

## Resources for World Communion Sunday

**Resources from the Peacemaking Offering** ([www.pcusa.org/peacemakingoffering](http://www.pcusa.org/peacemakingoffering)) include a complete Service for the Lord's Day.

### Prayers for Church Unity

O God,  
you are the giver of life.  
We pray for the church in the whole world.  
Sanctify her life, renew her worship,  
give power to her witnessing,  
restore her unity.  
Give strength to those who are searching together  
for that kind of obedience which creates unity.  
Heal the divisions separating your children one from another,  
so that they will make fast, with bonds of peace,  
the unity which the Spirit gives. **Amen.** (BCW, p. 811, a prayer from Zaire)

Holy God, giver of peace, author of truth,  
we confess that we are divided and at odds with one another,  
that a bad spirit has risen among us  
and set us against your Holy Spirit of peace and love.  
Take from us the mistrust, party spirit, contention,  
and all evil that now divides us.  
Work in us a desire for reconciliation,  
so that, putting aside personal grievances,  
we may go about your business with a single mind,  
devoted to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.** (BCW, p. 812)

God,  
good beyond all that is good,  
fair beyond all that is fair,  
in you is calmness, peace, and concord.  
Heal the dissensions that divide us from one another  
and bring us back to a unity of love  
bearing some likeness to your divine nature.  
Through the embrace of love  
and the bonds of godly affection,  
make us one in the Spirit  
by your peace which makes all things peaceful.  
We ask this through the grace, mercy, and tenderness  
of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** (BCW, p. 812, Dionysius of Alexandria, died 264)

### **Litany Of Confession<sup>1</sup>**

Gracious God, who made covenant with our ancestors,  
**we gather here today as a rebellious people.**

We want to act out your intentions for us,

**but we get sidetracked by the false glitter of the world.**

You tell us to honor Creation

**But we use other people, animals, and plants for our own gain.**

You offer bread to every living creature,

**and we steal that bread from our brothers and sisters in the name of greed.**

You promise us new life,

**But we shrink back in fear, clinging to our death-dealing ways.**

Heal us, O Lord, lest we destroy ourselves and the planet.

**We need your healing presence among us,**

That your good intentions for all of creation might be fulfilled at last

**Through Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.**

### **A Great Prayer of Thanksgiving for World Communion Sunday [tdls]**

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.**

It is our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise  
for you looked upon all your hands wrought  
and called it good.

You smile upon purple mountains soaring above wildflower plains  
where grasses raise their backs to meet your Spirit's caress

You send clouds scuttling across reflective waters

and set stars to wink upon the earth in deep, knowing delight.

You call the tune for dolphins dancing in the play of waves.

As giraffes amble across savannahs,

birds sing in full-throated praise

and children of various hues giggle

as they run free in your image.

Despite your created goodness,

we use our freedom for ourselves alone

without regard for your intentions for all.

Still, you chase after us to save us from sin's harm,

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<sup>1</sup> Katie Holmes and Teresa Stricklen adapted this from "Sacred Spaces and an Abundant Life Worship Spaces as Stewardship," 2010 National Council of Churches' Eco-Justice Program, Earth Day Resource, which, in turn, was adapted from the U.N. Environmental Sabbath, Earth Gospel 120.

freeing us from slavery to give us a new world  
flowing with milk and honey.  
When we chase after other gods,  
you call us back to you  
through cries of prophets,  
which we ignore,  
until at last you send your own child  
to be for us the goodness we refuse.

Therefore we praise you,  
joining our voices with the choir of creation  
and all the saints of all times and places  
who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**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 are you, O Christ,  
for coming to us as a little child  
to live baptized in the muck of our fallen world.  
Embodying God's desire to bless all people  
you spoke peace to a war-mongering empire,  
and were blessed to be a blessing to all people.  
When threatened with the terror of crucifixion,  
you did not keep silent but stood up  
with resurrection new life  
to turn the bread of human affliction  
into manna from heaven,  
and to turn the bitter dregs of sin  
into the cup of joyful celebration.

So as we await your coming among us  
In the fullness of your sovereign glory,  
we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.**

Praised be you, Holy Spirit,  
blowing through time  
to enliven your people, the church,  
to live as Christ's body,  
in God's ministry of repairing our broken world.

