World Communion Sunday

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, SARASOTA



October 1, 2023

10:00 AM

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2050 Oak Street • Sarasota, FL 34237
(941) 955-8119 • www.firstpressarasota.org

As a courtesy to others, please silence your phone.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME AND INVITATION Rev. Timothy T. Boggess

CALL TO WORSHIP James Jordan

From Psalm 57

We will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples;
We will sing praises to you among the nations.
For your steadfast love is as high as the heavens;
your faithfulness extends to the clouds.
Be exalted, O God, above the heavens.
Let your glory be over all the earth.

*** HYMN 401** *Here in This Place* GATHER US IN

Here in this place the new light is streaming;
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken;
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young; our lives are a mystery.
We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly;
give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water;
here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion;
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away:
here in this place the new light is shining;
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever;
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

Why offer a prayer of confession? To remember all that God has done for us in Christ is to be confronted with the fact of God's astonishing love and our own unworthiness. *The Companion to the Book of Common Worship*

*** PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Almighty God, mother of mercy, father of grace:
You have called us to one table,
but we have pursued our own course.
You have promised us the abundance of all creation,
but in our greed, and in our envy, the world goes without.
You have promised us the bread of life itself,
but in our pride, and in our arrogance, the world goes hungry.
You have promised us the water of peace and justice,
but in our violence, and in our discord, the world goes thirsty.
And know we are famished, too, Lord.
Have mercy on us. Forgive us, again.
Transform us, at this table, and for this table,
and send us from this table as servants of your righteousness,
by the power of your Son, our Lord. Amen.

(a moment for silent reflection)

*** ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

*** SONG OF JOY** *The Welcome Table* African American Spiritual

I'm gonna eat at the welcome table;
I'm gonna eat at the welcome table, Alleluia!
I'm gonna eat at the welcome table;
I'm gonna eat at the welcome table, Alleluia!

Here all the world will find a welcome;
here all the world will find a welcome, Alleluia!
Here all the world will find a welcome;
here all the world will find a welcome, Alleluia!

*** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

This anthem uses a call and response form inspired by African idioms. The Swahili response, *Kuimba sifa kwa mungu*, means *Singing praises to God.* The refrain, *Sifa kwa Bwana*, means *Praise to the Lord.*

ANTHEM *African Canticle* David Angerman
(Chancel Choir with Matt Jarvis, soloist)

You are the moon on a midnight lake. *Kuimba sifa kwa mungu*.
You are the tune of the stars in space. *Kuimba sifa kwa mungu*.
You are the truth of a waterfall. *Kuimba sifa kwa mungu*.
You are the Maker, the Lord of All. *Kuimba sifa kwa mungu*.

Refrain:
O sifa, sifa kwa Bwana! You are my maker and friend!
O sifa, sifa kwa Bwana! You are the journey's end.

You are the wind through the waving tree. *Kuimba sifa kwa mungu*.
You are the call of the crashing sea. *Kuimba sifa kwa mungu*.
You are the strength of the mountain tall. *Kuimba sifa kwa mungu*.
Your name is Yahweh, the Lord of All. *Kuimba sifa kwa mungu*. (Refrain)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Exodus 1:8-14; 3:1-15 Page 48

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

How is God calling you to serve?

SERMON *The Moses in All of Us* Rev. Boggess

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** James Jordan

The Confession of Belhar emerged from South Africa during the struggle with Apartheid. It is named for the city in South Africa where it was first adopted.

We believe that God has entrusted to the Church
the message of reconciliation;
and that the Church is called
to proclaim and embody this reconciliation;
to be peacemakers;
and to believe and to witness that God conquers all powers
of sin and death, of hate, bitterness and enmity,
through his life-giving Word and Spirit.
We praise God that the gospel does not separate people
on the basis of race, gender, class, or culture,
but is the power of reconciliation in Christ.

We believe that God wants to bring about true justice
and lasting peace on earth;
we believe that God is, in a special sense,
the God of the suffering, the poor and the downtrodden.
We praise God who gives justice to the oppressed
and bread to the hungry;
who sets captives free and makes the blind to see;
who protects strangers, orphans, and widows
and obstructs the plan of the wicked.

We believe that the Church belongs to God
and that it should stand where God stands:
against injustice and with those who are wronged.
We commit ourselves to reject all forms of injustice
in ourselves and amongst us;
and to struggle against all forms of injustice
and every teaching that allows injustices to flourish.

SONG OF PREPARATION *Hope of the Broken World* Cartee & Riddle
(Carrie Mills, Matt Jarvis, Steven Phillips)

Verse 1
In the beginning, into the darkness,
the spirit's moving upon the water.
You spoke the words, "Let there be light."

Out of the chaos came the promise;
the universe rose and applauded
when you commanded the newborn sun to rise.

Chorus
You are the day spring, you are the morning star.
Creation's splendor speaks of who you are.
You are salvation, you are the joy of the earth.
Restoration comes hope of the broken world.

Verse 2
Into my weakness, into my darkness,
your spirit's moving upon my heart, and
you speak the words, "Let there be light."

Into my chaos comes your promise.
The new is rising, the old is passed on.
You are reviving and making all things right. (Chorus)

Bridge
Arise, shine! The glory of the Lord has risen! (Chorus)

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

GREAT PRAYER OF 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 God thanks and praise . . .

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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

MUSICAL MEDITATION Al *Shlosha D'Varim* — Allan Naplan
(The Chancel Choir)

Al shlosha d'varim haolam kayam:
al haemet v'al hadin v'al hashalom.

The world is sustained by three things:
by truth, and by justice, and by peace.

This text is taken from *Pirkei Avot*, meaning *Chapters of the Fathers*. The revered document is a compilation of ethical teachings from the Jewish Rabbinic tradition.

