



Ebensburg Presbyterian Church
17th Sunday after Pentecost
October 2, 2022

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EbensburgPresbyterianChurch>

Webpage: <https://ebgpresby.org>

GATHERING

TOLLING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER (BCW, p. 811, a prayer from Zaire)

O God,
you are the giver of life.
We pray for the church in the whole world.
Sanctify her life, renew her worship,
give power to her witnessing, restore her unity.
Give strength to those who are searching together
for that kind of obedience which creates unity.
Heal the divisions separating your children one from another,
so that they will make fast, with bonds of peace,
the unity which the Spirit gives. **Amen.**

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

Isaiah 2

Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the temple of the God of Jacob.

The Lord will mediate between nations

and will settle international disputes.

They will hammer their swords into plowshares

and their spears into pruning hooks.

Nation will no longer fight against nation,

nor train for war anymore.

Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

The Lord Jehovah will bring down human pride,

and human arrogance will be humbled.

The Lord will be exalted!

*HYMN # 298 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

*CALL TO CONFESSION:

If we confess our sins,
he is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.
Trusting in God's mercy,
let us seek forgiveness.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (responsively)

Gracious God, who made covenant with our ancestors,
we gather here today as a rebellious people.

We want to act out your intentions for us,
but we get sidetracked by the false glitter of the world.

You tell us to honor Creation

But we use other people, animals, and plants for our own gain.

You offer bread to every living creature,

and we steal that bread from our brothers and sisters in the name of greed.

You promise us new life,

But we shrink back in fear, clinging to our death-dealing ways.

Heal us, O Lord, lest we destroy ourselves and the planet.

We need your healing presence among us,

That your good intentions for all of creation might be fulfilled at last

Through Jesus Christ we pray, Amen *[silent confession]*

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON: (responsively)

Jesus accompanies us on life's journey,

offering abundant mercy and bountiful forgiveness along the way.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel,

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, renewed and sent!

*GLORIA PATRI

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST (responsively)

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also, with you.

(Please share the peace of Christ with those around you.)

THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: 1 Samuel 3:10-11

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-4 Page 550

SECOND READING: John 17:6-19 Page 879

Word of God, breath of life

Thanks be to God.

SERMON: United in Christ

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN # 466 O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

A GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING FOR WORLD
COMMUNION SUNDAY [TDLS]

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.

It is our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise
for you looked upon all your hands wrought and called it good.
You smile upon purple mountains soaring above wildflower plains
where grasses raise their backs to meet your Spirit's caress
You send clouds scuttling across reflective waters
and set stars to wink upon the earth in deep, knowing delight.
You call the tune for dolphins dancing in the play of waves.
As giraffes amble across savannahs, birds sing in full-throated praise
and children of various hues giggle as they run free in your image.

Despite your created goodness,
we use our freedom for ourselves alone
without regard for your intentions for all.
Still, you chase after us to save us from sin's harm,
freeing us from slavery to give us a new world flowing with milk and honey.
When we chase after other gods,
you call us back to you through cries of prophets,
which we ignore,
until at last you send your own child
to be for us the goodness we refuse.

Therefore, we praise you,
joining our voices with the choir of creation
and all the saints of all times
and places who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed are you, O Christ,
for coming to us as a little child
to live baptized in the muck of our fallen world.
Embodying God's desire to bless all people
you spoke peace to a war-mongering empire,
and were blessed to be a blessing to all people.
When threatened with the terror of crucifixion,
you did not keep silent but stood up with resurrection of new life
to turn the bread of human affliction into manna from heaven,
and to turn the bitter dregs of sin into the cup of joyful celebration.

So as we await your coming among us
In the fullness of your sovereign glory,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Praised be you,
Holy Spirit, blowing through time to enliven your people,
the church, to live as Christ's body,
in God's ministry of repairing our broken world.
Come hover over us now with your bright brooding wings
in the breaking of bread and in the celebration of this cup,
that our eyes may be opened to recognize Christ among us
and in all who share in this feast.
Knit us more closely together
in the fellowship of your sovereign Way.
We offer ourselves, our lives, our resources,
To be your hands reaching into the world
With your unfathomable compassion.
Fill us like breath fills flutes
to be instruments of your peace.

Where there is lack of regard for your creation,

Prod us to speak up.

Where people fail to see the dignity of all persons,

Open blind eyes.

Where there is silence about others being hurt,

Impassion us with a desire for justice.

Lord, your creation groans under abuse.

Renew the earth with goodness.

Your children are starving across this globe.

