

**Pilgrim Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ
World Communion Sunday
October 5, 2025**

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- † PRELUDE: Gelobet seist du Jesu Christ
— Georg Böhm
- † GATHERING SONG: This is the Day*
- † OPENING HYMN: To You, O God,
All Creatures Sing*
- † ANTHEM: Let Us Break Bread Together,
African American Spiritual
- † HYMN: Creator God, Creating Still*
- † OFFERTORY: Canticle of the Sun
— Marty Haugen
- † COMMUNION HYMN: Jesus Is Here
Right Now*
- † CLOSING HYMN: O for a Thousand
Tongues to Sing*
- † POSTLUDE: Sortie - Fughetta
— Théodore Dubois

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Today's service will be recorded.

WORSHIP – OCTOBER 5, 2025
WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

PRELUDE

Gelobet seist du Jesu Christ — Georg Böhm

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Reebee Girash and Sarah Jane Fuller

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Don Moir

ONE: The peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

ONE: Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

*GATHERING SONG

This is the Day — New Century Hymnal 84

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Don Moir

ONE: This is the day the Lord has made.

ALL: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

ONE: This is the day the Lord has made.

ALL: Let us rest and be calm in it.

ONE: This is the day the Lord has made.

ALL: Let us love and be loved in it.

*OPENING HYMN

To You, O God, All Creatures Sing — New Century Hymnal 17
(next pages)

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 17:1-10

Don Moir

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Occasions for stumbling are bound to come,
but woe to anyone by whom they come!

²It would be better for you if a millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into
the sea than for you to cause one of these little ones to stumble.

³Be on your guard! If another disciple sins, you must rebuke the offender,
and if there is repentance, you must forgive.

⁴And if the same person sins against you seven times a day,
and turns back to you seven times and says, "I repent", you must forgive.'

⁵The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith!'

⁶The Lord replied, 'If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree,
"Be uprooted and planted in the sea", and it would obey you.

⁷'Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from ploughing or tending sheep
in the field, "Come here at once and take your place at the table"?

⁸Would you not rather say to him, "Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I
eat and drink; later you may eat and drink"?

⁹Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded?

¹⁰So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, "We are worthless slaves;
we have done only what we ought to have done!"'

ONE: Here ends the reading. Hear what the Spirit of God is saying to the church.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

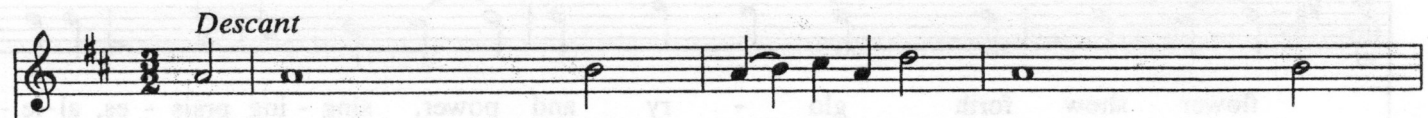
ANTHEM

Let Us Break Bread Together, African American Spiritual

SERMON

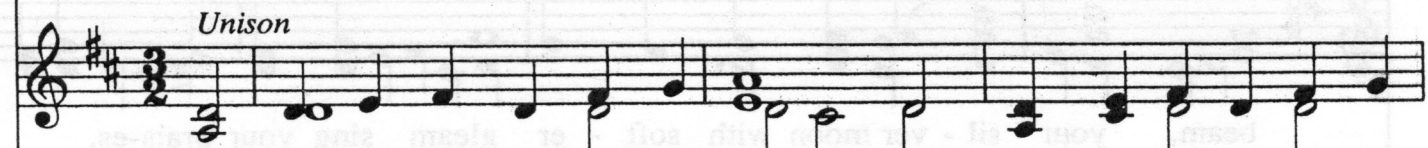
Rev. Reebee Girash

Descant

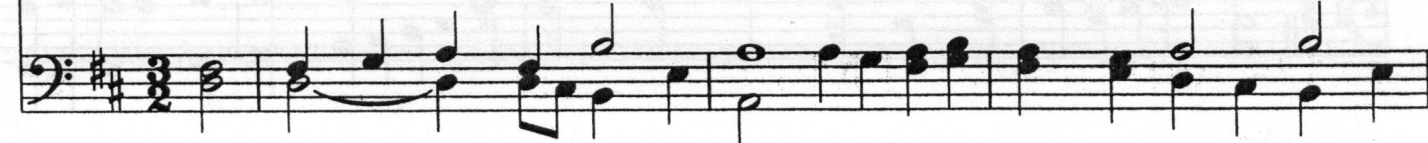
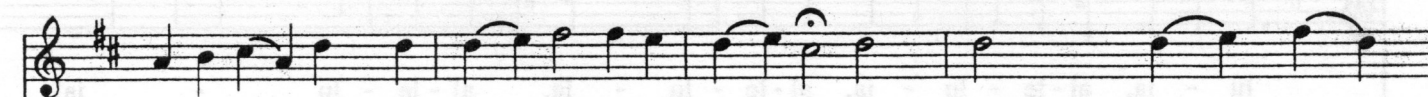


