

Astoria First United Methodist Church
October 3, 2021

World Communion Sunday

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

ORDER OF WORSHIP (*please stand if you are able)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary Frances Gunn

CENTERING MUSIC

“Blessed Are They”

Kristin Hammond

WORDS OF WELCOME

Pastor Michael

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *(If you are able, please stand)*

Gloria Jones

L: We gather in the presence of Christ to join our hearts and minds in praise of God.

P: God has exalted Jesus and given him a name above every name.

L: So let every knee bend, in heaven and on earth, and every tongue confess:

P: Jesus Christ is Lord. Glory to God forever!

L: As we gather this morning, we remember our sisters and brothers around the world:

**P: From above and below the equator, from every time zone around the globe,
Christ Jesus invites us all to join this Holy Feast.**

L: As today’s sunlight inches across land and sea, Christians gather to celebrate their place in God’s family.

P: All are invited, and all are welcome. Come, for the meal is ready!

***OPENING PRAYER**

Pastor Michael

OT SCRIPTURE READING *“Job 1:1; 2:1-10”*

Gloria Jones

Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the Lord. And the Lord said to Satan, “From where have you come?” Satan answered the Lord and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.”

And the Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil? He still holds fast his integrity, although you incited me against him to destroy him without reason.” Then Satan answered the Lord and said, “Skin for skin! All that a man has he will give for his life. But stretch out your hand and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your

face.” And the Lord said to Satan, “Behold, he is in your hand; only spare his life.” So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord and struck Job with loathsome sores from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. And he took a piece of broken pottery with which to scrape himself while he sat in the ashes. Then his wife said to him, “Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die.” But he said to her, “You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?” In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Raindrop”
Chopin Prelude, op. 28 No.15

Kristin Hammond

PSALTER READING

“Psalm 26”

Gloria Jones

Vindicate me, O Lord, for I have walked in my integrity, and I have trusted in the Lord without wavering. Prove me, O Lord, and try me; test my heart and my mind. For your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in your faithfulness. I do not sit with men of falsehood, nor do I consort with hypocrites. I hate the assembly of evildoers, and I will not sit with the wicked. I wash my hands in innocence and go around your altar, O Lord, proclaiming thanksgiving aloud, and telling all your wondrous deeds.

O Lord, I love the habitation of your house and the place where your glory dwells. Do not sweep my soul away with sinners, nor my life with bloodthirsty men, in whose hands are evil devices, and whose right hands are full of bribes. But as for me, I shall walk in my integrity, redeem me and be gracious to me. My foot stands on level ground; in the great assembly I will bless the Lord.

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Pastor Michael

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(congregation)

Gloria Jones

God of steadfast love, we have ignored your many gifts; we have forgotten to give thanks in all things. We have taken for granted the air we breathe, the food that nourishes our bodies, even the love of family and friends. We have forgotten that all these gifts come from you. We have sinned with our lips and in our hearts. Unlike your servant Job, when we are tested we do not say, “Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?” Forgive our selfish ways and turn our hearts to you.

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read by the Pastor)

Pastor Michael

Even before we ask, God promises to redeem us and forgive us. In God’s abundant grace, our feet stand on level ground, and we are clothed in honor and glory. **AMEN**

NT EPISTLE READING *“Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12”*

Gloria Jones

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. It has been testified somewhere, “What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him? You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor, putting everything in subjection under his feet.”

Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, saying, “I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.”

INVITATION TO OFFER OUR BEST GIFTS TO GOD

Pastor Michael

Today is World Communion Sunday. It is on this day that all Christians commit themselves to celebrating Communion together. And yet in most places, we look around and realize we are still so very far apart. Sadly, it is still the rare congregation which is truly mixed in age, race, background, and belief. It is on this World Communion Sunday that we remember we are called to live in unity as the body of Christ. If any has earthly resources and sees a brother or sister in need, let us open our hearts to everyone. May our generosity serve as yet another expression of God's enduring love for all of us." Let us now together offer our gifts to the Lord.

***DOXOLOGY**

**Congregation
UMH#95**

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Pastor Michael

HYMN OF PREPARATION

(verses 1-5)

“Nearer My God to Thee”

**Congregation
UMH#528**

(We ask the congregation to please read (or hum) along as the piano plays)

GOSPEL LESSON

“Mark 10:2-6”

Pastor Michael

SERMON

“And A Child Will Lead Them”

Pastor Michael

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Mary Frances Gunn

PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor Michael

Celebrating Holy Communion

*(Please remember the communion elements of the bread and juice will be provide
in a sealed container to be received individually.*

And now, with the confidence of children of God around the world, let us pray together as Jesus taught us to pray, saying,

LORD’S PRAYER

Pastor Michael

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom (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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, (kin-dom), the power, and the glory, forever. AMEN

***PRAYER AFTER HOLY COMMUNION**

***BENEDICTION**

Pastor Michael

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS



Today is World Communion Sunday.

**This is a Special Sunday with a special offering to help
United Methodist Leaders worldwide with educational loans.**

**We welcome to our friends from the Warrenton UMC
as they join us for worship.**

**We still need volunteers for liturgist each week.
Please call Sue Hicks or Mary Frances Gunn if you wish to help.
If you want to provide special music – let Mary Frances know.
We now have recordings of the worship services available as a link.**

