



CARMICHAEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Communion

August 1, 2021

Livestream

10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

“Prelude in D minor (BWV 539)”
Randy Benfield, organ

J.S. Bach

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Click [HERE](#) to register your attendance

Pastor Keith L. DeVries

CALL TO WORSHIP

Bruce, Sharon & Whitney MacLean

Leader: Called to community,

People: we gather with humility, gentleness and patience,

Leader: bearing with one another in love,

People: making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit

Leader: in the bond of peace.

People: Let us Worship God!

HYMN

“We All Are One in Mission”

No. 435

We All Are One in Mission

1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,
2 We all are called for ser - vice to wit - ness in God's name.
3 Now let us be u - nit - ed and let our song be heard.

our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.
Our min - is - tries are dif - ferent; our pur - pose is the same:
Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing word.

A sin - gle, great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove
to touch the lives of oth - ers by God's sur - pris - ing grace,
We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,

to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.
so ev - ery folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.
our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Bruce, Sharon, & Whitney MacLean

Leader: Before we can hear God's truth spoken in love, we must free ourselves from all that obstructs us from honestly acknowledging our wrongdoing. Let us examine our hearts and confess our sins to God.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Nurturing God, like a hen gathers her brood under her wings, you desire to gather your children. But division and disagreement plague us. We cling to rigid certainties, approach each other in arrogance and fail to listen. We walk away from conflict, rather than working through it. Forgive us, Holy God. Help us mature in faith and relationship. Help us build each other up in love. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Do not fear, says the Lord, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

People: Thanks be to God; we are forgiven and freed. Amen.

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

"The Gloria Patri"

Traditional

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

TIME FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

SONG

"We Are Called"

Haas

Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord
We are called to be light for the kingdom
To live in the freedom of the city of God!
We are called to act with justice; We are called to love tenderly
We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God
Come! Open your heart
Show your mercy to all those in fear
We are called to be hope for the hopeless
So hatred and blindness will be no more!
Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day when all will be one
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other
As sisters and brothers united in love

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Ephesians 4:1-16

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

⁷But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people."

⁹ (When it says, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) ¹¹ The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. ¹⁴ We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people’s trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love.

SERMON

Closing the Gap

Pastor Keith L. DeVries

SPECIAL MUSIC

“He Was Despised”

Handel

(from *Messiah*)

Hannah Ludwig, mezzo-soprano

THE LORD’S SUPPER

(Place a plate with bread or crackers on a table in your home worship space. Beside it set a cup with juice, wine, water, or other common beverage in your home. With these elements we celebrate the shared presence of Christ that connects and nourishes our communion of faith.)

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Pastor: As we prepare to celebrate the Lord’s Supper, I invite you to look at the elements before you — the bread . . . the juice. There is probably nothing all that special about them.

Maybe you have this morning’s left-over French toast, a piece of Wonder bread, a bagel from the grocery store. Maybe you had to scrounge at the back of the refrigerator for juice with a questionable expiration date, or you’re hoping no one notices you’re celebrating with cranberry. But there is beauty in the ordinary, because in the work of the Spirit, the ordinary becomes holy.

As we break bread from miles apart, Christ invites our ordinary selves, with our ordinary bread. As we break bread from miles apart, we bear witness to something we imagine from our sanctuary but we cannot see — the expansive, far-reaching table of God.

Siblings in Christ, your table may look like your kitchen table, your coffee table, your very own lap, but it is an extension of the Lord’s great banquet, and from east and west and north and south, you are invited to bear witness to an extraordinary meal in ordinary packaging — a feast of grace, love, and hope at the table in the kingdom of God.

Let us share in the feast that Christ has provided.

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: While we long to return to normal, to all be together again, tasting the same bread, sharing the same cup, we cannot deny that there is still and is always reason to bring our thanks and praise to you, abiding God. Whether we are apart or together we are your people, a community of mutual support and love.

As you guided the Israelites through their wilderness and wandering, never forgetting or failing them, despite their fear and impatience at the long journey to “normal,” we trust that you are with us, too, laying a pathway to a new day. Thank you for today’s visible reminder that no building can contain the promises of your reliable presence with us and for us.

As our world yearns for stability and longs for the easing of ache, we wait in the quiet confidence of a people who know your Son. Jesus Christ, our Savior, modeled compassion for all. He paid attention to suffering — the anguish of health declined, and hearts broken, and hope waning. And he extended healing. He formed a community of disciples, a rag-tag bunch like you and me, whom he gathered in — to teach and to love; whom he sent out — to teach and to love. So whether we are gathered or whether we are scattered, we are entrusted to the eternal promises, of the one who lived, and died, and lived again, to set us free from suffering and sin. And so, we give thanks that, in Christ, new beginnings are possible.

Remembering your constant faithfulness across the tumult of all days, we give thanks for the signs of you, O God, with us — in these ordinary gifts of bread and juice. Pour out your Spirit upon us, wherever we may be, And stir amidst these gifts of bread and cup that they may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit, unite us at your table, across the miles — with one another, with your children in every time and place, with the living Christ.

May the taste of grace on our tongues jog our memories of your faithfulness and energize us to live out your love for us, through whatever tomorrow brings, until we break bread at your table in glory.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread, and after giving thanks to God, 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 he 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. Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord, until he comes.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

(You are now invited to take a bite of your bread and a sip from your cup and to taste the mystery of God's grace, saying to one another, "This is the Bread of Heaven; this is the cup of Christ.")

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Pastor: Holy God, even when all of this is over, may we not forget how you held us together while we were apart, how you built a table across the miles, how you call us to continue the work of table-building. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

OFFERING

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Loving God, through Jesus Christ you promise to hear us when we pray in his name. Confident in your presence and your attention to us, we lift the needs of the church, our communities and the world to you in prayer.

We pray for the church, set in this world to be a model community, a body knit together in love. Help the church fulfill the calling to which we are all called, to live together in unity, to bear with one another in love. May the church reflect how people belong together and how our gifts are to be shared.

We pray for the communities in which we live and work; for people who are stressed; for the unemployed looking for work; for the elderly who are lonely; for the ill in need of healing; for all who are fearful. May we turn to each other in time of need, O God. May we build each other up so we can share the load of life's challenges.

We pray for our broken, yet beautiful world. Help us, Holy God, to hear the cries of the hungry and suffering. Help us set us aside human impulses of greed and vain ambition so we might strive for peace and justice. Help us reorder our lives so that all might have their rightful share of food, medical care and shelter, and our planet might thrive with renewed love and care. Inspire in us a love of our earth and all those who call this planet home.

United as a family of faith and as the Body of Christ we lift these prayers up to you, God our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. Finally, hear us pray the prayer Christ taught us, saying,

Unison: 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 CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

The Lord whom we love, whom we worship and adore,
We will serve throughout this coming week. He it is who binds us together,
And He it is who sends us apart, to be God's people, be God's people. Amen.

Communion Liturgy by Roger Gench, *Presbyterian Outlook* 2021, modified.

Prayers of Intercession by Teri McDowell Ott © *Presbyterian Outlook*, 2021.

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Audio/Video: Steve Parker and Bruce MacLean

Contemporary Worship Leader: Jenny DeVries

Vocals: Tara Calderon and Laura Leek

Piano: Gabe Bisho

Guitar: Paul Zeman

Bass: Jay Leek

Drums: Will Condrey