

A Liturgy for World-Wide Communion Sunday
October 6, 2013
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Call to Worship

O come, let us worship and bow down

Let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

For the Lord is our God

And we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

O that today you would listen to listen to his voice.

Yes, we will listen to the voice.

Suggested Opening Hymns

Laudate omnes gentes

Bani ngyeti Ba Yawe (Let us praise the Lord)

Het bot ba to ba'a (Where two or three)

Taize [Thuma Mina #134]

Cameroon [Thuma Mina #2]

Cameroon [Thuma Mina #4]

Call to Confession

John 3:16 and 17 says: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

Let us confess our sins and claim this promise.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

God, we are big.

We are too big to recognize you and glorify the Great Creator.

God, we are arrogant.

We are too arrogant to know that we live only by the grace of God
and the help of those who surround us.

God, we are small.

We are too small in our hearts to let others come into our community and live together.

God, we are narrow.

We are too narrow in our judgment to appreciate righteousness and beauty
in those who are different from us.

Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy.

Christe eleison.

Christ, have mercy.

Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy.

Assurance of Pardon

If we walk in the light as God is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:7)

Prayer for Illumination

O God, let us hear your message for our world through this scripture reading and your servant's sermon. Amen.

Scripture Possibilities for the Sermon

- **Galatians 3:28**—There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.
- **Colossians 3:11**—Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.
- **1 Corinthians 12:12-30**—For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.
- **Revelation 7:9-10**—After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”
- **Ephesians 4:2-5**—There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
- **Acts 17:26-28**—And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him.
- **Isaiah 56:6-8**—“And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant— these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer;...

Invitation to the Table

Jesus said, “Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me.” Responding to the invitation, we have gathered here in order to celebrate the Lord's Supper. And we celebrate it with all the sisters and brothers on the earth. Keeping in mind that we are a small part of the one large family of God, let us give thanks to the Creator, sharing the body and blood of our Savior in the overwhelming power of Holy Spirit.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

God of the universe, we praise you for all of your creation.

You didn't create us in one form, one color, and one character.

According to your will, we are created differently and uniquely.
Yet you desire us to live together on one planet called the Earth,
sharing all the gifts we receive from you.
When we close our ears and refused to act out your will,
you still loved us and continue to teach us your way.
And when the time was fulfilled, you sent your only son to this world
to show us the fulfillment of your love.
Therefore we join our voices with all the saints
and the whole creation to sing the glory of your name.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest

We praise the name of Christ Jesus our Lord.
You came down to the worst of this world,
hurt, exhausted and distorted by human sins.
You took the heavy burdens that we put on ourselves
and yet could not carry by ourselves, and carried it all the way to cross.
But that was not the end.
You were raised from the dead
and showed us the eternal victory of the divine love.
We await your coming in the fullness of your sovereign glory
and sing the mystery of faith.

Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.

You tell us that the kingdom of God has come near and that now is the time to repent.
You invite every one of us to this holy table of which you are the host.
You are inviting the people from right and from left,
from north and south, from the high above and from the low below,
from the mountains and from the coast,
from the Eurasian continent and the African soil
and from the Americas and the islands on the Pacific.
Please help us realize we are really the one people,
who are surrounding your holy table.

God of grace, pour out your Spirit upon us,
as we partake your gifts of bread and wine.
May the bread we break and the cup we bless
be the communion of the body and the blood with Christ.
Make us one with Christ, that we may be one with all who share this feast.

And send us out to the world to make a witness as one body of Christ.

Let us pray as Jesus taught us to pray: 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 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.

Suggested Hymns for Communion

For the Bread Which You Have Broken (Tune name: Beng-Li)

http://www.hymn-books.com/HymnBook_Hymn.php?HBHymns_ID=4847&Seq=&Rge=1&CPR=yes

The lyrics are in #508 and #509 of Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs. But the tune above is composed by a famous Taiwanese musician I-to Loh. Sounds like a traditional Chinese tune on the pentatonic scale. It reflects well the mystery of the communion.

Let Us Break Bread Together Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs #513

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs #514

Offertory Sentence

“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.” Let us give to God. (Ephesians 5:1-2)

Offertory Prayer

Use these gifts, O God, for the work of your kingdom all over this world. Amen.

Charge & Benediction

Here these words of charge and benediction from Paul’s second letter to the Thessalonians:

“Brothers and sisters, respect those who labor among you, and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves;...admonish the idlers, encourage the faint hearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you....May the God of peace sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and will do this.” Amen.