



Combined Worship Service
The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
October 4, 2026

The Service for World Communion Sunday

WE GATHER

PRELUDE "Adoration"

Florence Price

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from a Kenyan worship service)

Leader: We come to worship our God, the Great Elder.

People: We come to thank God for God's glorious gifts.

Leader: When we look at God's greatness, we are overcome with awe.

All: Let us worship our Great Elder, the ruler of all things on earth and in heaven, for we are his servants, ready to do his will.

*CHORAL INTROIT AND PROCESSIONAL BY THE CHANCEL CHOIR

The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing (from *Glory to God* – see attachment) THE FEAST IS READY

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN

Come All You People (from *Glory to God* – see attachment)

UYAI MOSE

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSION (Adapted from a quote by the Moderator of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Ghana)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Joe Seremane, South Africa [adapted])

O God, you asked for our hands, that you might use them for your purpose.

We gave them for a moment, and then withdrew them, for the work was hard.

You asked for our mouths to speak out against injustice.

We gave you a whisper, that we might not be accused.

*Please stand if you are able.

You asked for our eyes to see the pain of poverty and oppression.

We closed them, for we did not want to see.

You asked for our lives, that you might work through us.

We gave you a small part, that we might not get too involved.

Lord, forgive our calculated efforts to serve you

only when it is convenient,

only in those places where it is safe to do so,

and only with those who make it easy to do so.

Holy God, forgive us, renew us, and send us out as usable instruments that we might take seriously the meaning of your cross. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (The Church of South India [adapted])

The Savior of the world, the Refuge of the repentant, forgives and strengthens all who truly seek his grace. He accepts us as his sons and daughters and sets us free from the bondage of our past. For Christ died and rose to new life that we might all share his wholeness and abundant life.

WE LISTEN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Psalms 96:1-12a

Colossians 3:12-17

Leader: The word of the Lord;

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Cynthia Leslie Simmons

"The Words of Our Mouths"

WE RESPOND

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Looking at the words of the prayers and songs we have sung from around the world, what themes do you see emerging? What do these songs and prayers have to say to us as American Christians?

*SERMON HYMN

We Cannot Measure How You Heal (from *Glory to God* – see attachment)

YE BANKS AND YE BRAES

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*The Maasai Creed* of East Africa [adapted])

We believe in the one High God, who out of love created the beautiful world and everything good in it. He created humanity and wanted us to be happy in the world. God loves the world and every nation and tribe on the earth. We have known this High God in the darkness, and now we know him in the light. God promised in the book of his word, the Bible, that he would save the world and all nations and tribes. We believe that God made good his promise by sending his son, Jesus Christ, a man in the flesh, a Jew by tribe, born poor in a little village, who left his home and was always on safari doing good, curing people by the power of God, teaching about God and humanity, showing that the meaning of religion is love. He was rejected by his people, tortured and nailed hands and feet to a cross, and died. He was buried in the grave, but the hyenas did not touch him, and on the third day, he rose from that grave. He ascended to the skies. He is the Lord. We believe that all our sins are forgiven through him. All who have faith in him must be sorry for their sins, be baptized in the Holy Spirit of God, live the rules of love, and share the bread together in love, to announce the good news to others until Jesus comes again. We are waiting for him. He is alive. He lives. This we believe. Amen.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS Katherine Ferrara, Connie Gilbert and Jeannette Jentgen

MINUTE FOR MISSION AND OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain
Chancel Choir

Carolyn Jennings

***Doxology**

#592

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Table

Congregational Response

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly (verse 3; from *Glory to God* – see attachment) HOLY MANNA

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give thanks and praise.

Leader: It is truly right to give you thanks and praise, O God...

Congregational Response

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly (verse 3; from *Glory to God* – see attachment) HOLY MANNA

Intercessions and Consecration

Let us join our hearts and voices for The Lord's Prayer from the *New Zealand Book of Prayer*:

Eternal Spirit,

Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,

Source of all that is and that shall be,

Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom

sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.**

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Communion Music

Christ, You are the Fullness of God (based on a Korean melody)

arr. Dale Grotenhuis

Madison Zahorsky, soprano

Post-Communion Prayer

We thank you, O God, that through your Holy Spirit you have gathered us together and fed us with Jesus Christ. Send us now into the world in peace and loving service, bearing Christ's love in ministry through our words and actions, knowing that there is nothing in heaven or earth that can separate us from your love in Jesus Christ. Even so, Lord Jesus, quickly come. Amen.