***To those who hunger Give bread.**

And to those who have bread

Give hunger for justice. *

People languish in prisons,

Some unjustly, some without repentance,

And some for standing up for your Way.

Release the captives, Lord.

O God, our Sovereign,

leaders in all lands take bribes and afflict their peoples.

Topple oppressive powers with your rule

and send the rich empty away.

** The prayer between the asterisks is from Presbyterian Peace-making Program, W. Mark Koenig, ed., Justice and Peace Shall Kiss: Praying through the Year (Louisville: Presbyterian Church (USA), n.d.), 17.*

Your church luxuriates in the comfort of faith;

Send us to be your servants in service to the world.

The sick suffer forgotten in pain

Heal their hurts in body, mind, and spirit.

People have solicited our prayers

And others needing our prayers weigh heavy on our hearts

So we offer these, our prayers to you:

{Name those for whom you are in intercession before God}

Gather all these prayers and praise

And join them with those of all the saints

And with our Great High Priest who taught us to pray, saying:

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 king-dom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE WORD OF THE INSTITUTION

BREAKING THE BREAD

Jesus said: "I am the bread of life.
He who comes to me will never be hungry.
he who believes in me will never thirst."

Jesus said: "I am the vine; you are the branches.
Cut off from me you can do nothing."

HYMN # 439 In Christ There is No East Or West

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (in unison)

**Help us rise in your resurrection power from this table where you,
the Ruler of the Universe, have served us by your own hand,
that we may extend your arms of peace to a world at war.
This we ask through Christ, in Christ,
with Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit.
May all honor and glory and dominion be yours
Now and forevermore. Amen.**

The Sending

*HYMN # 420 God of Grace and God of Glory

*BLESSING AND CHARGE (responsively) Numbers 6:24–26

The Lord bless you
and keep you;
The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
The Lord turn His face toward you
and give you peace. **Alleluia!**

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

***Please stand if you are able.**

Psalm 137

- ¹ By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept
when we remembered Zion.
- ² There on the poplars
we hung our harps,
- ³ for there our captors asked us for songs,
our tormentors demanded songs of joy;
they said, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"
- ⁴ How can we sing the songs of the Lord
while in a foreign land?
- ⁵ If I forget you, Jerusalem,
may my right hand forget its skill.
- ⁶ May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth if
I do not remember you,
if I do not consider Jerusalem
my highest joy.
- ⁷ Remember, Lord, what the Edomites did
on the day Jerusalem fell.
"Tear it down," they cried,
"tear it down to its foundations!"
- ⁸ Daughter Babylon, doomed to destruction,
happy is the one who repays you
according to what you have done to us.
- ⁹ Happy is the one who seizes your infants
and dashes them against the rocks.

PRAYER LIST

If you have any names you would like added to the Prayer List, please call the church office at 472-6920 or place the names in the Offering Baskets near each of the front entrances. Thank you.

Tim and Paula Crow

Claudette Segear

James O'Hara

Gloria P.

Dan Quaglia

Cathy Rocus

Chris Wolfe

Bob S.

Father Patrick V. Kirsch

Tim Forberger

Katrin Wolf & Family

Mary R.

Richard McKim

Eva Tom

Psalm 145 God Sustains

- ¹ I will exalt you, my God the King;
I will praise your name for ever and ever.
- ² Every day I will praise you
and extol your name for ever and ever.
- ³ Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;
his greatness no one can fathom.
- ⁴ One generation commends your works to another;
they tell of your mighty acts.
- ⁵ They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty—
and I will meditate on your wonderful works.^[b]
- ⁶ They tell of the power of your awesome works—
and I will proclaim your great deeds.
- ⁷ They celebrate your abundant goodness
and joyfully sing of your righteousness.
- ⁸ The Lord is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and rich in love.
- ⁹ The Lord is good to all;
he has compassion on all he has made.
- ¹⁰ All your works praise you,
Lord; your faithful people extol you.
- ¹¹ They tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your might,
- ¹² so that all people may know of your mighty acts
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
- ¹³ Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures through all generations.
The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises
and faithful in all he does.^[c]
- ¹⁴ The Lord upholds all who fall
and lifts up all who are bowed down.
- ¹⁵ The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food at the proper time.
- ¹⁶ You open your hand
and satisfy the desires of every living thing.
- ¹⁷ The Lord is righteous in all his ways
and faithful in all he does.
- ¹⁸ The Lord is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.
- ¹⁹ He fulfills the desires of those who fear him;
he hears their cry and saves them.