4 To you, God, day af-ter day, earth in

Unison




1 To you, O God, all crea-tures sing, and all cre - a - tion, ev - ery -
 2 Your wind that blows the tem-pest by, your clouds that sail a - cross the
 3 Your flow-ing wa - ters, crys - tal clear, make mel - o - dies for you to
 4 To you, O God, day af - ter day, your plan - et earth in ev - ery


ev-ery way sings your prais-es, al-le - lu - ia! As fruit, fra - grant

(Harmony)



thing sings your prais-es, al-le - lu - ia! Your burn-ing sun with gold-en
 sky sing your prais-es, al-le - lu - ia! Your morn-ing ris - es with a
 hear, sing your prais-es, al-le - lu - ia! Your fire, . . . boun-ti - ful and
 way, sings your prais-es, al-le - lu - ia, As sa - vory fruit and fra-grant

(Unison)



flower show forth glo - ry and power, sing - ing prais - es, al-le -

(Harmony)

beam, your sil - ver moon with soft - er gleam sing your prais-es,
 song, and lights of eve - ning sing a - long, sing your prais-es, al-le -
 bright, re - mem - bering your warmth and light, sings your prais-es,
 flower show forth your glo - ry and your power, sing - ing prais-es,

lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

(Unison)

lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

*HYMN

Creator God, Creating Still — New Century Hymnal 278
(next page)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Reebee Girash

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Reebee Girash

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Doug Johnston

OFFERTORY

Canticle of the Sun — Marty Haugen



Donation link

*DOXOLOGY

Pilgrim Hymnal 515

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

or

**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**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of abundance, your grace is generous and overflowing. We give thanks for the many gifts of your creation: sunlight and rain, seed and soil, fruit and flower. Teach us to recognize the Earth not as a possession, but as a sacred gift. Bless our lives and what we bring, that we may return your generosity and honor the garden you have entrusted to us; in Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Creator God, Creating Still

278

Jane Parker Huber, 1977; rev. 1993

Rom. 5:1-5

1 Cre - a - tor God, cre - at - ing still, by will and word and deed,
2 Re - deem-er God, re - deem-ing still, with o - ver-flow-ing grace,
3 Sus - tain - er God, sus - tain - ing still, with strength for ev - ery day,
4 Great Tri - une God, for this new day we need your pres-ence still.

Cre - ate a new hu - man - i - ty to meet the pres-ent need.
Pour out your love on us, through us, make this a ho - ly place.
Em - power us now to do your will. Cor - rect us when we stray.
Cre - ate, re - deem, sus - tain us now to do your work and will.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*COMMUNION HYMN

Jesus Is Here Right Now — New Century Hymnal 348
(next pages)

*Our service of communion is open to all who wish to participate.
The sacrament is a gift from God and all are welcome to receive it.*

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

PRAYER OF ACCOUNTABILITY

ALL: God of Mercy, God of Love, you have given us the gift of being part of all creation.

**And yet we confess we have not treated your gift as you have taught us,
with gratitude and reciprocity.**

**Instead, we have taken more than we have given, we have hoarded what we do not need,
we have viewed our fellow humans as competition rather than collaborators.**

We have prioritized scarcity in the face of your abundance.

We have not looked at the lilies and at the birds.

**Instead, we have worried about our own singular tomorrows more than we have
worried about each other and what our neighbor might need today.**

We have sought individual survival over communal solidarity.

We have not loved one another as you have loved us.

Today, God, we seek to be accountable to ourselves, to one another and to you.

We ask for your forgiveness,

and we think of those in our lives from whom we need to ask forgiveness.

**We think of all the elements of your creation we have taken for granted,
and we ask their forgiveness.**

**Cleanse us from the illusion of separateness and scarcity
so we may rejoice and redistribute all your gifts.**

ASSURANCE OF LOVE

ONE: God hears your prayers, as God hears all the cries of God's beloved creatures, from the chirps of the robin to the red maples who talk to one another underground.