Come hover over us now  
 with your bright brooding wings  
 in the breaking of bread  
 and in the celebration of this cup,  
 that our eyes may be opened  
 to recognize Christ among us  
 and in all who share in this feast.  
 Knit us more closely together  
 in the fellowship of your sovereign Way.  
 We offer ourselves, our lives, our resources,  
 To be your hands reaching into the world  
 With your unfathomable compassion.  
 Fill us like breath fills flutes  
 To be instruments of your peace.  
 Where there is lack of regard for your creation  
**Prod us to speak up.**  
 Where people fail to see the dignity of all persons,  
**Open blind eyes.**  
 Where there is silence about others being hurt,  
**Impassion us with a desire for justice.**  
 Lord, your creation groans under abuse.  
**Renew the earth with goodness.**  
 Your children are starving across this globe.  
 \*To those who hunger  
**Give bread.**  
 And to those who have bread  
**Give hunger for justice.** \*<sup>2</sup>  
 People languish in prisons,  
 Some unjustly,  
 Some without repentance,  
 And some for standing up for your Way.  
**Release the captives, Lord.**  
 O God, our Sovereign, leaders in all lands  
 take bribes and afflict their peoples.  
**Topple oppressive powers with your rule  
 and send the rich empty away.**  
 Your church luxuriates in the comfort of faith;  
**Send us to be your servants in service to the world.**  
 The sick suffer forgotten in pain  
**Heal their hurts in body, mind, and spirit.**  
 People have solicited our prayers  
 And others needing our prayers weigh heavy on our hearts  
 So we offer these, our prayers to you:  
*{Name those for whom you are in intercession before God}*

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<sup>2</sup> The prayer between the asterisks is from Presbyterian Peacemaking Program, W. Mark Koenig, ed., *Justice and Peace Shall Kiss: Praying through the Year* (Louisville: Presbyterian Church (USA), n.d.), 17.

Gather all these prayers and praise  
And join them with those of all the saints  
And with our Great High Priest  
who taught us to pray, saying . . .

**The Lord's Prayer** *{using the language closest to your heart}*

## **Words of Institution**

### **Communion**

*During communion, you may wish to sing "We Come to This Table."  
KREMSER 12.11.12.12 ("We Gather Together")*

We come to this table, O God, with thanksgiving.  
We lift up our hearts, we remember, we pray.  
We hear Jesus' welcome-- inviting, forgiving;  
We know your Spirit's peace as we feast here today.

We dine at your table as sisters and brothers,  
Diverse in our cultures, yet nourished as one.  
The bread and the cup that we share here with others  
Are gifts uniting all who are claimed by your Son.

We grieve for your world here; we cry, "How much longer?"  
We pray for the cycles of violence to cease.  
Yet here, in Christ broken, we're fed and made stronger  
To labor in his name for a world filled with peace.

We rise from this table with new dedication  
To feed the world's children, to free the oppressed,  
To clear out the minefields, to care for creation;  
We pray, O God of peace, that our work will be blest.<sup>3</sup>

*Other appropriate communion music may include hymns of praise from  
other countries.*

### **Prayer after Communion:**

**Help us rise in your resurrection power  
from this table where you,  
the Ruler of the Universe,  
have served us by your own hand,  
that we may extend your arms  
of peace to a world at war.  
This we ask through Christ, in Christ, with Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit.**

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<sup>3</sup> Text: Copyright 2002 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. Copied from *Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor* by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (Discipleship Resources – Upper Room Books, 2009). Email: [bcgillette@comcast.net](mailto:bcgillette@comcast.net) A complete list of Carolyn's 160+ hymns can be found at [www.carolynshymns.com](http://www.carolynshymns.com).

**May all honor and glory and dominion be yours  
Now and forevermore.  
Amen.**

## **Preface for World Communion Sunday**

*(Book of Common Worship, p. 133)*

**This may be substituted for the beginning of the Great Prayer of Thanksgiving before the Sanctus ("Holy, holy, holy. . .")**

You formed the universe in your wisdom,  
and created all things by your power.  
You set us in families on the earth  
to live with you in faith.  
We praise you for good gifts of bread and wine,  
and for the table you spread in the world  
as a sign of your love for all people in Christ.