



MINUTE FOR MISSION

Come to the Table of Peace

“Can God spread a table in the wilderness?” —Psalm 78:19

Psalm 78 offers a song about God’s “glorious deeds” and “the wonders” God has done. It stresses that God is continually and forever faithful to the people God has chosen. This is true, the psalmist writes, even though God’s people forget. Miracle after miracle is recounted, God’s presence and care throughout history are described, and the people still ask, “Can God spread a table in the wilderness?”

We live in divisive times. Our experience of political, social, or religious division can make our lives, our communities, and our world feel like a wilderness. The news reports of violent acts seem only to increase. We watch millions displaced by war, and hear of women and children battered and abused. We listen as messages of fear and hate, often based on race and ethnicity, grow louder and louder. Weapons crowd our streets, and tools created for destruction increase in their capacity each day. As people of God, we might be tempted to ask, “Can God spread a table in *this* wilderness?”

However we also know what the psalmist knew—that in *our* wilderness God not only can but does spread a table of justice, reconciliation, transformation, unity, and peace. By participating in the Peace & Global Witness Offering this World Communion Sunday, we connect and add our support to Presbyterian ministries that witness to Christ as the Prince of Peace. God spreads a table of justice, with the support of Presbyterian mission co-workers, for women in the Congo abused by warring factions, a table of reconciliation for Presbyterians and their neighbors engaged in interracial conversations. God spreads a table of transformation where tools built for destruction become water pumps that give life.

Giving to the Peace & Global Witness Offering is one way we come to God’s table of peace. Twenty-five percent of this offering remains with our congregation to build up peace in our community, 25% expands our witness throughout the region supporting ministries of peace and reconciliation in Presbyterian mid councils, and 50% supports the global witness to Christ’s peace through the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program and the reconciliation work of Presbyterian World Mission.

Please give generously in gratitude to the God who spreads such a bountiful table of peace.

PRAYER

Within the division and violence of our wilderness, you spread a table, O Prince of Peace. May the gifts we share be used to prepare the feast of justice, reconciliation, and peace you offer freely to the world. Amen.