



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

Worship Resource
World Communion Sunday
OCTOBER 1, 2017

Anchor Text

Ephesians 2:14-18

¹⁴ For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. ¹⁵ He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. ¹⁷ So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; ¹⁸ for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father.

Lectionary Texts

Daily Lectionary

Morning Psalms 108; 150

First Reading 2 Kings 17:1-18

Second Reading Acts 9:36-43

Gospel Reading Luke 5:1-11

Evening Psalms 66; 23

Sunday Lectionary

First Reading Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

Second Reading Philippians 2:1-13

Gospel Reading Matthew 21:23-32

- Suggested Hymns
- Call to Worship
- Opening Prayer
- Confession and Pardon
- A Time with Children
- Prayer for Illumination
- Call for Offering
- Prayer of Thanksgiving
- Eucharist
- Blessing and Charge

Musical Resources:

Opening Hymn:	Called as Partners in Christ's Service	<i>Glory to God</i>	#761
Congregational Hymn	God is Here! As we your People	<i>Glory to God</i>	#409
Closing Hymn	*I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table	<i>Glory to God</i>	#771

*Singing one or two verses of "I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table" is also appropriate as a musical invitation to the table before the spoken invitation to the table.

Anthem: In you we are One—Jay Althouse

Call to Worship

(Based on Psalm 150)

We have come together to praise God from whom all blessings flow.

The firmament, the covering of earth and seas, is the roof of our sanctuary.

And so, we dwell in the house of God all the days of our lives as one people.

We will sing songs of praise and give thanks for God's steadfast hope in us.

Who today will bless God for God's surpassing greatness?

Let everything that breathes worship and praise God!

Opening Prayer

(Based on Psalm 108)

Dear God, we exalt you. From the snowcapped peaks of the Himalayas to the life-sustaining plains of the Serengeti, the mystery of your glory is revealed. From the vineyards to the wheat fields, the mystery of your glory is revealed. In the eyes of the young and the wisdom of those who have sojourned with you, the mystery of your glory is revealed. Your glory is over all the earth and we bless your holy name.

Today we honor the victory in your right hand. Your victory is the promised peace which rescues those you love. Your peace comes from a level playing field, where love is higher than the heavens and faithfulness reaches the clouds. Great is your love, and great is your faithfulness to us, and for this we give you thanks, for this too is the mystery of your glory. **Amen.**

Call to Confession

When we come together and confess, we recognize our humanity and pray for peace over our brokenness. Together, let us pray the prayer of confession:

Prayer of Confession

Jesus, we ask that you take these prayers to the heart of God. We know the ways in which sin distances us from God. We confess our reticence to claim the sin in our lives. Today may we move past the prideful notions of our piety and look closer at what we don't do. For sometimes the greatest sin of all is our own complicity with what is wrong in the world. We want to love as you commanded, Jesus, but too often catch ourselves justifying the injustice of hunger, poverty, war, and all the prejudices we didn't know we had. Forgive us so that we may catch ourselves righting our

wrongs. Forgive us so that the lessons we learn at the Spirit's nudging may help bring the peace and love you seek in our families, the church, and the world. Help us to be more holy in our hearts. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Christ is our peace and reconciles us to God. In our confession, we are promised God's mercy and are assured that God's grace will follow us all the days of our lives. What wondrous love is this? In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

Suggestion for a Time with Children

Supplies:

- Cheesecloth
- 2 Bowls of water* (see directions to do with one bowl)
- 1 cup of rice, beans, dried peas
- Optional: dark food coloring

Place bowls of water on a table next to the baptismal font (with water). The first bowl of water will just be water. In a second bowl, place the rice, beans, and peas, and cover with water.

Cast Simon, Jesus, James, and John
Retell the Gospel

An adult runs cheesecloth through the water in the first bowl.

Simon: ***Wow, no fish out here today.***

Jesus: ***Try the other side.***

The adult will take a second piece of cheesecloth and run it through water with rice and beans. Lift it up high for the congregation to see that it is full of the beans and the rice.

James and John should look shocked and surprised (Think McCaulay Culkin in *Home Alone*.).