*SENDING HYMN

O Sing to the Lord (from *Glory to God* – see attachment)

SING TO THE SEEN

*BENEDICTION (sung three times)

May the God of Hope Go with Us (from *Glory to God* – see attachment)

ARGENTINA

POSTLUDE South African Trilogy

arr. J. Daryl Hollinger

Flowers given by Connie Gilbert in loving memory of her husband, Ed Gilbert,
and her parents, Frank and Eleanor Urschitz

You're welcome to stay and enjoy the Postlude or to depart while the music is played.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

COMMUNITY LIFE – ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR OCT. 4, 2026

If you are new to our church, welcome! Please complete a “**Connect Card**,” available in the Narthex.

After today’s service we’ll gather for a **potluck picnic**, hopefully outdoors at the front of the church building. Please join us even if you don’t have a contribution – there will be plenty of good food and conversation!

If you ordered from the **soup fundraiser**, you can pick it up between 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. today in the Narthex. They will have extra quarts of chicken noodle soup available for \$12 each.

The **online auction of church items** has opened its preview. The website, dottaauction.hibid.com, will be available for you to preview the items for sale; you’ll need to register to place bids, which will be finalized on Thursday, Oct. 15. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO A COMPUTER: There will be a volunteer in the North Link after the service who can help you look at the auction website.

Our two classes will meet next week. **Hearts N Minds adult ed** meets from 10-11 a.m. in the Library (Room 210). **Body N Soul intergenerational class** meets from 10:10-11 a.m. in Room 216. All are welcome!

For tomorrow’s **Hi Neighbors speakers program**: we’ll learn more about “**The Lehigh Valley of the Future**” from Becky Bradley, executive director of the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission. The social time begins at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall, followed by the program at 10 a.m. All are welcome; there is no charge and no pre-registration needed.

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Cynthia Leslie Simmons, Parish Associate

Rev. Karen Kinney, Transitional Pastor; kkinney@fpc-bethlehem.org

Rev. Lindsey Altvater Clifton, Associate Pastor for Justice and Community Impact; lclifton@fpc-bethlehem.org

David Macbeth, Director of Music Ministries; dmacbeth@fpc-bethlehem.org

CARE CONCERNS

IF YOU ARE HOSPITALIZED: Please tell the hospital our church code is 724. Also, please call the church office at 610-867-5865 to let us know as the hospitals do not always collect this information. After hours, leave a message or call 610-674-0005 for emergency pastoral messages.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Send to prayer@fpc-bethlehem.org or call 610-867-5865 and leave a message.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Regular Church Office hours are Monday – Thursday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Urgent pastoral need? Call 610-674-0005 for emergency pastoral messages (this is a new number).

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER – STAY CONNECTED!

If you would like to get our email or print newsletter: info@fpc-bethlehem.org or 610-867-5865.

First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem

2344 Center Street, Bethlehem, PA 18017

610-867-5865 · fpc-bethlehem.org

Check our online calendar for all events and activities.

Your attendance at church events constitutes permission to use your image
(photos and video) in church communications.

Questions about our policy: info@fpc-bethlehem.org



Use this code to
donate through
our secure
website.

The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing 505

The Feast Is Ready



1 The trum-pets sound; the an - gels sing; the feast is
 2 Ta - bles are la - den with good things; O taste the
 3 The hun - gry heart he sat - is - fies, of - fers the



read - y to be - gin. The gates of heaven are o - pen wide,
 peace and joy he brings. He'll fill you up with love di - vine;
 poor his par - a - dise. Now hear all heaven and earth ap-plaud



and Je - sus wel - comes you in - side.
 he'll turn your wa - ter in - to wine.
 the a - maz - ing good - ness of the Lord.

Refrain



Sing with thank - ful - ness songs of pure de - light.



Come and rev - el in heav - en's love and light.



Take your place at the ta - ble of the King.



The feast is read - y to be - gin;



the feast is read - y to be - gin.

This celebratory gathering song is cast in a highly rhythmic praise and worship style and brings together many images associated with the eucharistic feast. Despite its new sound, its emphasis on communion as a foretaste of the Heavenly Banquet is a very traditional theme.

