WORLD COMMUNION OFFERING

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Worship Resource for World Communion Sunday

Churchwide Special Offerings Theme Statement

What does the Lord require of you?

"… to do justice and to love kindness and walk humbly with your God." – Micah 6:8

World Communion Sunday (originally called World Wide Communion Sunday) originated in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). In 1936, for the first time, the first Sunday in October was celebrated in Presbyterian churches in the United States and overseas. From the beginning, it was planned so that other denominations could make use of it, and after a few years, the idea spread beyond the Presbyterian Church. The Department of Evangelism of the Federal Council of Churches (a predecessor body of the National Council of Churches) was first associated with World Wide Communion Sunday in 1940 when the department's executive secretary, Jesse Bader, led in its extension to a number of churches throughout the world. Today, efforts to promote World Communion Sunday are carried out by participating denominations, and several produce materials geared toward this observance.[1]

This resource is intended to be used for the Service for the Lord's Day in your congregation. To help make this resource easy to follow and make it easy to reference it against other resources you might want to consult, this liturgy aligns in both structure and heading names with the PC(USA)'s official liturgical resources. In fact, nearly all of the content of this curated resource has been drawn from:

- *The Book of Common Worship* (WJK, 2018) Service for Justice and Peace (p. 599ff)
- *Call to Worship: Liturgy, Music, Preaching, and the Arts* (calltoworshipjournal.org), texts for the 19th Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 22), Oct. 4, 2026.
- *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal* (WJK, 2013), Service for the Lord's Day (p. 1ff)

[1] This paragraph was taken from the website of the National Council of Churches, as captured by the Wayback Machine on Sept. 8, 2011. ncccusa.org/unity/worldcommunionsunday.html.

Gathering

Opening Sentences

Mic 6:8, cf. BCW p. 599

What does the Holy One require of us?
To do justice, to love kindness
and to walk humbly with God.
Let us worship God.

Hymn, Psalm or Spiritual Song

Hymns relating to "Justice and Peace" can be found in Glory to God 749–774. (References to the 1990 *Presbyterian Hymnal*, where applicable, are provided in parentheses.) *The* following are especially appropriate to World Communion Sunday:

- 756 "O God of Every Nation" LLANGLOFFAN (PH 289)
- 766 "The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound" McKEE
- 767 "Together We Serve" SAN ANSELMO

Because this year's World Communion Sunday falls on the commemoration of Francis of Assisi, who was a strong advocate for justice and peace in his own time, it could also be appropriate to sing:

- 15 "All Creatures of Our God and King" LASST UNS ERFREUEN (PH 455)
- 753 "Make Me Channel of Your Peace" (Prayer of St. Francis) PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

Gathering Prayer

BCW p. 599–600

Mighty and merciful God,
lover of justice and equity,
you call us to support the weak,
to help those who suffer,
and to honor all people.
By the power of your Holy Spirit,
make us advocates for your justice
and instruments of your peace,
so that all may be reconciled
in your beloved community;
through Jesus Christ Our Savior. **Amen.**

Confession and Pardon

The presider leads a call to confession such as those found on page 3 of Glory to God or page 20 of the Book of Common Worship, ending with:

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Loving God, through Jesus Christ you taught us, BCW p. 605
"where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."
Yet we continue to put our faith in earthly treasures,
hoarding up possessions that moth and rust will destroy,

clinging to power and privilege whenever we can.
Set us free from greed and fear.

Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
Teach us to trust in you alone;
through Jesus Christ, our true redeemer.

