

The Worship of God
World Communion, Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
October 4, 2026 – 9:00 Morning Worship
Welcome to First Presbyterian Church via Zoom!

PRELUDE

“Pastorale”

Alejandro Garcia Caturla

WELCOME

GATHERING AROUND GOD’S WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, for God has prepared a feast for all peoples.

We come to the table God has prepared.

Come from every nation, every language, every corner of the earth.

We come to the table God has prepared.

Come with joy, and come with sorrow. Come with faith, and come with questions.

We come to the table God has prepared.

Come, for Christ welcomes those whom the world leaves out.

We come to the table God has prepared.

Come, for there is room at God's table for all.

We come to the table God has prepared.

Let us worship the God who gathers us, feeds us, and makes us one.

OPENING PRAYER

Welcoming God, you invite us to your table,
where the hungry are fed and no one is turned away.

Teach us to hear your invitation.

Open our hearts to the abundance of your grace,
that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us
and share your gifts with joy.

Amen.

SING

“The Church’s One Foundation”

#321

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, you invite us to your table,
but we confess that we often make our own guest lists.

We choose the people who are comfortable to us.

**We stay with those who look like us, think like us, speak like us,
and understand the world as we do.**

We forget that your invitation is wider than ours.

**We forget that your table reaches across nations and cultures,
across differences and divisions, across all the boundaries we create.**

Forgive us, God.

Open our hearts to those we have overlooked.

Open our eyes to Christ in those we do not yet know.

And make your church a people who welcome others as Christ welcomes us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news:

God does not wait for us to make ourselves worthy of the invitation.

In Christ, God reaches out to us with mercy and grace.

The table is set.

The invitation has been given.

There is room for us in the household of God.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, welcomed, and made one.

Thanks be to God! Amen!

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

I invite you to turn to one another and share a sign of peace:

You're invited to unmute yourselves, turn on your cameras, and exchange God's peace with one another.

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 25:6–9

SECOND SCRIPTURE

Luke 14:12–24

...The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION

Reverend Gray Marshall

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SING

"How Great Thou Art"

#625

INVITATION TO THE WORLD COMMUNION OFFERING

GIVING OUR GIFTS

DOXOLOGY

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

#609

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lord, we thank you for the gift of this global table
where all are welcome, and none are strangers.

We dedicate our gifts to you, our World Communion offerings,
our offerings to this church, and our lives.

As we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we pray that you would make us one in you,
regardless of our languages, cultures or circumstances.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Friends, we come to celebrate the joyful feast of the people of God.

**We come to this table with people from all over our world,
siblings, sisters, brothers, cousins and kin in Christ, to eat and drink.**

We come to this table to be nourished and renewed
for the ongoing work of justice and love.

We come to taste and see how good God is.

It is not a huge banquet that we share, but just enough bread
and just enough drink for us to taste and see the abundant goodness of God.
It is this hope that springs from a rock and this delightful surprise
that gathers us again on World Communion Sunday.

Today, we celebrate the space we create around the table,
all across this vast world, by the cup and loaf we share.

Though we might not be in the same room, we witness to the power of this amazing story
passed down from generation to generation
to remind each other of God's glorious presence.

We come together into the ebb and flow of faith
where our quarrels might be louder than our praise
and our doubts may overshadow our hope to create this space again.

At this table, we will be renewed with Christians around the globe
to live more and more fully into the goodness of God.

As we drink this cup and share this bread, may your Spirit be with us,
O Holy One, enlivening us and increasing our ability
to always choose your love over all of our fears.

May this meal increase our wonder in all of your glorious deeds
as we remember another time, not unlike our own,
when the future was unknown
and disciples gathered at a table in an upper room.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION IS SHARED

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FROM THE CHAT

THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts & debtors)

SENDING INTO GOD'S WORLD

SING

"One Bread, One Body"

#530

SHARED BENEDICTION

Let us go out into God's world in peace;
have courage; hold on to what is good;
return to no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted;
support the weak; help the suffering; honor all persons;
love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

SENDING

Go with ways of wisdom for the Holy One:
faithfulness, loyalty, reverence, stillness, respect.
Go with ways of wisdom for community:
mutuality, honor, generosity, truthfulness, and contentment.
Go in the wisdom of Christ that enables all creation to flourish in the ways of love:
forgiving, healing, restoring, creating, life.

POSTLUDE

"Contradanza"

Manuel Saumell