**Order of Worship for October 2, 2022**

**World Communion Sunday**

**Gathering Music When We Are Living GTG #822**

1. When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus,  
and when we're dying, it is in the Lord.  
Both in our living and in our dying,  
we belong to God; we belong to God.  
  
2. Through all our living, we our fruits must give.  
Good works of service are for offering.  
When we are giving, or when receiving,  
we belong to God; we belong to God.  
  
3. 'Mid times of sorrow and in times of pain,  
when sensing beauty or in love's embrace,  
whether we suffer, or sing rejoicing,  
we belong to God; we belong to God.  
  
4. Across this wide world, we shall always find  
those who are crying with no peace of mind,  
but when we help them, or when we feed them,  
we belong to God; we belong to God.

***Welcome***  *Rev. Barbara Macfie*

***Call To Worship (Lamentations 3, Psalm 137)*** *Liturgist*

L: Sing to the Lord, whose mercy is from everlasting to everlasting!

**C: But how can we sing the Lord’s song when so many are without?**

L: Sing to the Lord, whose faithfulness renews us every morning!  
**C: But how can we sing the Lord’s song when so many are gone?***L:* Sing to the Lord, who has not forgotten the melodies of salvation!

**C: Let us remember the joy of the Lord and sing a new song together!**

Hymn Great is Thy Faithfulness GTG #39

1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee.  
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.  
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:  
Great is thy faithfulness!  
Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

2 Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! [Refrain]

**PREPARING FOR THE WORD**

***Call to Confession*** *Liturgist*

Great is the faithfulness of God, and yet our hearts are not so reliable. We wander. We argue. We forget. We divide ourselves with anger and bitterness and falsehood. Let’s try to come back together again, and let’s start with the truth. Let’s confess our sins, to God, and also, to each other.

***Prayer of Confession***

**Almighty God, mother of mercy, father of grace: You have called us to one table, but we have pursued our own course. You have promised us the abundance of all creation, but in our greed, and in our envy, the world goes without. You have promised us the bread of life itself, but in our pride, and in our arrogance, the world goes hungry. You have promised us the waters of peace and justice, but in our violence, and in our discord, the world goes thirsty. And now we are famished, too, Lord. Have mercy on us. Forgive us, again. Transform us, at this table, and for this table, and send us from this table as servants of your righteousness, by the power of your Son, our Lord. Amen.**

***Words of Forgiveness*** *Rev Barbara Macfie*

Even when our cups run dry, God’s grace overflows. Even when our plates are empty, God’s generosity overflows.

And even when our hearts feel barren, God’s love overflows. Friends, you have been called and claimed by the God of all things, and by the abundance of God’s grace, and by the power of God’s love, your sins have been forgiven.

Go in peace.

***Gloria Patri***

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,**

**as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.**

**Hearing the Word**

***Prayer of Illumination*** *Liturgist*

Almighty God, give us ears to hear your story in these words of Scripture; give us eyes to see your story in the faces of those that surround us; and give us faith enough, that by your grace, we might serve you until the end of our days. Amen.

***A Reading From Lamentations 3: 19-26***  *Liturgist*

 I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me.

Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, “The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him.”

The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.

**Hymn The Steadfast Love of the Lord GTG #59**

The Steadfast love of the Lord never ceases.

God’s mercies never come to an end.

They are new every morning, new every morning.

Great is your faithfulness, O Lord, great is your faithfulness

***A Reading from the Gospel of Luke 17: 5-10*** *Rev. Barbara Macfie*

The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” He replied, “If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it will obey you. “Suppose one of you has a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Will he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, ‘Come along now and sit down to eat’?  Won’t he rather say, ‘Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink’? 9 Will he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? 10 So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.’”

***Sermon “The Steadfast Love Of The Lord Never Ceases”***  *Rev. Barbara Macfie*

**Responding to the Word**

***Affirmation of Faith (****Adapted from the Belhar Confession****)*** *Rev. Barbara Macfie*

We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the unity of the communion of saints of the entire human family. And we believe that that this unity of the people of God must be manifest and active, in that we love one another; that we give ourselves willingly and joyfully to one another, that we are share one baptism together, that we eat of one bread and drink of one cup together, that we confess one name, one Lord, for one cause, with one hope, which is the height and the breadth and the depth and the love of Christ, forever and ever. Amen.

***Invitation To The Offertory***  *Liturgist*

We approach the table today but we don’t approach it alone. We approach it on this World Communion Sunday with Christians around the world, in congregations large and small, speaking every language and one language. And so part of our approach this morning is to remember in our offering our connection to the work of the church in every corner of God’s creation. We do this using the PC(USA) Peace and Global Witness Offering, which goes to support advocacy, education, and educational outreach with communities of faith all across the globe. Truly, God has blessed us with the rich, varied, and abundant gifts of creation. From God’s abundance, let us also give abundantly.