Come All You People

Uyai mose

Leader

U - ya - i mo - se, ti - na -
Come all you peo - ple, come and

U - ya - i mo - se, ti - na - ma - te
Come all you peo - ple, come and praise your

Ahom

Ahom

ma - te Mwa - ri; u - ya - i mo - se,
praise your Mak - er; come all you peo - ple,

Mwa - ri; u - ya - i mo - se,
Mak - er; come all you peo - ple,

Ahom

ti - na - ma - te Mwa - ri; u -
come and praise your Mak - er; come

ti - na - ma - te Mwa - ri; u - ya - i
come and praise your Mak - er; come all you

Ahom

Ahom

continued on the next page

Come All You People

(page 2)

ya - i mo - se, ti - na - ma - te Mwa - ri;
all you peo - ple, come and praise your Mak - er;

mo - se, ti - na - ma - te Mwa - ri;
peo - ple, come and praise your Mak - er;

Ahom

u - ya - i mo - se zwi - no. Ti - na - ma - te Mwa - ri, no.
come now and wor - ship the Lord Come and praise your Mak - er, Lord.

u - ya - i mo - se zwi - no. no.
come now and wor - ship the Lord. Lord.

Ahom Ahom Ahom Ahom

797 We Cannot Measure How You Heal

1 We can - not mea - sure how you heal or
 2 The pain that will not go a - way, the
 3 So some have come who need your help and

an - swer ev - ery suf - ferer's prayer, yet
 guilt that clings from things long past, the
 some have come to make a - mends, as

we be - lieve your grace re - sponds where
 fear of what the fu - ture holds, are
 hands which shaped and saved the world are

faith and doubt u - nite to care. Your
 pres - ent as if meant to last. But
 pres - ent in the touch of friends. Lord,

continued on the next page

We Cannot Measure How You Heal

(page 2)

hands, though blood - ied on the cross, sur -
 pres - ent too is love which tends the
 let your Spir - it meet us here to

vive to hold and heal and warn, to
 hurt we nev - er hoped to find, the
 mend the bod - y, mind, and soul, to

car - ry all through death to life and
 pri - vate ag - o - nies in - side, the
 dis - en - tan - gle peace from pain, and

cra - dle chil - dren yet un - born.
 mem - o - ries that haunt the mind.
 make your bro - ken peo - ple whole.

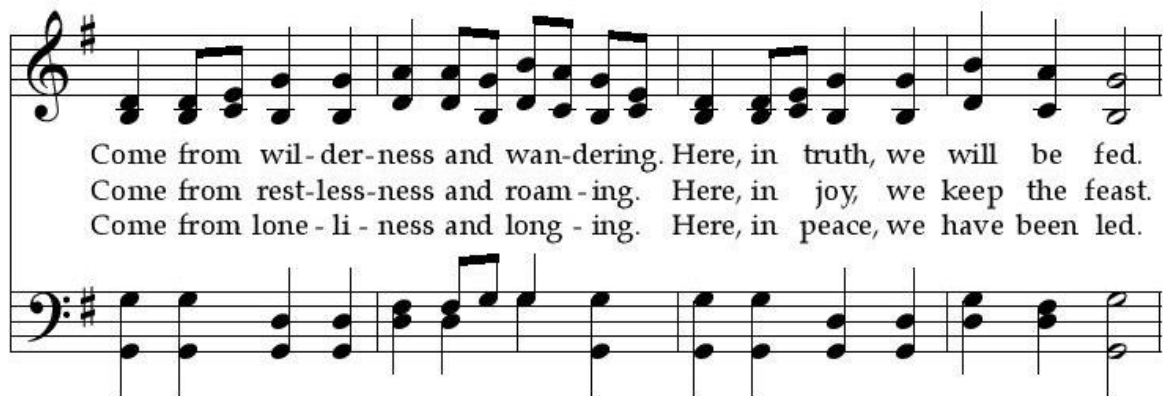
This hymn will be sung at two separate times