A setting of the Kyrie, such as the one on p. 4 of Glory to God, or another song pertinent to confession, may be sung. The service then continues with the sentences of pardon found on p. 4 of Glory to God or p. 21 of the Book of Common Worship, until the Prayer for Illumination:

Word

Prayer for Illumination

Faithful God, how blessed are those
who hunger and thirst for righteousness.
Sanctify us by your Word and Spirit
so that we may glorify you
in the company of the faithful;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Call to Worship[2]

Scripture

In the Revised Common Lectionary, the Old Testament reading and Psalm are designed as a complementary pair, so they should be used together whenever possible. When using the "Complementary" track of the RCL, the Old Testament and Gospel are also related thematically. If using the "Semicontinuous" track of the RCL, there is no intended thematic relationship. For more information on how the lectionary works and its origins in Reformed communities, see "A Primer on the Revised Common Lectionary," Call to Worship, *Vol. 53 No. 4 (2020). In any case, congregations should normally proclaim at least one reading from each Testament every Sunday and are encouraged to sing at least one Psalm.*

Semicontinuous Track

First Reading Exodus 20:1–4, 7–9, 12–20

Psalm 19

- 61 "Your Law, O Lord, is Perfect" CHRISTUS, DER IST MEIN LEBEN
- 690 "God's Glory Fills the Heavens" ST. PATRICK

Second Reading Philippians 3:4b–14

Gospel Reading Matthew 21:33–46

Sermon

Complementary Track

First Reading Isaiah 5:1–7

Psalm 80:7–15

- 355 "O Hear Our Cry, O Lord" VINEYARD HAVEN (PH 206)

[2] *Call to Worship,* resources for the 19th Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 22). [calltoworshipjournal.org/october-4-2026-nineteenth-sunday-after-pentecost-proper-22] ibid.

Hymn, Psalm or Spiritual Song

Hymns from *Glory to God* particularly related to the readings of the day are: Call to Worship[3]

- 352 “My Lord! What a Morning” MY LORD, WHAT A MORNING (PH 449) (OT Semicontinuous)
- 76 “Do Not Be Afraid” ISAIAH 43 (OT Semicontinuous)
- 434 “Restore in Us, O God” BAYLOR (OT Complimentary)
- 47 Bless All Who Trust in God FRANCONIA (Epistle)
- 223 or 224 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” HAMBURG/ROCKINGHAM (PH 100, 101) (Epistle)
- 822 “When We Are Living” SOMOS DEL SEÑOR (PH 400) (Epistle)
- 391 “This Is the Day” ESTE ES EL DÍA (Gospel)

Affirmation of Faith

Prayers of Intercession

BCW p. 615

Holy God, we come before you in prayer
hungering for justice,
thirsting for righteousness,
longing for peace.
We pray with a great multitude from every nation,
from all tribes and peoples and languages.
We pray with saints of every time and place,
those who have gone through the great ordeal …

Names of saints, martyrs, civil rights leaders, and other witnesses for justice and peace may be included here. Oct. 4 is also the commemoration of Francis of Assisi, as noted on p. 1150 of the BCW.

With these faithful witnesses, we cry:
Salvation belongs to our God,
who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!

Eucharist

Offering

The World Communion Offering of the PC(USA)
supports racial and gender justice,
peacemaking efforts, global witness,
and nurturing ecumenical and interfaith relations.

With great thanksgiving and praise
for the work of God throughout the world,
let us offer our lives to the Lord.

A list of choral and instrumental music appropriate for the day can be found on the Call to Worship website.[3]

Prayer of Dedication

Call to Worship[4]

Merciful and gracious God,
you abound in steadfast love and faithfulness.
With gratitude, we bring our gifts to you.
Bless these gifts and bless our lives
that together we may share your mercy and grace
for the world you dearly love. **Amen.**

The Invitation to the Lord's Table

On the Lord's Day, Christians from around the world gather at the table, one family sharing one meal. On this day, we focus our attention on that global gathering that happens every time we share the cup and the loaf. Christ invites us: "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink." (John 7:37–38)

Great Thanksgiving

BCW 624–625

A musical setting of this preface dialogue can be found on p. 9 of Glory to God.

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 right and our greatest joy
to give you thanks and praise,
loving God, creator and sustainer of life.

You planted the first fields —
wheat, barley, rice, and maize —
and made us in your image
to care for your creation.

