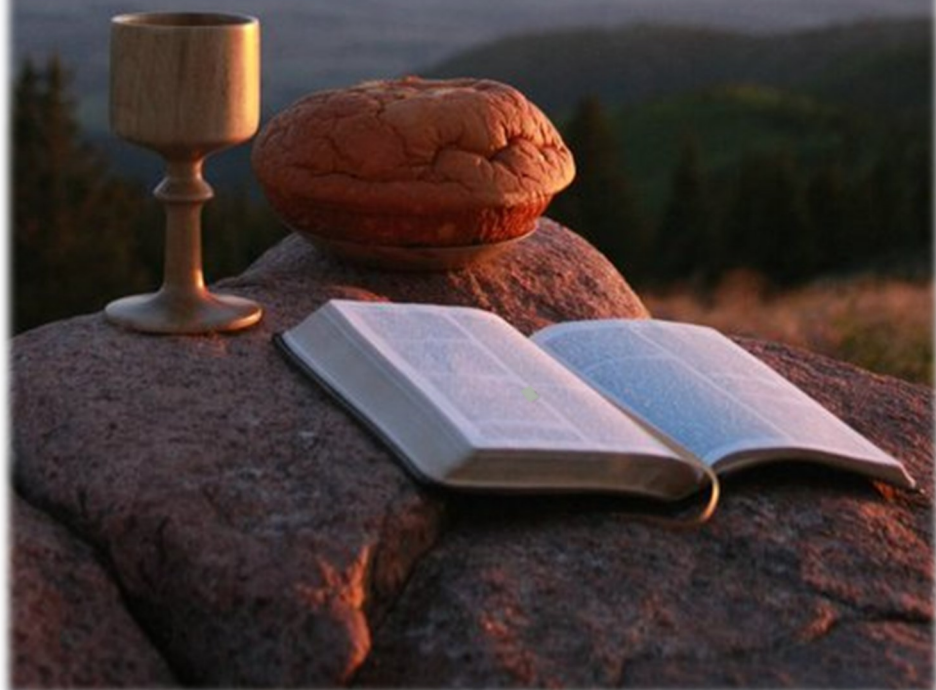


World Communion  
Sunday  
October 4, 2020



# **THE ORDER OF WORSHIP**

October 4, 2020

## **World Communion Sunday**

Welcome to worship at Grace First Presbyterian Church! We are currently worshipping online and will have in-person outdoor services on Sundays, October 11 and 25. The online service follows the same format as in-person worship. We pray that worship as a whole will invite you into deeper personal connection with God and empower you to live by the example of Jesus Christ, all while being guided by the Holy Spirit.

### **Prelude**

Johann Crüger

“This Is the Day the Lord Hath Made”

### **Call to Worship**

**Spanish**

We gather from the west to the east, from the south to the north, to celebrate the God of peace who accompanies us in our acts of peace. This God of peace accompanies us in each and every circumstance around us. We praise God’s name! Amen!

### **Prayer of Invocation**

**Shona and English**

Mwari wedu (Our God who is)

Musiki wedu (Our Creator God)

Nyadenga wedu (Our Heavenly Father)

Bless us with discomfort at easy answers,  
half-truths and superficial relationships.

Bless us with anger at injustice, oppression and  
exploitation of people. Bless us with tears to  
shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection,  
starvation and war.

Bless us with enough foolishness to believe that we can make a difference in this world. Muzita raBaba, nere Mwanakomana, nere Mweya Mutsvene. (In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.) **Amen.**

## Hymn 346

### 346 For the Healing of the Nations



1 For the heal - ing of the na - tions, Lord, we pray with  
2 Lead us for - ward in - to free - dom; from de - spair your  
3 All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing, let it from the  
4 You, Cre - a - tor God, have writ - ten your great name on



one ac - cord; for a just and e - qual shar - ing  
world re - lease, that, re - deemed from war and ha - tred,  
earth be banned: pride of sta - tus, race, or school - ing,  
hu - man - kind; for our grow - ing in your like - ness,



of the things that earth af - fords; to a life of  
all may come and go in peace. Show us how through  
dog - mas that ob - scure your plan. In our com - mon  
bring the life of Christ to mind, that by our re -



love in ac - tion help us rise and pledge our word.  
care and good - ness fear will die and hope in - crease.  
quest for jus - tice may we hal - low life's brief span.  
sponse and ser - vice earth its des - ti - ny may find.