LORD'S SUPPER

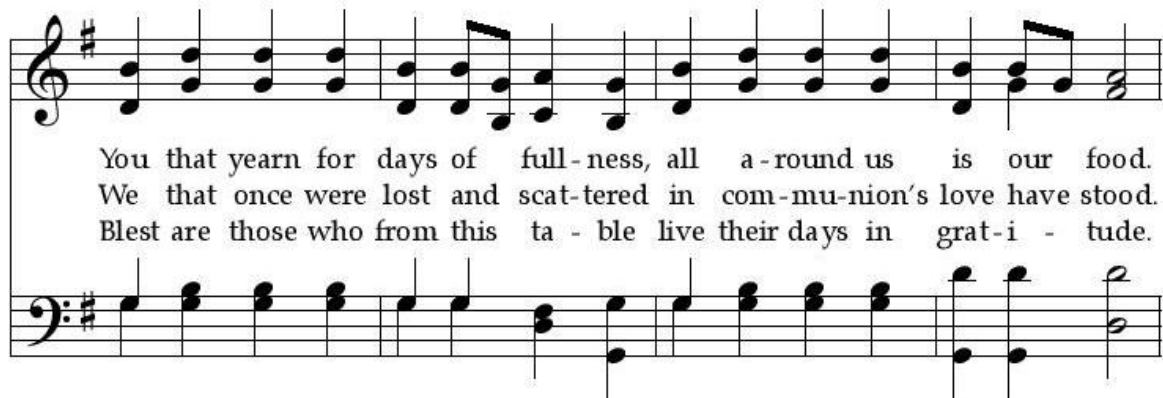
All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly 509



1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad - ly; ho - ly man-na is our bread.
2 All who hun-ger, nev-er strang-ers, seek-er, be a wel-come guest.
3 All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er; Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.



Come from wil-der-ness and wan-dering. Here, in truth, we will be fed.
Come from rest-less-ness and roam-ing. Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing. Here, in peace, we have been led.



You that yearn for days of full-ness, all a-round us is our food.
We that once were lost and scat-tered in com-mu-nion's love have stood.
Blest are those who from this ta - ble live their days in grat-i - tude.



Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

637

O Sing to the Lord

Cantai ao Senhor

1 O sing to the Lord; O sing God a
 2 For God is the Lord, and God has done
 3 So dance for our God and blow all the
 4 O shout to our God, who gave us the
 5 For Je - sus is Lord! A - men! Al - le -



new song. O sing to the Lord; O sing God a
 won - ders. For God is the Lord, and God has done
 trum - pets. So dance for our God and blow all the
 Spir - it. O shout to our God, who gave us the
 lu - ia! For Je - sus is Lord! A - men! Al - le -



new song. O sing to the Lord; O sing God a new song.
 won - ders. For God is the Lord, and God has done won - ders.
 trum - pets. So dance for our God and blow all the trum - pets.
 Spir - it. O shout to our God, who gave us the Spir - it.
 lu - ia! For Je - sus is Lord! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia!



O sing to our God; O sing to our God.

PORTUGUESE

- 1 *Cantai ao Senhor um cântico novo, (3x)*
cantai ao Senhor, cantai ao Senhor.
- 2 *Porque ele fez, ele fez maravilhas, (3x)*
cantai ao Senhor, cantai ao Senhor.
- 3 *Cantai ao Senhor, bendizei o seu nome, (3x)*
cantai ao Senhor, cantai ao Senhor.
- 4 *É ele quem dá o Espírito Santo, (3x)*
cantai ao Senhor, cantai ao Senhor.
- 5 *Jesus é o Senhor! Amém, aleluia! (3x)*
cantai ao Senhor, cantai ao Senhor.

SPANISH

- 1 *Cantad al Señor un cántico nuevo. (3x)*
¡Cantad al Señor, cantad al Señor!
- 2 *Pues nuestro Señor ha hecho prodigios. (3x)*
¡Cantad al Señor, cantad al Señor!
- 3 *Cantad al Señor, alabadle con arpa. (3x)*
¡Cantad al Señor, cantad al Señor!
- 4 *Es él quien nos da el Espíritu Santo. (3x)*
¡Cantad al Señor, cantad al Señor!
- 5 *¡Jesús es Señor! ¡Amén, aleluia! (3x)*
¡Cantad al Señor, cantad al Señor!

A Lutheran missionary musician heard this song at a pastors' conference in southern Brazil in 1982, then went home to Argentina (where he was then serving) and translated it from Portuguese into Spanish. Later, when back in the U.S.A. on furlough, he translated it into English.

May the God of Hope Go with Us 765

Song of Hope / Canto de esperanza



This Argentine folk melody sets Spanish and English words, both created by a PC(USA) missionary with much Latin American experience. The two versions complement each other: the Spanish text offering a prayer to God, and the English one providing inspiration for the singers.