

First Presbyterian Church of Rolla
Worship Service for the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Oct. 2, 2022

Pre-Service Music: *The Lone, Wild Bird* - Robert Lau

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: *Voluntary in F* - Robert Lau

Introit #401: *Here in This Place* vs. 1 and 3

Call to Worship

Write the vision; make it plain for all to see.

God longs to gather all the peoples of the earth.

Prayer of the Day

Benevolent, merciful God: When we are empty, fill us. When we are weak in faith, strengthen us. When we are cold in love, warm us, so that with fervor we may love our neighbors and serve them for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Opening Hymn #504: *We Come as Guests Invited* (please stand)

Call to Confession

Our faith may be small, but God's power is great.

Our sins may loom large, but God's promise of forgiveness is sure.

Trusting that God is able to do for us what we could never do for ourselves,

let us make our confession.

Prayer of Confession

God of grace, we confess that the seed of faith within us is small. Hope is often absent. Love is frequently inconvenient. Our sin keeps us from responding to you. Tend to us in mercy, so that we may grow in the ways of faith, hope, and love, after the example of Jesus Christ. Amen

Declaration of Forgiveness

The grace of God is given to us in Jesus Christ.

This is good news! Through His sacrifice, we are forgiven.

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Passing the Peace of Christ

Gloria #583: *Glory to God*

Time for sharing joys and concerns, and the prayer list.

Prayers of the People

As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Worship leader will lead the prayers. God of Grace. **Hear our prayer.**

Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to you: through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

Dedication of Tithes and Offerings (please stand)

Doxology #606: *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Prayer of Dedication:

Gracious God, in your great love you richly provide for our needs. Make these gifts a banquet of blessing, and make us ready to share with all in need; through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all. Amen.

Hymn #503: *Lord We Have Come at Your Own Invitation* (remain seated)

Prayer for Illumination

**Gracious God, we do not live by bread alone.
Let the heavenly food of the scripture we are about to hear
nourish us today in the ways of eternal life,
through Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven. Amen**

Old Testament Lesson: Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4

Gospel Lesson: Luke 17: 5-10

Epistle Lesson: 2 Timothy 1:1 – 18

The Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *Shameless Love* Jonathan Kimball

Communion Hymn #526: *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ* (seated)

World Communion Sunday Liturgy – adapted from Heather Prince Doss 2016

This Sunday is World Communion Sunday, a day when Christian churches around the world have all agreed to celebrate Communion as a sign of our oneness in Jesus Christ. Not all Christian traditions participate, but many do, and the day is a powerful reminder of our unity in Christ despite the theological, political, linguistic, and cultural differences in the church around the world.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Today we celebrate World Communion Sunday, remembering our Christian brothers and sisters around the world who also celebrate this feast. We remember that this is our Lord's Table, and all who seek Jesus are welcome.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

Matzah is unleavened bread that reminds us of all who eat their bread in haste. It symbolizes for us all the refugees who, like the ancient Israelites, leave their homes and flee from danger. May it remind us, too, of the homeless in our own city and country.

We pray, O God, for your church among those with no place to call home. May we learn from their searching faith, and may we be a place of welcome for all who seek safety.

Frybread reminds us of Africa, the birthplace of humankind where Christianity continues to flourish. It also reminds us of a legacy of slavery, and of a people who endured.

We pray, O God, for your church in places where it flourishes, and we confess the times and places when we have enslaved our brothers and sisters. May we learn from the vibrant faith of our African brothers and sisters, and may we build a more just and peaceable world.

Nom Chakie is a Cambodian bread that reminds us of Asia, where Christians are a minority among Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, and others. It represents for us the ways our faith calls us beyond our culture and reminds us of our brothers and sisters who are persecuted for their beliefs.

We pray, O God, for your church in places where Christianity is dangerous, politically or socially. May we learn from the steadfast faith of our Asian brothers and sisters and walk with Jesus through every trial.

Tortillas remind us of Central and South America, where faith and culture have colored one another beautifully; but also a place where Christians live with violence, drugs, and conflict as a daily reality.

We pray, O God, for your church in places beset by violence and still colored by hope. May we learn from the persistent faith of our Latino brothers and Latina sisters, and may we look upon them with compassion as our neighbors.

The baguette reminds us of Europe, with its vast cathedrals that are often empty. It represents those who keep the faith alive in lean times and reminds us that the church is not a building, but a community of people.

We pray, O God, for your church in places where its power is diminished and its followers are few. May we learn from the age-old faith of our European brothers and sisters, and may we live our faith so that our faith might live.

Cornbread reminds us of Native Americans who first recognized God in the rhythms of nature. It reminds us that the land we call home once belonged to others.

We pray, O God, for your church as it exists in every land. May we learn from the earthy faith of our Native American brothers and sisters, and may we care for the land and all those who call it home.

Come, Holy Spirit, dwell in this bread and in this cup that they might be for us the body and blood of Christ. Come, dwell in your people of every land and language that we might be united with one another to be the body of Christ in every corner of the world today. Amen.

Communion Hymn #498: *Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken vs. 3*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Today, Christ-followers meet in public worship and secret gatherings to break bread together. Today, in wealthy churches and hovels of poverty, wine is shared. In many different languages, by ordained clergy and volunteer pastors, these words of institution are given:

On the night he was betrayed, our Lord, Jesus, gathered for supper with twelve of his closest friends, his disciples. He took the unleavened bread of the Passover feast, and when he had given thanks to God for it, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "This is my body, broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way after supper Jesus took the cup and gave it to His disciples, saying, "This cup is the new covenant – a new relationship with God, marked by the forgiveness of your sins. Drink of it, all of you."

And so today, every time we eat this bread and drink this cup, we remember our Lord's death, and we hope for the day when he shall come again. These are the gifts of God for all the people of God.

Commune together with people around the world.

Communion Hymn #500: *Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

You have met us at the table, Lord Jesus, to unite us with you and with brothers and sisters around the world. Go with us now into that world, that we might be a living sign of welcome among refugees, of freedom among the oppressed, of hope amid persecution, of peace amid violence, of living faith amid a culture of skepticism, and of loving kindness toward the earth and all her inhabitants. We pray in the name of Jesus, even as we pray that prayer that he taught us:

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Sending Hymn #515: *I Come with Joy vs. 1, 4, and 5* (please stand)

Benediction

The God of peace, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and comfort you, and show you the path of life this day and always.

Go in Peace, Live in Love, **Serve the Lord.**

Postlude: *Fanfare of Praise* - Jason W. Krug

Scriptures are read from the NRSV translation. Music presented by Lorie Francis. Worship led by Maudanne Pursley and sermon provided by Jonathan Kimball.

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