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## **World Communion Sunday**

October 6, 2024 10:30 a.m.

*Whoever you are, no matter how lonely, the world offers itself to your imagination, calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting—over and over announcing your place in the family of things. —Mary Oliver*

### **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

RINGING THE BELL

WELCOME AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

PRELUDE

"Children of the Heavenly Father"

Diane Bish

*(\*) Indicates that all are invited to stand*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: We gather today as the people of God, as a community of Christ's followers.

**All: We gather to share Word and sacrament, to discern the ways of faithful service.**

One: Where in the world shall we serve our God?

**All: In this community and throughout every land.**

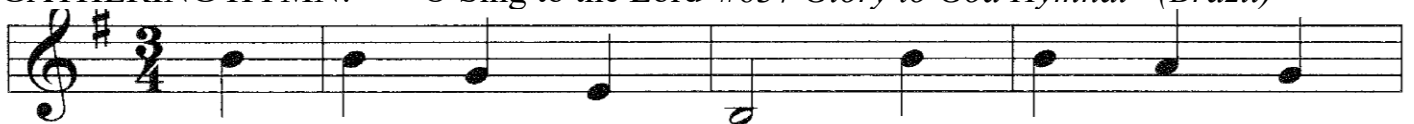
One: How in the world shall we serve our God?

**All: By working toward justice where there is oppression,  
by offering comfort where there is pain, by sharing love where there is hatred.**

One: Why in the world shall we serve our God?

**All: Because the Spirit beckons us, because Jesus calls us to enact our faith.  
Let us now worship the One who calls us!**

**\*GATHERING HYMN: "O Sing to the Lord" #637 *Glory to God Hymnal (Brazil)***



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.

FIRST READING            Luke 4:16-21                    Pew Bible p.835

CONVERSATION WITH OUR CHILDREN

CHORAL ANTHEM        "One World, One Communion"            Pepper Choplin

SECOND READING       John 9:3                            Pew Bible p.864

MISSION STORY: "Breaking the Silence"

*This letter comes from the Reverend Scott Couper in South Africa: Rev. Couper works with the kwaZulu Natal HIV and AIDS Desk of the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa in Durban, South Africa.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(South Africa)*

For our failure to feel the sufferings of others, and our tendency to live comfortably with injustice,

**God forgive us.**

For the self-righteousness which denies guilt, and the self-interest which strangles compassion,

**God forgive us.**

For our failings in community, and our lack of understanding,

**We ask your mercy.**

For the times when we are too eager to be better than others, when we are too rushed to care, when we are too tired to bother, when we do not really listen, when we are too quick to act from motives other than love,

**God forgive us and shower your mercy upon us.** *(silent confession)*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE *(Bangladesh)*

CHINESE CLASSICAL FAN DANCE: "Walking into the Paintings"

Music: Ru Hua Jiang Nan by Ling Huang (Edited)

*Dancers: Li He, Hong Li, Jessica Li, Jenny Q Huang, Ting Sun*

THIRD READING            Matthew 25:40                    Pew Bible p.807

MISSION STORY: "The Least of These"

*This letter comes from the Reverend John Campbell-Nelson in Indonesia and East Timor. John Campbell-Nelson is a UCC missionary serving with the Evangelical Christian Church of Timor. East Timor is a nation that achieved its independence from Indonesia in 1999.*

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT *(East Timor)*

**O God, you promise a world where those who now weep shall laugh; those who are hungry shall feast; those who are poor now, and excluded, shall live in your kingdom.**

**We want this promised world, too. We renounce despair. We will act for change.**

**We choose to be included in your great feast of life. Amen.**

FOURTH READING

Matthew 25:36

Pew Bible p.807

MISSION STORY: "Never Alone"

*This letter comes from Tim Rose, one of our missionaries in France. Tim Rose is a UCC missionary with the Reformed Church of France, working primarily with African refugees in the resettlement process.*

CONFESSION OF FAITH *(written by Thomas, an African refugee in France—adapted)*

**Yes, I believe in God, in Jesus and in the Holy Spirit.**

**I believe that God is the origin of all things,**

**I believe that God is just and loves all of us equally,**

**I believe in God's word and in that of Jesus, sent to help us find peace, love and eternal life.**

MONGOLIAN DANCE: "Blue Wind" Music: White Pony by Aori Gele (Edited)

*Dancers: Louisa Chen, Yin Chen, Wenzheng Du, Ching Peng, Li Wang*

FIFTH READING

Matthew 26:26

Pew Bible. 808

MISSION STORY: "Even I Am Welcome"

*This letter was written by Andrew & Ellen Collins, missionaries in Nepal. Andrew & Ellen Collins are former UCC missionaries with the United Mission to Nepal.*

NAMING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

OFFERTORY

"The Rising Sun"

David Christiansen

*(A QR code at the end of the bulletin is available for online giving.)*

\* RESPONSE OF PRAISE

**Praise God, the Giver and the Gift,**

**Hearts, minds and voices now uplift, Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Praise, praise the breath of glad surprise, Freeing, uplifting, opening eyes.**

**Three-In-Oneness, Love Communing, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

### INVITATION

#### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Let us prepare our hearts.

**We prepare them for the Lord.**

Let us open our minds.

**We open them for the Word.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**We give thanks for the goodness of creation.**

Creator God, in the beginning you put life into the emptiness, light into the darkness and saw that it was good.

**We are created in your image to see good in the light.**

You created people to live on the earth, to love and be loved, to care for this creation and be fruitful. And you saw it was good, very good.

**We are created in your image to see good in each other.**

And when we failed to praise you for a harvest of plenty, to obey your commands and care for the world that you put in our hands, you sent us Jesus to show us the way.

**We are created in Christ's image to see good in the dark.**

May this meal nourish us, strengthening us to bring good news to the poor, proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, and to let the oppressed go free.

**Thank you, God, for inviting us to share in your mission to bring peace and abundant life to your creation. Amen.**

### PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE ELEMENTS *(No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, all are welcome to participate! Elements will be served by ushers. Wine trays contain white grape juice and red wine cups. A tray of gluten-free wafers is available from usher in center aisle.)*

### \*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**We thank you O God, for refreshing us at your holy table. We thank you for our siblings in this community and around the world. May we always be reminded to see the world through Christ's eyes, and to work for a time when all may share together at Your table. Amen.**

\*COMMISSIONING HYMN: "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" #347 (*Jamaica*)  
*New Century Hymnal*

*(For full music, the New Century Hymnal is located in each pew rack)*

**Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy:**

**Bread is broken the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard**

***Refrain: Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!***

**Christ is able to make us one, at his table he set the tone,**

**Teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express. *Refrain***

**Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,**

**Gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) everywhere! *Refrain***

\*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Toccata in F"

Dietrich Buxtehude

### SENDING

*With God's blessing, we are sent forth to follow Christ in the world.*

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#### Worship Endnotes

Worship elements adapted from a service by Ana and Tod Gobledale, UCC Global Ministries Associates.

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#### ***Worship Leaders October 6, 2024***

Pastor: Sarah Fredriksen McCann

Organist: Jim Threlkeld

Liturgist: Alice Galt

Ushers: Members of the Outreach Ministry Team

YouTube: Andy Karcher

Tech team: Jim Richmann, Ron Geisel, Kristine Wentzien, Kathleen Mees

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*Thanks for your contribution to the ministries of Hope UCC!*