

October 3, 2021

World Communion Sunday

11 A.M.

Flowers are given by **Jim and Jane Hunder** in celebration of their 8th Wedding Anniversary & **Lynne Woodman** in honor of our amazing choir returning.

INVITATION:

INTROIT

Funga Alafia, Ashe, Ashe

African American Folk Song
West African Lyrics

OPENING PRAYER

God who is there in moments when our lives are in perpetual motion; God who meets us when the only movement in our life is the drumming of our hearts, thank you for meeting us here in this time and place. Thank you for the gift of a communion table that stretches around the world today. Thank you for Your self-giving love that we will taste on the tip of our tongues and Your unconditional grace that will nourish our souls. Thank you for a Spirit that enfolds and holds all people today. We hunger for a world where communion is not just a ritual on Sunday morning but a way of life. We thirst for moments when unity doesn't feel like such a fragile word. We need the wisdom of Christ's communion table where all are welcome to be a calling that disrupts our lives with Gospel truth. Thank you for calling us by name to the table. Thank you for the chance to share this feast and to link arms with sisters and brothers who You crafted, created, and call, "Beloved." We come to the table of grace; knowing that this is Christ's table, not ours. Alleluia. Alleluia and Amen.

CELEBRATION of TIME, TALENT, and TREASURE

*HYMN

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending (vs. 1 & 2)

#565

Austrian Hymn

**God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store;
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door;
Gifted by you, we turn to you offering up ourselves in praise;
Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.**

**Skills and time are ours for serving, that Your will on earth be done;
All at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the Church made one.
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone;
Born with talents make us servants fit to answer at your throne.**

*DEDICATION:

The communion table testifies to the truth of giving. We give because we have already received grace upon heaping helping of grace. We give because God meets us in meals and feeds us in holy moments of connecting. We give because we have experienced and encountered a grace and love that cannot be contained in the cul-de-sac of our soul, but longs to break forth from us this week. Take our lives, O God, let us be; Your people sharing, caring, loving, alive in jubilee. Alleluia and Amen.

ENGAGING SCRIPTURE

Genesis 12:1-4

Now 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.”

⁴So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

SERMON

Calling Sermon Series: Open

ANTHEM

Sizohamba Naye

Traditional South African
Arr. Terry D. Taylor

INVITATION:

One: May the unconditional love and unceasing grace of God be with you.

Many: Also surround you.

One: Open wide Your heart to God’s serendipitous call to the margins.

Many: Like Abraham and Sarah we gather prayerfully for the courage to respond to God.

One: Let us rejoice and remember God’s faithfulness to all generations.

Many: Let us join our voices with the choirs of people in all lands and languages at this World Communion table that extends around our globe.

One: From Sarasota to Santa Fe to Spain; with all creation from seeds to soaring birds; with all that was, is, and shall be we join our voices in the unending hymn of praise.

RESPONSE:

Santo, Santo, Santo

#793
Argentina

Santo, santo, santo, mi corazon te adora!

Mi corazon te sabe decir; santo eres Dios.

Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you!

My heart is glad to say the words: you are holy, God.

LORD’S PRAYER & PASTORAL PRAYER

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name echo through the universe; The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world; Your heavenly will be done by all created beings; Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trial too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

In Christ There is No East or West

#394

African-American Melody

**In Christ there is no East or West, in Christ no South or North;
But one community of love throughout the whole wide earth.**

**In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find;
God's service is the golden cord close binding humankind.**

**In Christ is neither Jew nor Greek, and neither slave nor free;
For men and women live in God, and all are kin to me.**

**In Christ now meet both East and West, in Christ meet South and North;
One joyous, true community throughout the whole wide earth.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Flourish on McKee

V. Earle Copes

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Greeters: Kate Eaton & Audrey Shutters

Liturgist: Rob Quarles