The first line of this text quotes the declared purpose of the leaves of the tree of life growing beside the river of life in the heavenly Jerusalem (Revelation 22:2). The hymn continues by identifying some of the many ways we are called to share with God in this healing work.

**Passing the Peace**

**Call to Confession**

**Armenian**

Faced with God's goodness we recognize our failings. In the knowledge of God's mercy, we dare tell the truth about ourselves and our world. In the confidence of God's children let us confess our sins.

**Prayer of Confession**

**Arabic**

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. We confess that we have defaced your creation and poisoned our environment through our consumerist behavior and for personal gain. 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. You gave us wisdom and creativity and we have used those to trick each other and to develop weapons of destruction and death. You gave us laws to order our lives and we have abused them to take revenge and punish our enemies. We love war rather than strive for peace. We ignore the poor and the weak and honored the rich and powerful. 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 our sins.

**Silent Confession**

## **Assurance of Pardon**

**Armenian**

“God accepted us simply because of our faith in Christ,” through whom our sins were forgiven. May he help us to continue to “preach peace to those who are near and far.” Amen. (Phil. 3:9; Eph. 2:17)

## **Prayer of Illumination**

Holy Spirit, grant us openness and give us understanding of what each one of us needs to receive through Holy Scripture. When we are facing a difficult choice between the easy and the right decision, help us to choose the narrow path. We also pray for all who are about to set on an adventurous journey of faith anywhere in the world. Amen.

## **First Reading**

Philippians 3:4b-14

The word of God for the People of God  
**Thanks be to God**

## **Music Ministry**

*Skye Boat Song*

Arr. Sondra K. Tucker

“Spirit of God, Unseen as the Wind”

Handbell Quartet and Organ

*Organ with a touch of Handbells*

## **Second Reading**

Matthew 21:33-46

The word of God for the People of God  
**Thanks be to God**

## **Sermon**

**The Rev. Ashley Drake Mertz**

## 340

## This Is My Song



1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions,  
 2 My coun-try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean,  
 3 This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's king-doms:



a song of peace for lands a - far and mine.  
 and sun - light beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine.  
 thy king - dom come; on earth thy will be done.



This is my home, the coun - try where my heart is;  
 But oth - er lands have sun - light too, and clo - ver,  
 Let Christ be lift - ed up till all shall serve him,



here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine;  
 and skies are ev - ery - where as blue as mine.  
 and hearts u - nit - ed learn to live as one.



but oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are beat - ing  
 So hear my song, O God of all the na - tions,  
 So hear my prayer, O God of all the na - tions:



with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.  
 a song of peace for their land and for mine.  
 my - self I give thee; let thy will be done.

The first two stanzas of this hymn were written between the 20th century's two world wars and focus on the theme of international peace. The third stanza, by another author and added later, uses the language of the Lord's Prayer to voice a distinctly Christian perspective.

TEXT: Stanzas 1–2, Lloyd Stone; stanza 3, Georgia Harkness, alt.

MUSIC: Jean Sibelius, 1899; arr. *The Hymnal*, 1933, alt.

Text Sts. 1–2 © 1934, ren. 1962 The Lorenz Corp.; St. 3 © 1964 The Lorenz Corp.

Music Arr. © 1933, ren. 1961 The Presbyterian Board of Christian Education (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)

FINLANDIA

11.10.11.10.11.10

## **Affirmation of Faith**

## **The Apostles' Creed Various Languages**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **Call to Stewardship**

Before us is a world in great need, waiting in hope. We are a people holding treasure meant to be given away: the good news of Christ; resources of time, talents, and money. If we are able to participate in God's steadfast love and mercy, we must give sacrificially to the needs of God's people.

