

World Communion Sunday

October 4, 2020



The Best Supper by Jan L. Richardson

First Presbyterian Church
Serving Christ in the Heart of Knoxville since 1792
www.fpcknox.org

LEADERS IN WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Jeff McCrory Jr., Transitional Pastor
Rev. Meredith Loftis, Associate Pastor
Mr. Mark Pace, Organist/Choirmaster
Mr. Alex McGavic, Children and Youth Ministries Coordinator

CHOIR MEMBERS

Joan Holladay, Tracy Pace, Katrin Smith, Carrie Wright

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Christ is My Life Op. 67, No. 5

Max Reger

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

And the Table Will Be Wide

Jan L. Richardson

To Your table, You bid us come.
And the table will be wide.
And the welcome will be wide.
And the arms will open wide to gather us in.
And our hearts will open wide to receive.
And we will come as children who trust
there is enough.
And we will come unhindered and free.
And our aching will be met with bread.
And our sorrow will be met with wine.
And we will open our hands
to the feast without shame.

And we will turn toward each other
without fear.
And we will give up our appetite for despair.
And we will taste and know of delight.
And we will become bread
for a hungry world.
And we will become drink
for those who thirst.
And the blessed will become the blessing.
And everywhere will be the feast!

OPENING HYMN 300

We Are One in the Spirit (Versus 1, 2 & 4) They'll Know We Are Christians

1. We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord;
we are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:

REFRAIN

And they'll know we are Christians by our love,
by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

2. We will walk with each other;
we will walk hand in hand;
we will walk with each other;
we will walk hand in hand,
and together we'll spread the news that God is
in our land: **REFRAIN**

4. All praise to the Father,
from whom all things come,
and all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one:
REFRAIN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord Jesus, you prayed that we might be one, show love for one another, and live together peaceably. "They will know we are Christians by our love," we sing. We confess that we are divided in our families, in our church, in our country, and among the various races. On top of this, we are living in fear, afraid of disease, afraid of those who think differently than we do, and just generally afraid. Draw us close in your perfect love that casts out fear. Bring us together that we may show others your Kingdom come and your will being done on earth as it is in heaven.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE 306

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

Dennis

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

PASSING THE PEACE

WE HEAR THE WORD READ AND PROCLAIMED

SPECIAL TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Genesis 12:1-3

¹Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

One: the word of the lord.

Many: **thanks be to god!**

HOMILY:

Blessed to be a Blessing

Rev. Dr. Jeff McCrory Jr.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN 49

The God of Abraham Praise (Verses 1-3)

Leoni

1. The God of Abraham praise,
who reigns enthroned above,
the Ancient of Eternal Days,
the God of love!
The Lord, the great I AM
by earth and heaven confessed,
we bow before your holy name,
forever blest.
2. Your spirit still flows free,
high surging where it will.
In prophet's word you spoke of old
and you speak still.

Established is your law,
and changeless it shall stand,
deep writ upon the human heart
by your strong hand.

3. Your goodly land we seek,
with peace and plenty blest,
a land of sacred liberty
and Sabbath rest.
There milk and honey flow,
and oil and wine abound,
and trees of life forever grow
with mercy crowned.

FOCUS ON OUR STEWARDSHIP:

Blessed to Be a Blessing

Vanessa Smith

Genesis 12:3 . . . "In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed"



Blessed to Be a Blessing

RECEPTION OF TITHES AND THE PEACEMAKING OFFERING

You may place your offering in the offering plates on the side aisles or you are invited to mail in your tithes and offerings to the church office or give online at www.fpcknox.org/donate

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

We Will Praise You

Praetorius/Wagner

Joan Holladay, Tracy Pace, Katrin Smith, Carrie Wright

We will praise You, Lord and Father, maker,
giver, and adore with joy for everlasting.
We will sing and be glad in you. Alleluia!

WE FEAST AT GOD'S TABLE

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Ephesians 4:4-6

⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION: BREAKING AND BLESSING

SHARING IN THE FEAST

Abide With Me

Arr. Mark Hayes

Carrie Wright, Soprano

Worship Note: we will receive communion this Sunday in homes and in the sanctuary. When you are instructed for home communion, please share both the bread and the cup with those gathered. In the sanctuary, we will invite you to come forward in family groups and receive a communion packet from the two elders up front. Please come forward at a proper social distance using the center aisle and return to your seats by the side aisle. You may take communion when you return to your seats.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

WE ARE SENT OUT TO SERVE

CLOSING HYMN 318

In Christ There Is No East or West

St. Peter

1. In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one great fellowship of love
throughout the whole wide earth.
2. In Christ shall true hearts everywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord
close-binding humankind.
3. Join hands, disciples of the faith,
whate'er your race may be.
All children of the living God
are surely kin to me.
4. In Christ now meet both east and west;
in him meet south and north.
All Christly souls are one in him
throughout the whole wide earth.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Rondo

John Bull