*Offertory \ How Beautiful Westminster Choir*



***Offertory Prayer*** *Liturgist*

**Gracious God,**

**you create more than we could ever hope to return. You share more than we could ever hope to deserve.**

**And yet, we pray, accept these humble gifts. May they honor and glorify you in all creation,**

**and may they empower us for the work of witness and service, for the sake of justice, and for the sake of peace,**

**now and forever. Amen.**

***Communion***  *Rev Barbara Macfie*

***Invitation to the Table***

This table is for all of us, near and far, high and low, east and west and north and south. This table is for all of us, but it is not our table. It’s not a Presbyterian table. It’s not an American table. It’s God’s table, for all of us, and it’s a table of grace. So come and take your place at the table. You are welcome, you are invited, you are called: come, let us share this meal together*.*

***Great Thanksgiving***

The Lord be with you*.*  **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.**We lift them to the Lord our God**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe.

Even when we were dust, when our story begins in dust, you were there, your word was there, your breath into the lifeless void.

And upon your word all creation sprang into life. When we were in the wilderness, terrified, timid, you were there, your word was there, with manna just enough for today, with water even from the driest rock, with the abundant grace upon which our story always rests.

And when we fell short, slaves to power and greed, you were there, your word was there, on the lips of prophets, and in the hearts of servants, in stories of revolution and revelation and liberation, calling us even now to acts of courage and witness and peace.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

***Sanctus***

***Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might,***

***Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.***

***Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.***

***Hosanna in the highest.***

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Indeed blessed are you, O Christ, our Lord,

for risking yourself among us, vulnerable and rejected; for teaching among us, teaching the radical hope of God; teaching grace to a world bent on vengeance, teaching love to a world bent on destruction, teaching peace to a world bent on tearing itself apart.

You were there, your word was there, even to the point of death itself. Even faced with terror and hatred and the brokenness of the world, you rose again, to new life, to new creation, to resurrection, that we might know something other than the dust,

that we might expect something other than the end, that we might work for something other than ourselves.

And so you speak to us us again, with these abundant gifts of bread and wine, with which we joyfully celebrate your dying and rising, as we await the table of the Kingdom yet to come, and as we dedicate ourselves again to you, thankful, and transformed, as living and holy sacrifices, that our lives may proclaim the one crucified and risen.

Great is the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.**

Gracious God,  
pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break together, and the cup we share together, may retell our common stories together and reshape our common bonds together, and remember our common grace together, in the communion of the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ, the one in whose life and death you have torn down our divisions. And so may we be one with all who share this feast, on this day, of all days, with all your children at every corner of your table. May we share this abundant cup with all those who thirst for your justice. May we share this abundant bread with all those who hunger for your righteousness,

May we be united with every corner of your story, united in hope, united in vision, united in purpose, united in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ’s body for us, send us from this table to be the body of Christ in all the world. Send us with a spirit of courage, a spirit of power and love, that we may be witnesses in all creation to the unending story of your word breathing life into the dust. Keep us faithful, and fruitful, and hopeful, and peaceful, until we come at last to the one table of your Kingdom, to feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm, with you and with your Word, through Christ and in Christ, the one who came for us, died for us, and rose for us, the one who prays even for us, the one who first taught us to pray.

***Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Praye*r**

***Breaking of the Bread and pouring of the Cup***

***Prayer After Communion***

Gracious God, we offer our thanks, for the whole communion of saint’s witness to this feast, and for the ministry of churches around the world who gather with us today. By this broken bread may we each be restored for the work yet to come.

By this shared cup may we each be claimed for the proclamation of your Kingdom. At this shared table may we be united as children of your promise, children of your word, dying and made new again, sent boldly together into the world as servants of your peace.

Amen.

***Hymn***  May the God of Hope Go with Us GTG #765

May the God of hope go with us every day,  
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.  
May the God of justice speed us on our way,  
bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Refrain:  
Praying, let us work for peace;  
singing, share our joy with all;  
working for a world that's new,  
faithful when we hear Christ's call.

***Benediction*** *Rev Barbara Macfie*

*You were called to this table. You were fed at this table. You were united at this table. Now, you are sent from this table*

*into all the world. Go therefore into the world, with courage. Set a place for all who hunger. Fill the cup of all who thirst.*

*And as you go, May the Spirit of power and love attend you, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ uphold you, and may the great faithfulness of our God sustain you, now and forever. Amen.*

***Postlude***