## **Offertory**

"Hupay/Comfort"

Words and Music by Jean Cuanan-Nalam

Preformed by: Divillajyn G. Ursos, Mahalalee G. Acha,  
& George Mikhail H. Pagalan

## **Congregational Response** Hymn 606 *Old Hundredth*

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## Offertory Prayer

Gracious God, you are good news for a weary world. You are hope for people in despair. Accept, we pray, the offerings we bring this day. Use them according to your own purpose and grace. In Christ's name we ask it. Amen.

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

### Invitation to the Table

### Various Languages

### Great Thanksgiving & The Lord's Prayer

(Pray in any language comfortable to you)

### Communion Voluntary

Daniel do Amaral

"Água, Terra, Vinho e Pão"

(Water, Earth, Wine, & Bread)

### Prayer after Communion

### Hymn 765

## 765 May the God of Hope Go with Us

Song of Hope / *Canto de esperança*

May the God of hope go with us ev - ery day, fill - ing all our  
¡Dios de la es - pe - ran - za, da - nos go - zo y paz! Al mun - do en

lives with love and joy and peace. May the God of jus - tice speed us  
cri - sis, ha - bla tu ver - dad. Dios de la jus - ti - cia, mán - da -

on our way, bring - ing light and hope to ev - ery land and race.  
nos tu luz, luz y es - pe - ran - za en la os - cu - ri - dad.

Pray - ing, let us work for peace; sing - ing, share our  
 O - re - mos por la paz, can - te - mos  
 joy with all; work - ing for a world that's new,  
 de tu a - mor. Lu - che - mos por la paz,

This Argentine folk melody sets Spanish and English words, both created by a PC(USA) missionary with much Latin American experience. The two versions complement each other: the Spanish text offering a prayer to God, and the English one providing inspiration for the singers.

TEXT: Alvin Schutmaat, 1984  
 MUSIC: Argentine folk melody

ARGENTINA  
 11.11.11.11 with refrain

## Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord  
 make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you,  
 the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.  
 May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of  
 God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you  
 all from now and forevermore. Amen.

## The Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you  
**And also with you**

## Postlude

*American Folk Melody*  
 “How Firm a Foundation”

**Today's Liturgy has been adapted from:**

**Call to Worship**—Rev. Gloria Ulloa, Presbyterian Church of Colombia

**Prayer of Invocation**—Rev. Lydia Neshangwe, Zimbabwe, adaptation of “A Non-Traditional Blessing” by Sister Ruth Fox

**Call to Confession**—Shant Agoushian, Near East School of Theology student, Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East

**Prayer of Confession**—Jameel Maher Khadir, Near East School of Theology student, Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Holy Land

**Assurance of Pardon**—Shant Agoushian, Near East School of Theology student, Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East

**Prayer of Illumination**—Magdaléna Trgalová, Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren

**Apostles' Creed**—Anita Tóth, coordinator/head of the National Roma Ministry, Reformed Church in Hungary

Cover Art: Photo by Claire Varnon



606 Mockingbird Lane, Weatherford, Texas 76086  
817-594-2744  
[www.gracefirstpc.org](http://www.gracefirstpc.org)



The Reverend Ashley Drake Mertz, Pastor  
The Reverend David A. Slyter, Associate Pastor  
Marialice Parish, M.M., Organist and Director of Music



# Grace First

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Together – Worshipping, Witnessing, Working*

## Worship Notes 10.4.20

Join us for worship each Sunday online at 10:40am.

Check our Facebook page for our in-person worship schedule.

How is God speaking to me today? (music, sermon, scripture, prayers, etc.)

What are the takeaways from today's service? What is standing out to me?

How did the service challenge me?

Living in faith is something we do daily.  
What actions will I take based on today's service?

You are encouraged to use this sheet during worship to help you engage more directly with God and reflect on God's call to you. Keep it in a place where you will be reminded of your responses throughout the week.