 1, 2, & 3 VU #477
(American folk tune from William Walker's Southern Harmony)

- 1 I come with joy, at one with God,
forgiven, loved and free,
the life of Jesus to recall
in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.
- 2 I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.
- 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.

Praying

God whose love enfolds all life,
**on this World Communion Sunday, we open our thoughts and hearts to our Christian
brothers and sisters throughout the world community.
May we heal this great circle of life with Divine love,
ever expanding and ever growing.
May God's love make the world a place of growing wisdom,
unconditional acceptance, and deeper connection.**

**May each heart and every life seek to bring your love alive through word and in deed.
Nourish us with your Presence. We pray in trust. Amen.**

Path II: Befriending the Dark Places

This second path recognizes with open hearts the pain that coexists with goodness and gratitude. We listen to the groans of the world and the Spirit helps us to grieve and to intercede on behalf of all those who suffer, letting go of our fear that can make things worse at times.

Listening

You are invited to settle yourselves for the depths of stillness and prayer with the sound of the singing bowl.

Letting Go and Holding with Love

(Prayers of the People interspersed with the Chant “Breathe in the Pain”)

**Breathe in the pain
Breathe on out the love
May my heart be the place
Where this world is changed forever.**

Each week we say a different poetic version of the prayer Jesus taught. This week we encounter a version from Hawaiian poet and artist, Kaleo Ching. He starts with the Hebrew words for Father and Mother – Abba, Imma. Let us pray together.

**Abba Imma in heaven, holy be your name.
Your reign come; your yearning be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day the bread we need.
Forgive our debts as we forgive our debtors
Guide us through life's trials
Shelter us all from evil
In your Grace, your wisdom, and your love. Amen**

Path III: Exclaiming the Divine Creative

This third path creates space to explore how God is working in and through us and all of the universe to renew each day every direction. Each moment offers opportunity to express our God-gifted creativity. We hear messages—ancient and new—that express and affirm the Divine at work and encourage us in our creative collaboration with the Divine.

Readings:

Romans 12:9-11; 15-16a, 18

1 Corinthians 11:29

Quote by Swami Vivekananda

“The moment I have realized God sitting in the temple of every human body,
The moment I stand I reverence before every human being and see God in that beloved one –
that moment I am free from bondage, everything that binds vanishes, and I am free, we are
free.”

This is a Word of God.

Thanks be to God.

All creation is a word of God.

All creation speaks volumes of God.

Reflection

Eucharist, the Fabric of God's Love

Anthem

Broken Body Richard A. Nichols

Celebration of Communion

As we move into sharing the Eucharistand this is the growth we
Must continue to nurture.

Welcome to the meal of inclusive love

In the silence of the morning, as the new day dawned around the world, God's people began to gather for worship amid the sounds of drums or pipes, strings or organs. And now we, too, join in this worldwide chorus of those who call upon the name of the Lord

Within the surrounding presence of the Christ, we meet at this Table of Inclusion.

We come to be refreshed in body and renewed in spirit.

We gather on this World Communion Sunday in company with our brothers and sisters throughout the world-wide church, across the bounds of language or nation, across the bounds of tradition or custom.

The Great Thanksgiving and Words of Institution

(Tune to "Be Thou My Vision")

Our God be with you, now lift we our praise.

And God be with you too, now and always.

Let us give thanks to God, so right to do.

All-loving Maker, we give back to you.

At the beginning of everything.....we praise your name
And join their unending hymn:

Holy of holies, of power and might
So full of glory, your Word and your Light
Bless-ed are those who come in your name,
Praise and hosannas, we offer the same

Creativity and Being are who you are,.....
keeping alive the reminder to "do this in remembrance of me."

Taking the bread and lifting the cup
Giving his lifeblood, he opened to us
Path of salvation, a meal full of grace
Let us remember and join in this place

Like fresh rain in a drought....
people and creation united in the One Body of Love.

Give us your vision, the world cries in need;
Let us make room for all, casting out greed.
Open our hearts and our hands and our eyes,
Prayers lift unceasing, our hope in you lies!

Communion is taken – Anthem: We Remember Thee

After Communion

Holy Hospitable God.....And so, what shall we do?

And so, what shall we do? Repeat after me:

We will break ourselves open

We will break ourselves open

We will pour ourselves out

We will pour ourselves out

In food for the hungry

In food for the hungry

And love for the stranger

And love for the stranger

Just as Christ connects all in love

Just as Christ connects all in love

So too shall we

So too shall we

We will rise to new life

We will rise to new life

And commit to create

And commit to create

Just and loving connections with all life

Just and loving connections with all life

Amen

Amen

Hymn

Sent Forth by God's Blessing VU #481

Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.

Our faith ever sharing in love ever caring, embracing God's children of each tribe and race.

The seed of Christ's teaching receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.

God's grace did invite us, God's love shall unite us to work for the kingdom and answer its call.

With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.

Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing God's people of each tribe and race.

With your feast you feed us, with your light now lead us,
unite us as one in this life that we share.

Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
give honour to Christ and the name that we bear.

Path IV: Embodying Compassion and Power

The fourth path will lead us out. We pray for movement within our own hearts to embody peace and passion—compassion and power—on behalf of spreading goodness throughout the week. We are not at the mercy of “the way it is,” we can claim our agency to be fully present and fully active in the world into which we now go.

Offering

I have asked people to include in their worship space a special collection or offering dish. Each Sunday during the series I invite people to put something in that offering dish and at the end of the series to send your dedications offerings to St. David's. Thanks for your generosity.

Song of Dedication of Offering VU #538
For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,
and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,
We thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.
May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.

Holding On and Reaching Out

Go for it! – Spiritual Practice
Benediction (Jack Kornfield)