

COMMUNION SERVICE

Northampton Presbyterian Church

*World Communion Sunday
Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost*

*October 1, 2023
10:00 AM*

PRELUDE

Elegy

Ritter

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- PC(USA) Special Offering (10/1) See Insert/Envelope
- Sharing Session by Mehr Austin Daniel (today following worship), a former professor of English in her native country Pakistan. Join us for Pakistani treats during coffee hour followed by Mehr's compelling story.
- Mission Team, Wednesday (10/4) at 9:30 AM.
- "Celebrate the Gifts of Women" Sunday (10/8)

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We gather from the west to the east, from the south to the north,

MANY: To celebrate the God of peace who accompanies us in our acts of peace.

ONE: This God of peace accompanies us in each and every circumstance.

MANY: We praise God's name! Amen!

HYMN

God Welcomes All

THEMBA AMEN

*Our soloist will sing this hymn through once;
then the choir will join in; then all of us will sing together!*

**God welcomes all,
Strangers and friends;
God's love is strong
And it never ends.**

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ONE: Gracious Lord, creator of this universe, in your generosity you have given us a world of abundance and diversity, yet we live guided by greed and selfishness.

MANY: We confess that we have defaced your creation and poisoned our environment through our uncaring behavior and for personal gain.

ONE: In Christ, you made us brothers and sisters and intended for us to be united, and yet we have built walls to separate us from those who are different from us.

MANY: You gave us wisdom and creativity and we have used those to trick each other and to develop weapons of destruction and death.

ONE: You gave us laws to order our lives and we have abused them to take revenge and punish our enemies.

MANY: We love war rather than strive for peace.

ONE: We ignore the poor and the weak and honor the rich and powerful.

MANY: In all this we have not lived according to your will. Forgive us, Lord, for daring to boast in our human achievements and for failing to recognize that you alone are worthy of praise. In your mercy, forgive us.

(We pause for a moment of silent, personal confession.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: God accepts us simply because of our faith in Christ, through whom our sins are forgiven. May God help us to continue to “preach peace to those who are near and far.”

MANY: Amen.

HYMN

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me *GLORY TO GOD*

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.**

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen

World without end, without end. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 2:1-13

SERMON

Regarding Others

Rev. Judith A. Dwyer

HYMN

Jesus the Lord Said: I Am the Bread

YISU NE KAHA

Jesus, the Lord said: 'I am the Bread,

The Bread of Life for mankind am I.

The Bread of Life for mankind am I,

The Bread of Life for mankind am I'.

Jesus, the Lord said: 'I am the Bread,

The Bread of Life for mankind am I'.

**Jesus, the Lord said: 'I am the Door,
The Way and the Door for the poor am I.**

**The Way and the Door for the poor am I,
The Way and the Door for the poor am I'.**

**Jesus, the Lord said: 'I am the Door,
The Way and the Door for the poor am I'.**

**Jesus, the Lord said: 'I am the Light,
The one true Light of the world am I.
The one true Light of the world am I,
The one true Light of the world am I'.
Jesus, the Lord said: 'I am the Light,
The one true Light of the world am I'.**

**Jesus, the Lord said: 'I am the Shepherd,
The one Good Shepherd of the sheep am I.**

**The one Good Shepherd of the sheep am I,
The one Good Shepherd of the sheep am I'.**

**Jesus, the Lord said: 'I am the Shepherd,
The one Good Shepherd of the sheep am I'.**

**Jesus, the Lord said: 'I am the Life,
The Resurrection and the Life am I.**

**The Resurrection and the Life am I,
The Resurrection and the Life am I'.**

**Jesus, the Lord said: 'I am the Life,
The Resurrection and the Life am I'.**

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

(Scan the QR Code to give online →)

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

As We Gather at Your Table



BEACH SPRING

COMMUNION

The Invitation

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

HYMN

Amen, We Praise Your Name

AMEN, SIAKUDUMISA

Sing praises!

Amen, we praise your name, O God!

Sing praises!

Amen, we praise your name, O God!

Sing praises!

Amen, amen. Amen, amen.

Amen, we praise your name, O God!

Sing praises!

Sing praises!

Amen, we praise your name, O God!

Sing praises!

Amen, we praise your name, O God!

Sing praises!

Amen, amen. Amen, amen.

Amen, we praise your name, O God!

Sing praises!

Sing praises!

Amen, we praise your name, O God!

Sing praises!

Amen, we praise your name, O God!

Sing praises!

Amen, amen. Amen, amen.

Amen, we praise your name, O God!

Sing praises!

SHARED BLESSING

ONE: And the table will be wide.

MANY: And the welcome will be wide.

ONE: And the arms will open wide to gather us in.

MANY: And our hearts will open wide to receive.