ALL: Through God's grace and forgiveness, we compost our harms to generate new life and new love. Through God's love, we add our voices to the chorus of all creation as we pray together:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father (Creator), who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kin-dom 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 kin-dom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

COMMUNION PRAYER

THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION MUSIC

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

ALL: Ever-giving God, we give you thanks for the opportunity to remember our place in the web of creation and to receive the abundance of your love. May receiving these gifts make us happy and make us accountable. We remember that gratitude and reciprocity have the remarkable property of multiplying with every exchange, their energy concentrating as they pass from hand to hand, a truly renewable resource. May our church and our lives hum with such energy, nourishing this world as we ourselves are nourished, transforming this world as we ourselves are transformed. Amen.

Jesus Is Here Right Now

348

Leon C. Roberts, 1986; alt.

not fast

Je - sus is here right now. Je - sus is

The first system of music is in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. It features a vocal melody in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The tempo is marked 'not fast'. The lyrics 'Je - sus is here right now. Je - sus is' are written below the vocal line.

Somewhat detached throughout

The second system of music continues the vocal melody and piano accompaniment. It includes triplets in both staves. The tempo is marked 'Somewhat detached throughout'.

here. With this bread and wine true peace you'll

The third system of music continues the vocal melody and piano accompaniment. It includes a triplet in the vocal line. The lyrics 'here. With this bread and wine true peace you'll' are written below the vocal line.

The fourth system of music continues the vocal melody and piano accompaniment. It includes triplets in both staves.

find; Christ Je - sus is here right now. (right now).

to beginning Last time, end

Composer Leon C. Roberts is perhaps best known for his "Mass of St. Augustine" and other liturgical compositions that appear in *Lead Me, Guide Me: The African-American Catholic Hymnal*. His work is greatly influenced by priest and composer Clarence Joseph Rivers.

Tune: JESUS IS HERE 6.4.5.4.6.
Leon C. Roberts, 1986

*CLOSING HYMN

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing — New Century Hymnal 42
(next page)

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Reebee Girash

by Rev. Paul Mitchell

ONE: The just flourish like a palm tree,

ALL: and grow as tall as the cedars of Lebanon;

ONE: transplanted in the house of The Beloved,

ALL: they flourish in the courts of the Most High –

ONE: still full of sap in old age,

ALL: they still produce abundant fruit.

ONE: To give is to love.

ALL: To love is to live.

ONE: To live is to grow.

ALL: To grow is to flourish.

ONE: May we who follow Jesus enter into Communion with God's self-giving love.

ALL: May we sing the life and love of Christ in the world this day and beyond.

POSTLUDE

Sortie - Fughetta — Théodore Dubois

**Please be in a posture of praise.*

Please note: *The video of this service is posted online.*

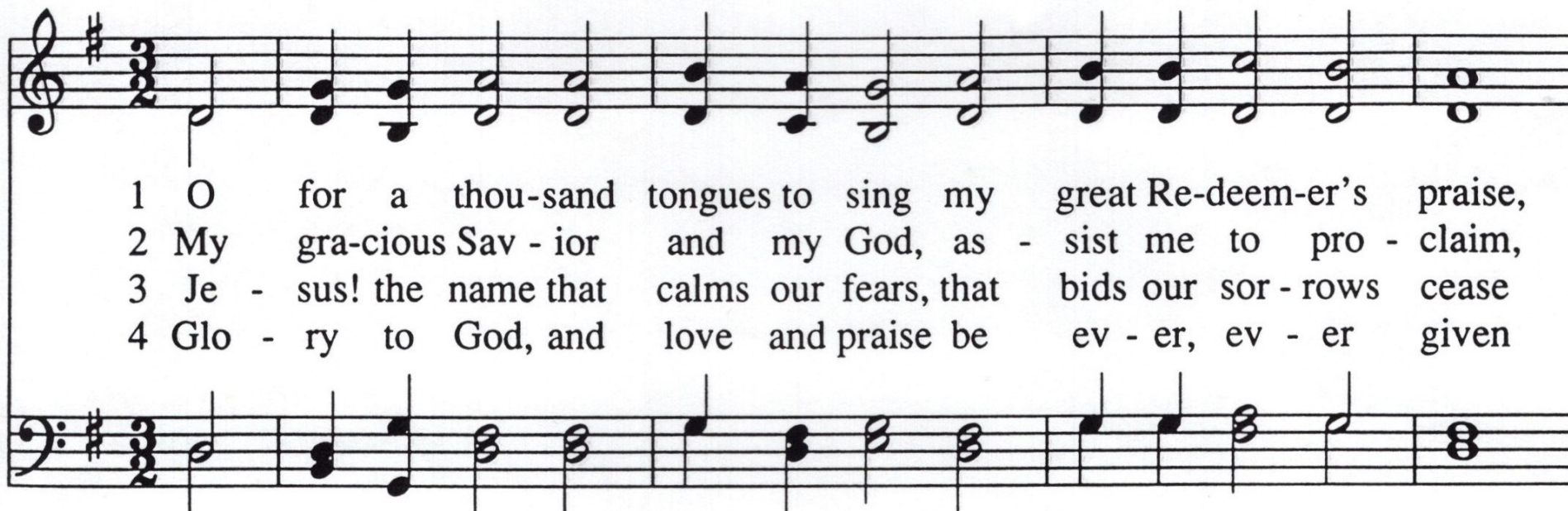
If you prefer not to be filmed, please sit near the rear of the sanctuary.

