**October 4, 2020 (WorldWide Communion), Season of Creation**

News and Announcements

Prelude

Lighting of Candle

In the scriptures, we are given the law, a tradition arising from our Jewish forebears. In that tradition, the law firmed up a community in the mix of daily life.

**In the Christian tradition, the laws are firmed up in Jesus’ call, “Come, follow me. Love your neighbour as yourself.”**

We light this candle as a people who know Jesus as the source of grace revealing the way and empowering us to follow.

**Singing: #457 VU *As We Gather at Your Table***

Call to Worship and Gathering Prayers

Creating God, giver of our first breath,

we breathe our praises to you.

(*pause*)

**Creating God, with breath we form our words**

**our melodies, our songs, and our prayers.**

Breathing together as a community,

we break bread and reach out in compassion.

**Breathing together as a community,**

**we find one rhythm, one heart, one voice,**

**formed by our many rhythms, many hearts,  
many voices.**

Creating God,

may we breathe well together this morning;

may we be aware of our own breath;

may we be aware of our neighbour’s breath;

may we be aware of this community  
breathing together;

may we become aware of the breath of all creation.

**May we receive the breath of blessing,**

**then return that breath  
for the blessing of the world.**

One God, One Heart, One Rhythm, One Breath,

with the rhythms of our hearts and breath,  
we praise you.

Let everything that breathes praise you, our God. Amen.

Coming Together

Nourished by God

Reading from Scripture:

**Exodus 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20** New Revised Standard Version

https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+20%3A+1-4%2C+7-9%2C+12-20&version=NRSV

Then God spoke all these words:I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+20%3A+1-4%2C+7-9%2C+12-20&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-2055a)] me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, and said to Moses, “You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die.” Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin.”

**Philippians 3:4b-14** reading from *Contemporary English Version*

https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians%203&version=CEV

Others may brag about themselves, but I have more reason to brag than anyone else. I was circumcised when I was eight days old, and I am from the nation of Israel and the tribe of Benjamin. I am a true Hebrew. As a Pharisee, I strictly obeyed the Law of Moses. And I was so eager that I even made trouble for the church. I did everything the Law demands in order to please God.

But Christ has shown me that what I once thought was valuable is worthless. Nothing is as wonderful as knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I have given up everything else and count it all as garbage. All I want is Christ and to know that I belong to him. I could not make myself acceptable to God by obeying the Law of Moses. God accepted me simply because of my faith in Christ. All I want is to know Christ and the power that raised him to life. I want to suffer and die as he did, so that somehow I also may be raised to life.

I have not yet reached my goal, and I am not perfect. But Christ has taken hold of me. So I keep on running and struggling to take hold of the prize. My friends, I don’t feel that I have already arrived. But I forget what is behind, and I struggle for what is ahead. I run toward the goal, so that I can win the prize of being called to heaven. This is the prize that God offers because of what Christ Jesus has done.

We respond:

In ages past, disciples, prophets, priests and historians wrote down their faith.

**This is a faithful witness of our ancestors.**

Word of God for us today.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Refreshed by God

**Singing: #106 MV *I Am the Dream***

Giving Our Offerings:

**Doxology** **MV#135 “*Called by Earth and Sky”***

**(chorus, sung twice through)**

*Called by Earth and Sky,*

*promise of hope held high.*

*This is our sacred living trust,*

*treasure of ife sanctified,*

*called by earth and sky.*

Offering Prayer:

God has shown us the meaning of generosity  
through the beauty of creation,  
the love of Jesus Christ,  
and the presence of the Holy Spirit.  
**As we have been blessed by God,**

**we are called to be a community  
that blesses others and blesses the earth.**

**God we join together and ask that you bless our week’s offering.**

Prayer of the People

O God through the prophets you said your temple shall be a house of prayer for all nations. We pray for you people who gather around your table today, that by the sharing of our resources and by the work of your hand, that one day there would be plenty to eat for all.   
The cup we will drink from reminds us that in many places there is not good clean water to drink freely.

We pray that by the work of those who are bringing tools to make that happen and by the work of your hand that one day all can drink from clear waters.

By linking hands and hearts we know there is unrest and wars across this earth that effect so many lives. We pray that by the work for peace and by the work of your son, the prince of peace that one day your peace will rule in the lives of all.  
By linking our hearts we are made aware that many suffer from pain, illness, diseases, unknown suffering and death. We pray that by the work of the medical providers, caregivers, healers, and by your hand of healing that one day they would be healed.  
We pray that this meal that has brought us closer to you, the meal that is a means of grace, fills our hearts and souls that we live our lives fully for you in what we say and what we do. We thank you for this shared meal and for all the many ways you feed us throughout our lives with your love and mercy.

We prepare now to give thanks to God at this table.

**HYMN Singing: #18 MV *Lord, Prepare Me***

Prayers at the Table

*One:* The Lord be with you.

***All:* And also with you.**

*One:* Lift up your hearts.

***All:* We lift them to the Lord.**

*One:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***All:* It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*The Great Thanksgiving*

*One:* Eternal God, Maker of heaven and earth,

we join with all your people to give you thanks and praise.

You formed the universe in your wisdom

and created all things by your grace.

We praise you for all your good gifts:

the witness of saints and prophets;

the work of faithful women and men;

this earth in all its blessing and promise;

and that bread, once scattered,

is brought together and made one.

In the hope that your people

may be brought together from the ends of the earth

into your reign of justice and compassion,

we gather with those of every time and every place

to give you praise and glory:

*HYMN: Holy Holy Holy - Tune VU 932*

***All:* Holy, holy, holy, are you,**

**God of power and might,**

**Heaven and earth are filled with your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the one who comes in your name.**

**Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest!**

On the night before he died,

Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you,

he broke it, and gave it to those who sat with him,

saying:

“Take, eat. This is my body, given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

“This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood,

shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.

Whenever you drink it,

do this in remembrance of me.”

O God, Redeemer of all things,

with grateful thanks we offer bread and wine,

fruits of your earth and of our labour,

signs of your redemptive purpose for our lives

and for all your creation.

No matter how or what we partake,

We remember Jesus’ death and celebrate his resurrection; we await with hope his coming again to bring peace and justice to the earth; and we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this offering of praise from your church,

**that we who eat and drink as followers of Christ, can be one with Christ.**

Pour out your Spirit upon the whole earth,

**and make it your new creation.**

Gather your church together from the ends of the earth into your realm where peace and justice are revealed—

**that we, with all your people, of every language, race, and nation,** **may share the banquet you have promised.**

The Lord’s Prayer

We gather these prayers and we turn to you as our Mother who loves us and say the prayer Jesus taught us:

Our Father,

who art in heaven, hallow-ed 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 trespasses

as we forgive those that trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom

and the power and the glory

forever and ever,

Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Holy God, God of all people and places,

you have called us by name and promised us your abiding love.

**Unite us as we celebrate our connection**

**to the multitudes who gather around feasts as we do,**

**feasts that name you present in Jesus Christ.**

**Surprise us as we leave this place of sanctuary**

**and go into the world to love and serve others. Amen.**

Singing: #89 MV *Love Is the Touch*

Sending Out

May you be blessed and strengthened

by Almighty God to move gently upon the earth.

**May we remember to stop when we have done enough,**

**and to rest when we are weary,**

Let us all go to rejoice in all creation and enjoy the Sabbath! Amen.

**Thanks be to God.**

Last Slide October 4:

Today’s prayers were written by Bill Perry, Susan Lukey,Frances Flook, Jani Francis and Taylor Croissant and are used with permission from *Gathering’s* Pentecost 2, 2020 edition.