Adult: ***But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!"***

Jesus: ***Don't be afraid! Now let's go catch some people!!!***

Adult: Move to the baptismal font. Run fingers through the water and lift hands up for water to flow from hands. Say something to the effect: ***Now it may seem like this water in the baptismal font is empty. But it holds great and bountiful blessings. Just like the fish on that boat. And here at the font,***

we see the promise of Jesus come true. For we bring people here and bring them into the family of God. We catch people too!

Prayer: Dear God, we thank you for showing us how to find more than what we need. Like the disciples, sometimes we want to give up, but you show up and give us blessings. May we catch people too by simply remembering to tell all the good things God does for us. In Jesus' name, we pray. **Amen.**

*Dark food coloring can also be used in the second bowl so that young people can't see the rice and beans at the bottom.

You can also simply use one bowl with dark food coloring. During first pass with cheese cloth just skim the water. During second pass go deeper to get the rice and beans.

Prayer for Illumination

Holy Spirit, settle our hearts and minds as we read the scriptures today. Help us to hear them in a new way. May our meditations and actions be acceptable to God and may the peace of Christ be with us. **Amen.**

A Call for Offering

Christ reconciled us to God so that we might be one new humanity. Through this reconciliation comes the promise of peace. Let us give with an open heart to share this reconciliation of Christ throughout the world.

A Prayer of Thanksgiving

Most loving and gracious God, we offer these gifts to you in the spirit of Tabitha, to do good works. May they help us to discern the ways in which you would have us break down the dividing walls and boundaries in our world, as we seek to erase hostilities and bring peace. In Jesus' name, we pray. **Amen.**

(Singing one or two verses of "Eat at the Welcome Table" would be appropriate and a good transition at this moment)

The Invitation to the Table

On this day around the world, the table has been set, and at this moment we are one family at one table. Imagine the world seated with Christ at a sumptuous feast. Today we have a glimpse of that with World Communion Sunday. The invitation to this table is for all. We are all welcome to this, Christ's table.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Embracing God, we give thanks for being brought together by your Spirit. In your presence, we come to know the true depths of your love for us. And it is good. In your presence, our eyes are opened and we see the best of your creation. And it is good. In your presence, the fullness of grace teaches us to love one another as you love us. And that is good. We come together at this table to remember this

sacrament.

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.

Creator God, we are amazed at your holy and diverse creation. You made us in your image and offered us every good gift in the garden, yet we took for ourselves forbidden fruit, thinking we could be like you. In so doing, we rejected your intended diversity for us, a human sin that we still can't shake. Prophets came through the ages to help us mend our ways. And still we fought and tried to conquer others to make all manner of nations live like one another. Jesus came and finally showed us how to truly love. He sat with sinners and tax collectors, he touched diseased bodies with gentleness, he lifted others from their deathbed and, even with his dying breath, promised rest to a thief on the cross. Gracious God, you gave us your Son. He died and rose again on the third day so that we might have life everlasting. With the ancestors, on this World Communion Sunday your people cry out:

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

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The grains have been harvested and the bread has been baked. The grapes have been collected from the vine and the juice has been pressed. They come together on this table for a holy purpose. Holy Spirit come, breathe your blessings on these common elements of bread and juice. Bring us to the table with Christ. Hear us as we now declare the mystery that is our faith:

Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Breaking of the Bread

Our Lord Jesus, on the night when he was betrayed, took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way, he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim

the Lord's death until he comes.

Prayer after Communion

Holy Triune God, we thank you for this meal that proclaims the peace and healing of the nations. We thank you for this meal where a little is enough to change our lives; where a little is more than enough to feed those whose hearts yearn for communion in community. May this bread and fruit of the vine nourish us so that we may grow in the faith and knowledge that in you, we are one. **Amen.**

BLESSING AND CHARGE

And now a blessing: Jesus is our peace! He came to proclaim this to all, near and far. With this blessing, we have free-flowing grace and unprecedented access to God and Christ's welcome table. May the grace and peace of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Alleluia!

So now take Paul's charge to Tabitha, "Get up!" Get up and go do good works and proclaim the peace that will pass all understanding, saying this is the good news of Christ. **Amen.**