

**First Presbyterian Church of Rolla**  
**Worship Service for World Communion the Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

*Oct. 1, 2023*

**Pre-Service Music:** *One Lord, One Body, One Feast* - Lee Dengler

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude:** *The Gift to be Simple* - Dale Wood

**Introit 420:** *Lord, to You My Soul is Lifted* Chancel Choir

**Call to Worship**

The God for whom we have waited is among us!

**We share in the Spirit who encourages us, instructs us,  
consoles us, and calls us together as the body of Christ.**

Let us pray:

**Prayer of the Day**

**God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings.  
Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm  
us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ our Savior  
and Lord. Amen.**

**Opening Hymn #317:** *In Christ There is No East or West vs. 1, 2, and 4* (stand)

**Call to Confession**

God does not take pleasure in our suffering or delight in our failures,

**but bids us to turn back to God's way and find eternal life.**

Let us make our confession.

**Prayer of Confession**

**Holy God, we confess to you: We are not of the same mind. We do not share  
the same love. We act in selfish ambition and do not regard others as better  
than ourselves. We have not looked to the interests of others instead of  
ourselves. We do not embrace the humility of Jesus Christ. Forgive us.  
Continue to be at work in us, that we might serve each other as you served  
us, and reflect your glory in this world. Amen**

## **Declaration of Pardon**

When we lift up our souls to God, God does not put us to shame.

**God forgives us, leads us in the truth, and leads us in what is right.**

Thanks be to God!

**Amen.**

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

## **Passing the Peace of Christ**

### **Glory Be to the Father #581:**

#### **Anthem:**

*We Place Upon Your Table Lord*

Robert A. Hobby

### **Time for sharing joys and concerns, and the prayer list.**

## **Prayers of the People**

*Worship leader will lead the prayers.* Merciful God. **Receive our prayer.**

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

We put our trust in you as we pray for the church. Give pastors, deacons, lay leaders, and teachers the gifts of wisdom and discernment. Be with them in bold truth and faithful witness.

Merciful God. **Receive our prayer.**

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Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ who taught us to pray:

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen**

## **Dedication of Tithes and Offerings**

(please stand)

### **Offering #708:**

*We Give Thee but Thine Own*

*vs. 1 and 2*

## **Prayer of Dedication and Illumination:**

**God of good gifts, receive these and all of our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Through the grace of God we have gifts in abundance and share them to support the work of the church in this place. In the quietness of this hour, we wait for your Spirit. Tune our ears to hear the promise of your salvation. Incline our hearts toward your message of peace. Summon our will to respond to your Word with justice and love, that we might go forth with joy; through Christ. Amen.**

## **Scriptures for the Day**

**Old Testament Lesson:** Ezekiel 18:1 – 4, 25 – 32.

**Epistle Lesson:** Philippians 2:1 - 13

**Gospel Lesson:** Matthew 21: 23 - 32

Heaven and earth will pass away, but the word of the Lord is forever.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon:**

*Practice, Practice*

Jonathan Kimball

**Hymn #498:**

*Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken*

*(seated)*

## **Invitation to the Table**

Christ's table is wide, and his welcome is for all. Jesus dined with sinners and saints, with farmhands and foreigners, with disciples and doubters, with children and cherished friends, with the outcast and the outspoken, with lepers and loved ones. And just as he ate at others' tables, when Christ set his banquet table, he welcomed us all, too. As we gather around Christ's table, we are united with all of God's beloved across the world through the love and grace made known in bread broken and cup passed. So come to the table where we witness Christ's love and peace for all.

## **Great Thanksgiving**

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.**

We give you thanks and praise, God of all Creation, for the blessing of your earth and all your children, for the mercies you pour forth in fresh rains and harvests of plenty, for joy that comes in the morning. We are a grateful people. You created a world of harmony and peace, but our yearning for power and privilege throughout history led to division and conflict, suffering and violence. We give thanks that you sent prophets and poets to lament and remind to bear witness and call us to yet a better way. to write the vision of a peaceable kingdom for all to see. With fresh eyes and renewed hope, we join our voices with those around the world and with your heavenly chorus to sing:

**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 give you thanks that in the fullness of time, you sent your Son Jesus to bear witness to your mercy, grace and love. In his living, he showed us how to love. In his dying, he offered us undeserved mercy. In his rising, he granted us grace. Through the gift of faith, even faith as small as a mustard seed, his witness rekindles in us the gifts of God, not so that we can hold onto these gifts for ourselves but so that we can be united across the globe as one family of faith gathered around one table, sharing in one holy meal, sustained by a love that binds us together in peace. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon our many tables trusting that Christ is the host of our sacred meal together.

### **Sharing the Bread**

Jesus said: I am the bread of life.  
Come to me and never be hungry;  
The gifts of God for the people of God.

**Communion Hymn 525:** *Let Us Break Bread Together* vs. 1

### **Sharing the Cup**

Jesus said: I am the vine, you are the branches.  
believe in me and never thirst.  
The gifts of God for the people of God.

**Communion Hymn 525:** *Let Us Break Bread Together* vs. 2

### **Prayer after Communion**

May the blessing of grain from the earth and fruit of the vine be a reminder of the true joy of communion that unites us in one worldwide covenant of love.

**Sustained by your Word, fed by this holy meal, may we go out with joy and be led forth in peace; through Christ our peace. Amen.**

**Sending Hymn #539:**

*We Will Go Out with Joy*

(stand)

**Benediction:**

(remain standing)

The peace of Christ, the love of God, and the joy of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Alleluia!**

Go out in joy, bearing witness to the good news of the gospel, and be led forth in peace, sharing the peace of Christ with all.

Go in peace. Live in love. **Serve the Lord**

**Postlude:** *Down to the River to Pray* - Mark Hayes

*Scriptures are read from the NRSV translation. Music presented by the Chancel Choir and Lorie Francis. Worship led by Melba Read and sermon provided by Jonathan Kimball.*

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