

**Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church – October 4, 2020**  
**World Communion Sunday**  
**Stewardship Season**  
**Join us on You Tube!**

**Opening Music**

**Greeting**

**Call to Worship** [*responsive*]

From north and south,  
from east and west, we come:

**God's people called to the Table  
where simple grace nourishes us.**

From down the street to across town,  
from single households to apartment dwellers:

**God's people are called to community,  
where we live and serve one another.**

From every class, every race, every status;  
from little ones with sippy cups to elders with overflowing hearts:

**God's people are called to witness to God's hope,  
to offer peace to a shattered world.**

Let us worship in trust and hope.

**Opening Prayer** (together)

God of Life,  
prepare our hands for a touch,  
a touch of encounter,  
a touch of awakening,  
a touch of hope,  
a touch of feeling.  
Give us daring, we pray.  
to create new community,  
new kinds of respect,  
breaking away from the old ways,  
in your name. Amen.

**Call to Confession**

Jesus prayed that we might be one. One in spirit. One in mission. In union and communion with each other and with God. On this Sunday, we recognize how far we are from his prayer. Let us join together in our confession.

**Prayer of Confession** [*together*]

Today, God, we confess our fumbings and failures  
in accomplishing unity,  
as we remind ourselves of this calling.

Give us eyes, we pray, to recognize your reflection  
in the eyes of Christians everywhere.

Give us a mind to accept  
and celebrate our differences.

Give us a heart big enough  
to love your people everywhere.

We thank you for setting a table with space enough for us all! Amen.

[*Silence for Personal Prayer*]

**Assurance of Pardon** [*responsive*]

The power of resurrection is at work in us and with us!

The Spirit of Christ leads us  
onto paths of victory,

over sorrow and death, disbelief and fear.

Receive God's grace, for the forgiveness of God  
is too marvelous for words.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, we are new people,  
forgiven and set free. Thanks be to God!**

**We Listen to God's Word**

**Children's Message**

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup>Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

<sup>8</sup>And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. <sup>9</sup>As it is written,

'He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever.'

<sup>10</sup>He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your

seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. <sup>11</sup>You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; <sup>12</sup>for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. <sup>13</sup>Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, <sup>14</sup>while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. <sup>15</sup>Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Leader: This is the Witness to God's Word. **People: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

**Overflowing**

Rev. Mary Austin

## **We Respond to God's Grace**

**Music for Reflection**

**Invitation to Generosity**

**Invitation to the Communion Table**

**Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right, and our greatest joy...

**Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

*By the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ is present to us in this meal, and that presence comes through whatever elements we use. Please take the elements you have at home, and eat whatever kind of bread you have, and drink whatever cup you have prepared. The bread is the body of Christ, the bread of heaven, and the cup is the blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. Take and eat. Take and drink.*

### **Prayer after Communion**

## **We Depart for Service**

### **\*Announcements**

### **Passing the Peace**

Greeting: "The peace of Christ be with you."

Response: "And also with you."

### **\*Closing Blessing [from Cuba]**

May God prosper you.

May your days be long and your nights serene.

May your friendships honor you, and your family love you.

May you eat at your table, and

may you be gathered into to God's embrace with a smile. Amen.

### **Closing Music**

Participating in the service:

Mr. Jeff Hildebrant, Worship Leader

Ms. Jane Njihia, Worship Leader

Ms. Carolyn Hayes, Director of Children and Young Families

Wade Myers, Director of Music and Worship Arts

Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence

Rev. Mary Austin

The Opening Prayer is adapted from a prayer by Ernesto Barros Cardoso, of Brazil. From Gifts of Many Cultures: Worship Resources for the Global Community, Maren C. Tirabassi and Kathy Wonson Eddy. The Prayer of Confession is adapted from The Africana Worship Book.