

## A Liturgy for World Communion Sunday

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### Call to Worship

One: Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;

**Many: Bring an offering, and come before God.**

One: Worship the LORD in holy splendor;

**Many: Tremble before God, all the earth.**

One: The world is firmly established;

**Many: It shall never be moved.**

One: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice,

**Many: And let them say among the nations, "The LORD is king!"**

—1 Chronicles 16:29-31

### Call to Confession

Here these words from the Prayer of Manesseh:

O Lord, according to your great goodness  
you have promised repentance and forgiveness  
to those who have sinned against you,  
and in the multitude of your mercies  
you have appointed repentance for sinners,  
so that they may be saved.

Let us confession our sins to God with these words of old.

### Prayer of Confession (unison)

**The sins I have committed are more in number than the sand of the sea;  
my transgressions are multiplied, O Lord, they are multiplied!**

**I am not worthy to look up and see the height of heaven  
because of the multitude of my iniquities.**

**I am weighted down with many an iron fetter,  
so that I am rejected because of my sins, and I have no relief;  
I have provoked your wrath and have done what is evil in your sight,  
setting up abominations and multiplying offenses.**

Now I bend the knee of my heart, imploring you for your kindness.

**I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned, and I acknowledge my transgressions.**

**I earnestly implore you, forgive me, O Lord, forgive me!**

**Do not destroy me with my transgressions!**

**Do not be angry with me forever or store up evil for me;  
do not condemn me to the depths of the earth.** (*Allow time for silent confession*)

### **Assurance of Pardon**

The Prayer of Manesseh goes on to say this:

For you, O Lord, are the God of those who repent,  
and in me you will manifest your goodness;  
for, unworthy as I am, you will save me according to your great mercy,  
and I will praise you continually all the days of my life.  
For all the host of heaven sings your praise, and yours is the glory forever.

Friends, believe the good news. In Christ Jesus we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

### **Prayer for Illumination**

Open our minds, our hearts and our very souls, so we may hear the word you have for us today.  
Give us a sense of unity with those Christians gathered around the world waiting to hear the  
good news and to share in praising your name above all names. Amen.

### **Scripture Possibilities for the Sermon**

- Exodus 17:1-7
- Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
- Psalm 25:1-9
- Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32
- Matthew 21:23-32
- Philippians 2:1-13

Of these lectionary scriptures, Philippians may be the most appropriate to preach for this World Communion Sunday. This passage talks about imitating Christ, especially his humility. As we celebrate communion with those around the world, we are all united by Christ—his example, his salvation, his death and resurrection and our eternal life.

### **Celebration of Communion**

#### *Introduction to the Lord's Table*

We are called from different cultural contexts. Together we are invited as the disciples of Jesus Christ. Together we seek to promote reconciliation, love and justice among all persons, classes, races, and nations. All those who trust in Jesus are invited to come and join in the feast of Grace that God has prepared.

—based on the Confession of Faith 6.32

*The Story of the Supper*

Among friends gathered around a table, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, “This is my body which is given for you. Do this to remember me.” Later, after they had eaten, he took a cup of wine and said, “This cup is God’s new relationship, made possible by my life and death. Whenever you drink it, do it remembering me.” So now, following Jesus’ example, we take this bread and wine; for in them he has promised to be with us, making us whole, making us one. And in celebration of God’s goodness, let us give thanks.

*Prayer of Peace and Words of Institution*

**We give you thanks, oh Lord**

In the midst of the power structure of our society,  
We thank you for your creation of equals.  
In the midst of the ethnical challenges in our church.  
We thank you for our diversities and unity in Christ,  
In the midst of our distorted relationships,  
We thank you for your gift of life in abundance.

**We celebrate you, oh Lord.**

For the invitation to a feast where the despised will be guest of honor,

**We give you thanks, oh Lord.**

*The Lord’s Prayer*

*Sharing of the Gifts of Bread and Cup*

Look. Here is your Lord, coming to you in bread and wine.  
The gifts of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Prayer after Communion*

Our God, you have made us one body no matter where we are from. Cumberland Presbyterians worship you in Colombia, Brazil, Mexico, Guatemala, Haiti, Liberia, Hong Kong, Korea, Cambodia, Laos, Philippines, Japan, Australia, the United States, and other places. Today, you have fed us with the bread of life and renewed us as your servants. God of peace, may this meal, shared in the Spirit with your son Jesus, strengthen us, your people, to engage your ministry. In the holy name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

**Invitation to the Offering**

Paul raises up the example of the Macedonians—those from another place—to those living in Jerusalem—those who are at home—so that they might learn from them. He says this in 2 Corinthians: “The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up

your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.”

—2 Corinthians 9:6-8

May we also learn from those who are far away how to live in our own community. Let us give of our tithes and offerings.

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Accept these gifts O God as a part of our giving who we are to those who we may or may not know. Cause these gifts to travel near and far helping those who are friends and strangers to know that we love them and are committed to giving sacrificially for them to know who Christ is and what he has done for us all. Amen.

### **Charge and Benediction**

Go to the farthest reaches of your world to spread the good news of the gospel,  
And to share God’s love with anyone with whom you come in contact.

And as you go,

Go with the God who is Lord over all of the world and its people.

Go with the Son who died for all who have lived, and those who will live in the future.

Go with the Holy Spirit who works tirelessly to unite us  
in the communion of fellowship throughout the world.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Amen.