Thank you to our liturgist, Don Moir; to the Snipe Family for greeting, receiving the offering and for hosting coffee hour and to our Zoom hosts, Acadia Z. and Luca Z.

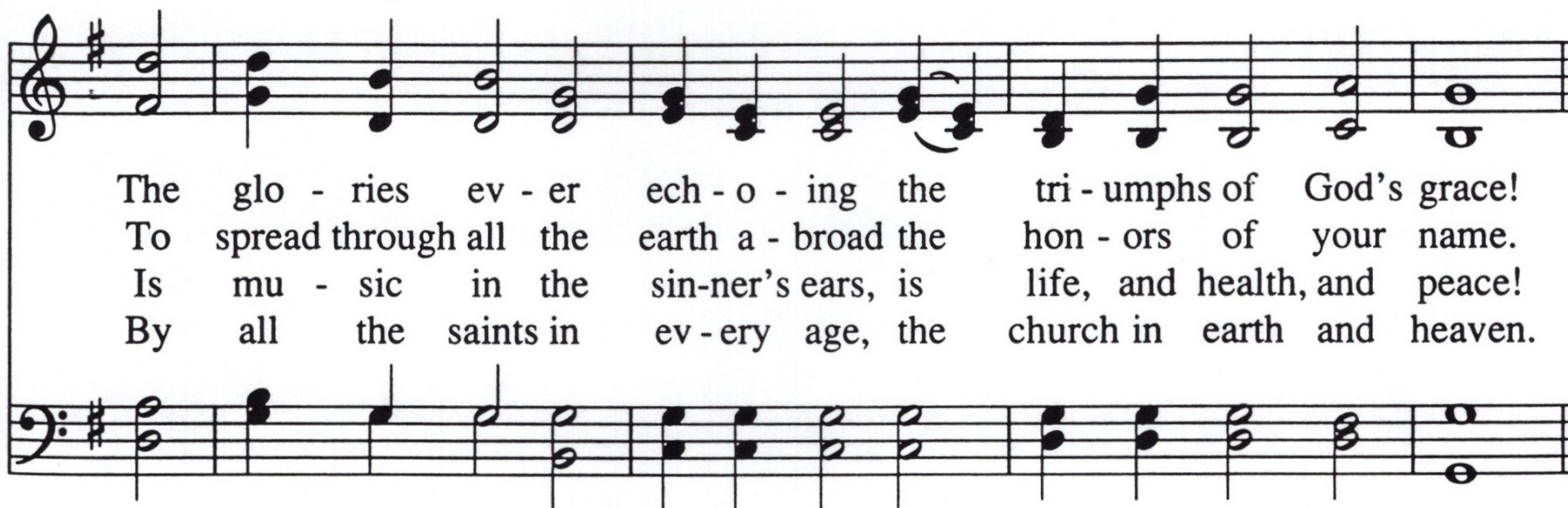
O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

42

Charles Wesley, 1740; alt.



1 O for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
2 My gra-cious Sav - ior and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,
3 Je - sus! the name that calms our fears, that bids our sor - rows cease
4 Glo - ry to God, and love and praise be ev - er, ev - er given



The glo - ries ev - er ech - o - ing the tri - umphs of God's grace!
To spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of your name.
Is mu - sic in the sin-ner's ears, is life, and health, and peace!
By all the saints in ev - ery age, the church in earth and heaven.

SOURCE NOTES

Our Liturgy today draws from the images and themes of The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World by Robin Wall Kimmerer. The Communion Liturgy and Call to Worship drawing on the Serviceberry are by Noël Grisanti, a UCC student at Harvard Divinity School (used with permission). The Prayer of Dedication and Benediction, also drawing on the Serviceberry, are by Brian Smith and Paul Mitchell. Cover photo Public Domain.

Neighbors in Need Offering

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a Special Mission Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States. Today we receive the Neighbors in Need offering via the blue envelopes in your bulletin or through online giving with “neighbors in need” in the comment field of your donation.

