



Peace, a mural by Andrea Michnay (1959)

First Presbyterian Church

149 Broad Street

Tonawanda, New York 14150 ~ 2111

Church: (716) 692-1319

Rev. Leslie Latham

CCLI License # 2839486

Words to hymns are on the back of the bulletin

Come, Worship the Lord, Our God

October 3, 2021

10:30am

World Communion Sunday

******Please pick up your bread and juice in the back of the church for Communion******

PRELUDE "Moto, Moto"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

written by Rev. Gloria Ulloa

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!

***GATHERING PRAYER**

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.

A Non-Traditional Blessing, by Sister Ruth Fox

HYMN: #388 "Come All You People"

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

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

O God, who makes known to us all truth, we confess that we are weighed down by our failings: envy distances us from other people; greed alerts us only to our own desires. Where we might bring reconciliation, we create conflicts. Where you call us to give, we take. Where your presence beckons, we resist. Deal with us not as we deserve, O God, but forgive us, cleanse us, and teach us your way. Amen.

Time for Silent Confession

***DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS** *(Phil. 3:9; Eph. 2:17)*

"God accepted us simply because of our faith in Christ," through whom our sins were forgiven. May God help us to continue to "preach peace to those who are near and far." Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE #448 "Peace of God Be with You"

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Deuteronomy 9:1-9

1 John 4:16-19

SERMON: Follow Jesus through Service

The Rev. Leslie Latham

Hymns

“Come All You People”

1 Come all you people, come and praise your Maker;
Come all you people, come and praise your Maker;
Come all you people, come and praise your Maker;
Come now and worship the Lord. (2x)

“Come to the Table of Grace”

1 Come to the table of grace. Come to the table of grace.
This is God’s table; it’s not yours or mine. Come to the table of grace.

2. Come to the table of peace. Come to the table of peace.
This is God’s table; it’s not yours or mine. Come to the table of peace.

3. Come to the table of love. Come to the table of love.
This is God’s table; it’s not yours or mine. Come to the table of love.

4 Come to the table of hope. Come to the table of hope.
This is God’s table; it’s not yours or mine. Come to the table of hope.

5. Come to the table of joy. Come to the table of joy.
This is God’s table; it’s not yours or mine. Come to the table of joy.

“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”

1 Make me a channel of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord, and where there is doubt, true faith in you.

2 Make me a channel of your peace. Where there’s despair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, only light, and where there's sadness, ever joy.

3 Oh, Master grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled, as to console,
to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love with all my soul.

4 Make me a channel of your peace. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive, and in dying that we’re born to eternal life.

Scripture Lessons

Deuteronomy 9:1-9

Hear, O Israel! You are about to cross the Jordan today, to go in and dispossess nations larger and mightier than you, great cities, fortified to the heavens, ²a strong and tall people, the offspring of the Anakim, whom you know. You have heard it said of them, “Who can stand up to the Anakim?” ³ Know then today that the LORD your God is the one who crosses over before you as a devouring fire; he will defeat them and subdue them before you, so that you may dispossess and destroy them quickly, as the LORD has promised you.

⁴ When the LORD your God thrusts them out before you, do not say to yourself, “It is because of my righteousness that the LORD has brought me in to occupy this land”; it is rather because of the wickedness of these nations that the LORD is dispossessing them before you. ⁵ It is not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart that you are going in to occupy their land; but because of the wickedness of these nations the LORD your God is dispossessing them before you, in order to fulfill the promise that the LORD made on oath to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

⁶ Know, then, that the LORD your God is not giving you this good land to occupy because of your righteousness; for you are a stubborn people. ⁷ Remember and do not forget how you provoked the LORD your God to wrath in the wilderness; you have been rebellious against the LORD from the day you came out of the land of Egypt until you came to this place.

⁸ Even at Horeb you provoked the LORD to wrath, and the LORD was so angry with you that he was ready to destroy you. ⁹ When I went up the mountain to receive the stone tablets, the tablets of the covenant that the LORD made with you, I remained on the mountain forty days and forty nights; I neither ate bread nor drank water.

1 John 4:16-19

¹⁶ So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷ Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us.

World Communion Sunday

On this day, people of faith all over the world gather at Christ's table. In languages as diverse as God's people, and tables of every size and shape, we proclaim, together, the unity of our life in Christ. This table belongs to Christ and extends to every corner of the Earth. On World Communion Sunday, may joy be made complete. May we share in one mind, in one love, and in one Spirit.

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.

Why do we give thanks at this table?

O God, you created the world and all that is in it. The startling diversity of the Earth and its creatures were made by you and pronounced good. Called into life-giving partnership with each other and you, we chose instead, to seek dominance and bring about division. We have betrayed each other and denied your image, which is present in every person.

But in each place of shadow and pain and in every divisive moment you have sought us out again, to reconcile us to one another and to you. Therefore, with our parents in faith, from every time and place, we sing the fullness of your witness to your world saying:

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.

Jesus comes to bring good news to the poor, release to the outcast, and recovery of sight to the blind, and to let the oppressed go free. He teaches that those who work for your peace are your children. He prays for unity among all who follow him. He suffered and died for the sins of the world. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, he greets his followers with the word of peace. We thank you that Christ reigns with you in glory and continues to bring your peace to our world and to our lives, and that one day he will come again and reconcile all things to himself.

What do we remember at this table?

Remembering God's wondrous acts in Jesus Christ, we take this bread and this cup from the gifts of your creation, and with sisters and brothers around your world, we joyfully celebrate Christ's presence and reconciling love.

Why do we eat bread at this table?

Jesus took bread, blessed it, and gave it to his friends.

Why do we drink from the cup at this table?

Jesus gave them the cup as the promise that our sins are forgiven.

But this just everyday bread and juice.

Let us pray that the everyday bread and juice will become holy:

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, unite us with Christ and with your church in all the world.

As Christ's body sent to serve the world you so love, O God, we lift before you our prayers for the church, the world, and all in need, saying, "God in your mercy," and responding with, "Hear our prayer."

Gracious God, grant that when we are called, we may faithfully serve, strengthened and renewed at this table. Help us to repent and live in peace with you and with one another, watching and praying your new heavens and new earth where righteousness and justice will be at home.

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.

And now with the confidence of the children of God, let us pray together the prayer Jesus taught us:

Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Please partake of the juice and bread.

Prayer after Communion

Holy God, we thank you for this meal that proclaims the peace and healing of the nations. We thank you for this meal where a little is enough to change our lives; where a little is more than enough to feed those whose hearts yearn for communion in community. May this bread and fruit of the vine nourish us so that we may grow in the faith and knowledge that in you, we are one. Amen.