ONE: And we will come as children who trust there is enough.

MANY: And we will come unhindered and free.

ONE: And our aching will be met with bread.

MANY: And our sorrow will be met with wine.

ONE: And we will open our hands to the feast without shame.

MANY: And we will turn toward each other without fear.

ONE: And we will give up our appetite for despair.

MANY: And we will taste and know of delight.

ONE: And we will become bread for a hungry world.

MANY: And we will become drink for those who thirst.

ONE: And the blessed will become the blessing.

MANY: And everywhere will be the feast. Amen.

HYMN

The Lord's Prayer (Sung):

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Let There Be Joy

Miller



We welcome **Mehr Austin Daniel** to our worship and post-worship gathering. Mehr, a member of the Christian Church in Pakistan, has become a good friend of this congregation and today she will share with us the story of her journey to this country.

Mehr Daniel Austin is a Christian who was born in Sialkot, Pakistan. Both her parents were educated at Mission Schools and Colleges in Pakistan, and Mehr attended Kinnaird College for Women in Lahore, where she received her Masters in English Literature. She grew up attending Sunday School taught by an American, and studying and questioning the Bible was encouraged within her family. Mehr visited the US many times with and without her family, and moved to the US with her late mother, Olive, in 2015 after being persecuted due to their faith. She is working through the complex US immigration process and currently works as a medical interpreter.

World Communion Sunday (originally called World Wide Communion Sunday) is a gift of the Presbyterian Church to the larger ecumenical church. The first celebration occurred at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA, in 1933 where Dr. Hugh Thompson Kerr served as pastor.

John A. Dalles, a PCUSA pastor who has researched the history of World Communion Sunday notes this in his blog entry, reprinted from the October 7, 2002, issue of Presbyterian Outlook:

Davitt S. Bell (the late Clerk of Session and church historian at Shadyside) recalled that Dr. Kerr first conceived the notion of World Communion Sunday during his year as moderator of the General Assembly (1930). Dr. Kerr's younger son, the Rev. Dr. Donald Craig Kerr, who is pastor emeritus of the Roland Park Presbyterian Church in Baltimore, was sixteen in 1933. He has related that World Communion Sunday grew out of the Division of Stewardship at Shadyside. It was their attempt to bring churches together in a service of Christian unity—in which everyone might receive both inspiration and information, and above all, to know how important the Church of Jesus Christ is, and how each congregation is interconnected one with another. When I asked Donald Kerr how the idea of World Communion Sunday spread from that first service to the world wide practice of today, this is what he replied, “The concept spread very slowly at the start. People did not give it a whole lot of thought. It was during the Second World War that the spirit caught hold, because we were trying to hold the world together. World Wide Communion symbolized the effort to hold things together, in a spiritual sense. It emphasized that we are one in the Spirit and the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”

Celebration of World Wide Communion Sunday was adopted as a denominational practice in the Presbyterian Church (US) in 1936. Churches in other denominations were invited to celebrate with us from the beginning, but it wasn't until 1940 when the Department of Evangelism of the Federal Council of Churches (a predecessor body of the National Council of Churches) promoted extending the celebration to a number of churches around the world that the practice became widespread. Today, World Communion Sunday is celebrated around the world, demonstrating that the church founded on Jesus Christ peacefully shares God-given goods in a world increasingly destabilized by globalization and global market economies based on greed.

Many of today's Worship Resources are taken from the 2023 World Communion Sunday Liturgy, written as part of the Peace and Global Witness program of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

- The **Call to Worship** is written by Rev. Gloria Ulloa, Presbyterian Church of Colombia.
- The **Prayer of Confession** is written by Jameel Maher Khadir, Near East School of Theology student, Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Holy Land.
- The **Assurance of Pardon** is written by Shant Agoushian, Near East School of Theology student, Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East.
- The **Prayer for Illumination** is written by Magdaléna Trgalová, Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren.

WORSHIP NOTES:

The **Offertory Anthem** is a hymn translated into Urdu by Carl Dermott Monahan and harmonized by Francis Westbrook. Carl Monahan was born in South India, the son of a Wesleyan Methodist missionary. Educated at Kingswood School and Cambridge in England, he worked in education in the Hyderabad district of India from 1931-1944. He became principal of Andhra Union Theological College in 1946. He translated a number of Telegu and Urdu hymns.

The **Litany of Invitation** is from 2010 World Communion Day – Worship Resource – PCUSA. Posted on <http://www.claudiocarvalhaes.com>

The **Prayer of Thanksgiving** is written by Thom Shuman and posted on Lectionary Liturgies. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca>

The **Blessing** is written by Jan Richardson and found in The Painted Prayerbook. And the Table Will Be Wide « The Painted Prayerbook.

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