

A Liturgy for Worldwide Communion Sunday

October 2, 2016

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Call to Worship

One: From one person our Lord made all nations to inhabit the whole earth.

Many: We come from north, south, east, and west to worship his Holy Name

One: God is not far from each one of us.

Many: In God we live, move, and have our being.

One: God made us one in Jesus Christ.

Many: We celebrate God's presence in multiple languages and cultures.

—based on Acts 17:26-28

Call to Confession

In the same way that scripture declares that we are one in Christ, it also declares that anyone who knows the right thing to do and fails to do it commits sin. Knowing that God is compassionate and merciful, let us confess our sins.

—based on James 4:17

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Compassionate God, even when we know you created all human beings in your image, we recognize that we have failed to see your image in others. Violence, inequality, and injustice come as a result of our own barriers, and prejudices based on beliefs, race or culture separate us from others. It is because of our trespasses and failure to do right that we have forgotten to love others, especially those who are different from us. In your mercy, grant us your forgiveness that we may love others understanding that you loved us first. In Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Listen to the good news. In Christ we are forgiven and renewed in knowledge according to the image of our creator. In that renewal there is no longer man and woman, poor and rich; Christ is all and in all. Clothe yourselves with God's compassion, kindness, humility, and patience and bring the peace of Christ that is beyond imagination.

Let us share the peace to one another!

—based on Colossians 3

Prayer for Illumination

God of wisdom, on this same day your word is proclaimed in multiple languages and cultures. Your Holy Spirit who speaks all human languages is the one constantly teaching us to

understand your word. Open our ears and make your words come alive in our lives. In Christ we pray, Amen.

Scripture Possibilities for the Sermon

- Lamentations 1:1-6
- Psalm 137
- Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4
- Luke 17:5-10

Prayers of the People

In the midst of all contradictions of life, you remain faithful and close to us, O God.

In the midst of physical, emotional, and spiritual illness your healing hand rests upon us.

In the midst of violence and destruction, you are our peace.

In the midst of ignorance and incredulity, you bring new sight and knowledge.

In the midst of oppression and injustice, you oppose the proud and give grace to the humble.

In the midst of joy and gladness, your Spirit calls us to be thankful.

In the midst of diversity and differences, you, the triune God keep us as one.

It is in your presence Almighty God that we can live trusting that you care for us.

And, it is because of you O God, that we are equipped to help and receive help from others to embrace and face all different circumstances of life.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ in whom we are complete. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

With thankful hearts, let us present our offerings to God!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

With our offering O God we present our lives. Use our resources to bring your kingdom in practice not only here in this place, but all around the world among all people you have created.

In Jesus the Lord we pray, Amen.

Charge and Benediction

Messengers of the good news of Christ, leave this place with a vision of a better world in which you are agents of transformation for many.

May God bless you as you are, where you are, and with the resources you have, to become a blessing for your family, community, and age in which we live today. Amen.