

WORSHIP & PRAYER

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY



These worship resources are part of the World Communion Sunday pastor and leader kit. They can be adapted for your context and integrated into your worship service with the other material in the kit. **They are based on Psalm 137.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER:

Come, all who sit by rivers of sorrow, who have hung up their hope and wondered if God still sings.

PEOPLE:

We come carrying exile in our bones, dislocation in our hearts, and longing in our prayers.

LEADER:

This is the table where memory is honored, where story is sacred, where strangers become siblings.

PEOPLE:

We come to taste and see that the Lord is good, to feast on grace, to believe again in belonging.

LEADER:

Around the world, across languages and landscapes, a holy table is set.

PEOPLE:

We come not because we are worthy, but because Christ calls us in love.

ALL:

Come, let us worship the One who welcomes, the One who remembers, the One who feeds the whole world with hope.

PASTORAL PRAYER

God of the rivers and the wilderness, of Babylon and Jerusalem, we come to you today with the deep ache of a world that still knows displacement. We pray for all who are wandering, refugees fleeing war, immigrants seeking welcome, souls lost in systems that forget their name. May they find rest. May they find home. We pray for the ones whose faith feels the size of a mustard seed, tiny, unsure, overwhelmed. May they know that even the smallest act of trust can plant forests of transformation. Help us show up, as servants, as neighbors, as those willing to set the table for others. We lift up those in sorrow, those grieving loss, carrying illness, navigating fractured relationships. Hold their brokenness with tenderness. Bring healing where healing can come, and peace where it cannot. We pray for the church universal, each congregation celebrating Communion this day, each voice singing in their own key of grace. Let our unity not erase our difference, but celebrate it, a foretaste of the kingdom where every tribe, every language, every story has a place. And God, where the world breaks trust and justice is delayed, let your Spirit stir us toward equity, let your church rise to embody compassion, and let your table always remain open, never guarded. In the name of Christ who breaks bread with the broken, we pray. Amen.

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

Generous God,

You have set a table that stretches from Charlotte to Kinshasa, from Bogotá to Seoul.

You have fed us with grace and invited us into your holy community of justice and joy.

So now, we offer back to you a portion of what we have received.

May our gifts, of money, time, and lives, be used to extend your welcome,

to build tables in places long denied a feast, and to nourish hope in hearts still waiting for home. Bless and multiply these gifts for your glory and your people. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Go now as those who have been fed, not only with bread and cup, but with remembrance, mercy, and the wild welcome of Christ. Let your faith, even if only a mustard seed, uproot indifference, plant compassion, and prepare a place for someone else to be seen, to be heard, to be healed. Wherever you go, Babylon or Jerusalem, downtown or dirt road, may you carry the table with you. And may the Spirit of God go before you to stir courage, walk beside you to offer peace, and dwell within you to keep setting the table of grace. Go in love, go in justice, go in belonging. Amen.

Giving in The United Methodist Church is more than a financial act — it's a bold expression of faith. It fuels ministry across borders, languages, and cultures, and becomes a witness to God's expansive love. **Together, we give not just to sustain what is, but to make room for what can be — extending Christ's table so that all may find a place and a purpose.**

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