You fed your people in the wilderness
with manna from heaven,
leading them to a land of milk and honey.

When human greed trampled the poor
you spoke through the prophets,
calling us to worship you with justice and peace.

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[3] *Call to Worship,* resources for the 19th Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 22). [calltoworshipjournal.org/october-4-2026-nineteenth-sunday-after-pentecost-proper-22]

[4] *Call to Worship,* resources for the 19th Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 22). [calltoworshipjournal.org/october-4-2026-nineteenth-sunday-after-pentecost-proper-22]

Then, in the fullness of time,
you sent Jesus Christ, the living bread,
to lift up the oppressed and lowly
and fill the hungry with good things.

Therefore we praise you, joining the faithful
who hunger and thirst for righteousness
and singing the hymn of the whole creation:

One musical setting and references to other settings of the Sanctus ("Holy, Holy, Holy") and the other sung responses can be found starting on p. 9 of Glory to God.

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.

We praise you, most holy God,
for Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh.

He taught us to share the abundance of your love,
feeding the multitude,
eating with sinners and strangers,
offering his own body to save us,
and pouring out his life for the world.

When the risen Christ appeared to his disciples,
he made himself known to them in the breaking of the bread.
Even now he sets the table for us,
inviting all to taste and see that you are good.

We give you thanks that the Lord Jesus, BCW p. 27
on the night before he died, took bread,
and after giving thanks to you, he broke it,
and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat. This is my body, given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way Jesus took the cup, saying:
This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood,
shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Remembering all that you have done in Jesus Christ,
we offer our lives to you with great thanksgiving
as we share this feast of love and grace.

Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon these your gifts of bread and wine
that the bread we break and the cup we bless
may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.
By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
and one with all who share this meal,
a great multitude from every nation.

Keep us faithful to Christ's teaching and fellowship,
to the breaking of bread and the prayers,
sharing our goods with one another,
and giving our possessions to those who are in need,
so that all people may have their daily bread,
this day and every day.

Just as the grain, once scattered across the hills,
was gathered together in this loaf of bread,
gather your people from the ends of the earth,
so that we may feast with you in glory
in the joy of your new creation.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,
now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

Communion

Hymns particularly appropriate for the distribution of communion pertaining to the readings on this day include:

- 358 "Steal Away" STEAL AWAY (Old Testament Semicontinuous)
- 503 "Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation" O QUANTA QUALIA (PH 516) (Old Testament Complementary)
- 563 "Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen" SURGE ECCLESIA (Epistle)
- 515 "I Come with Joy" DOVE OF PEACE (PH 507) (Gospel)

Prayer After Communion

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, *Call to Worship*[5]
creator and ruler of the universe,
for you have satisfied our souls
with this feast of your grace.
Keep us faithful in your service
until your realm of glory comes;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Sending

Hymn, Psalm or Spiritual Song

Hymns relating to "Justice and Peace" as well as World Communion Sunday are listed above. The following are Sending Hymns that are appropriate to the readings of the day:

- 354 "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory" BATTLE HYMN (Old Testament Semicontinuous)
- 335 "The Foolish in Their Hearts Deny" MAPLE AVENUE (Old Testament Complementary)
- 846 "Fight the Good Fight" (PH 307) DUKE STREET (Epistle)
- 321 "The Church's One Foundation" (PH 442) AURELIA (Gospel)

Blessing and Charge

Call to Worship[6]

At the doors of the church:

The blessing of the holy, triune God,
who was and is and is to come —
first and last,
beginning and end,
Alpha and Omega —
be with you now and always. **Alleluia!** Revelation 1:8

Go in peace to love the Lord your God
with heart and soul and mind and strength,
and to love your neighbor as yourself. **Amen.** Mark 12:29–31

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[5] *Call to Worship,* resources for the 19th Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 22).
[calltoworshipjournal.org/october-4-2026-nineteenth-sunday-after-pentecost-proper-22] ibid.