PRAYER OF RESPONSE

Almighty God, we thank you for the gift of your Son
and for the promise that, in Christ, all things are possible.
May the Bread and the Cup fill us this day,
rekindling our love for you and the world you love;
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY *Be Thou My Vision* arr. Steven Phillips
(Sean O'Neil, violin; Isaac Mingus, cello; Steven Phillips, piano)

* **DOXOLOGY 608** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* PRAISE GOD (Hopson)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore.

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

* **SENDING SONG** *There Is A Louder Shout To Come* Matt Redman

Verse 1
There is a louder shout to come,
there is a sweeter song to hear:
all the nations with one voice,
all the people with one fear.
Bowing down before Your throne,
every tribe and tongue will be
all the nations with one voice,
all the people with one King
and what a song we'll sing upon that day!

Chorus
Oh what a song we'll sing and oh what a tune we'll bear!
You deserve an anthem of the highest praise.
Oh what a joy will rise and oh what a sound we'll make!
You deserve an anthem of the highest praise.

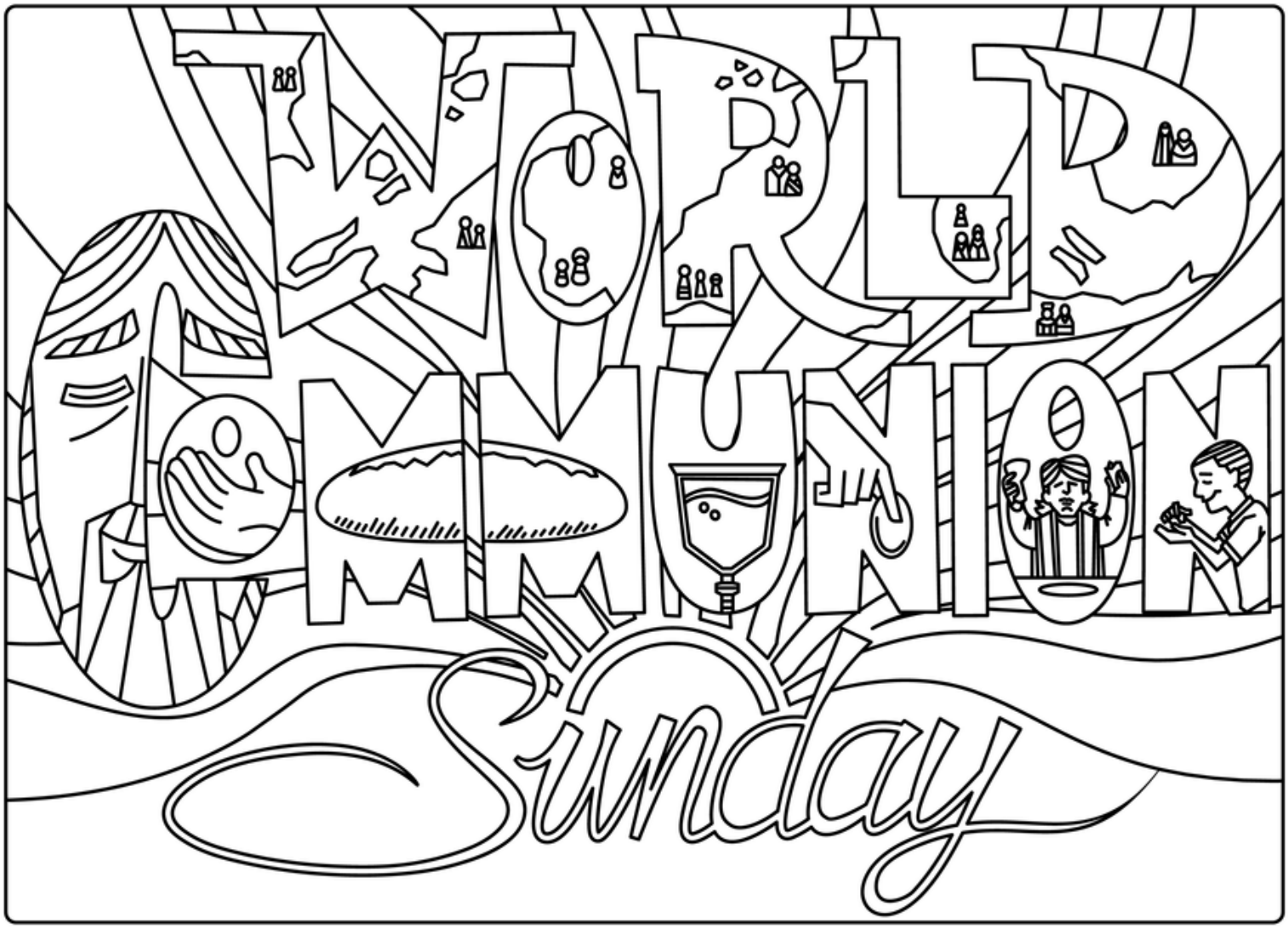
Verse 2
Now we see a part of this,
one day we shall see in full,
all the nations with one voice,
all the people with one love.
No one else will share Your praise,
nothing else can take Your place,
all the nations with one voice,
all the people with one Lord.
And what a song we'll sing upon that day! (Chorus)

Verse 3
Even now upon the earth
there's a glimpse of all to come:
many people with one voice,
harmony of many tongues.
We will all confess Your name,
you will be our only praise,
all the nations with one voice,
all the people with one God.
And what a song we'll sing upon that day!

Chorus
Oh what a song we'll sing and oh what a tune we'll bear!
You deserve an anthem of the highest praise.
Oh what a joy will rise and oh what a sound we'll make!
You deserve an anthem of the highest praise.

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** Rev. Boggess

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WORLD
COMMUNION
Sunday