

**Worship Service from First Presbyterian Church of Magnolia  
Sunday, October 4, 2015**

*The liturgist and pastor will meet in the hall outside the choir room a couple of minutes prior to the start of the service at 10:45am. After a short prayer with the choir, the pastor will enter followed by the liturgist and choir. The pastor will step into the pulpit, welcome everyone, and make announcements....*

*The preacher will then ask...*

“Are there any other announcements or concerns of the church that need to be made known at this time?..... Thank you.”

*The preacher will take a seat.*

PRELUDE "In Christ There Is No East or West" - Gilbert M. Martin      Dr. Elizabeth Davis

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP "Lord, Draw Us Near" - Dan Dykema      The Choir

*After the Prelude, the liturgist should step to the lectern and say,*

“Would you join me in reading the responsive call to worship adapted from First Corinthians 10 and printed in our bulletins?”

CALL TO WORSHIP

(adapted from 1 Corinthians 10)

Our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea.

**And all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink.**

For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ.

**The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ?**

The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ?

**Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.**

Let us worship God beginning with prayer...

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Let us pray... God of all, we thank you for adopting us as your children, for melting the hardness of heart that locks us into our own narrow point of view and keeps us from sharing our lives fully with brothers and sisters who are different from us. As we acknowledge our one Lord, let us also share one spirit and purpose as well, which will challenge our smallness of heart and bring us humbly to take our place in the one body of Christ, His church. Teach us, that we might fulfill our role as parts of his body and members of your family. Amen.

Would all of you who are able please stand with me and join in singing our opening hymn, “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”, number 438 in our Hymnals.

*The liturgist should step back from the microphone for the hymn.*

\*HYMN OF PRAISE

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

*The Hymnal #438*

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

*After the hymn, the preacher will step into the pulpit and say...*

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, make God out to be a liar, and build walls between ourselves and those we have been called to serve. But if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just, quick to forgive our wrongs and restore us to a right relationship with himself and others. In penitence and faith, let us confess our sins before God and one another

by praying together the prayer of confession as it's printed in our bulletins, pausing for a moment at its conclusion for a brief period of silent prayer. Let us pray....

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

You created us for profound love, O God, and through Jesus, You have called us to share it with others. You make us spiritually hungry, so that we will search for you within ourselves and in the lives of others. Instead, we seek to numb our feelings and feed our hunger with junk. We turn on our televisions to tune out the world around us. We shop for what we think will satisfy our longing for beauty or goodness. We eat without considering the worth or value of our food. Forgive us, O God. Touch us once again in our deep places, the wells of hunger that only you can fill. Fashion us once again to be your loving and united family, alive for you in all that we say, feel, and do. Amen.

**\*SILENT CONFESSION**

*(Pause for about 30 seconds of silence.)*

**\*THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

God did not send His Son to condemn the world, but to save it. Those who believe in him are not condemned but are forgiven and healed through Him. Friends believe the Good News!

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!**

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

*The Hymnal #579*

***Glory be to the Father, & to the Son, & to the Holy Ghost;***

***As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, World without end. Amen, Amen.***

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Having been made right with God, let us share the peace of Christ with one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

*Share the peace of Christ with others as you will.*

*After a few moments, the liturgist will step into the lectern and say...*

**“Please be seated.** At this time I want to invite all of our younger friends to come forward for a Word from the Lord brought to them by Ms. Karen.”

*The liturgist will take a seat.*

**CHILDREN’S SERMON**

*(All Singing)*

***Jesus friend so kind and gentle, little ones we bring to thee;***

***Grant to them thy dearest blessing. Let thine arms around them be;***

***Now enfold them in thy goodness, from all danger keep them free.***

Place two devices in front of the children that use the same-sized battery: for example, a flashlight and a radio. Hold up the battery and ask them what it does. Then put the battery in the flashlight and turn it on. Remove the battery, put it in the radio, and turn it on. Stress that the very same battery can provide power for two very different things: The light of a flashlight and the music of a radio. Remove the battery from the radio, hold it up and say that the Holy Spirit is kind of like a battery: The apostle Paul tells us that "there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit ... there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone" (vv. 4, 6). Point out that there are many different kinds of gifts and talents in the church: wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy (vv. 8-10). Ask them if these different talents have different power sources. Shake your head no, and say that "all these are activated by one and the same Spirit" (v. 11). Have the children name some of their talents:

Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity. Ask them if any are better than the other, or have a stronger power source. Close by saying that all are good, and all are powered by the very same Holy Spirit of God.

*As the children begin to leave the front, the Choir will stand...*

**THE ANTHEM** "In This Moment of Remembrance" - Dale Wood **The Choir**

*After the Anthem, the liturgist will return to the lectern and say...*

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Our first lesson this morning is taken from the fourth chapter of Paul's Letter to the Ephesians, beginning with the first verse. You are encouraged to follow along and you can find the passage on page #1018 in your pew bibles.

Listen once more for the word of God...

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness & meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all.

But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift... And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.

*The liturgist will sit down on the Chancel.*

*The preacher will step into the pulpit & say...*

Our Gospel lesson for today is taken from Matthew, the twenty-third chapter, beginning with the eighth verse. You are encouraged to follow along and you can find the passage on page #858 in your pew bibles.

Listen now for the word of God...

"But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brethren. And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. Neither be called masters, for you have one master, the Christ. He who is greatest among you shall be your servant; whoever exalts himself will be humbled, & whoever humbles himself will be exalted."

Leader: ... This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## THE SERMON

"One Bread, One Body"

Ray Duke, an elder in my first church in Port Neches, spent several months each year planning the reunion for his WWII combat unit. He spent hours each day for 6 months every year planning everything in detail-- including special arrangements for those whose age had made increasingly difficult to attend and take part.

I remember the Sunday morning after church, when a young woman in our church asked Ray why he "wasted" so much time each year on this reunion project. Ray was stung by her choice of the word "waste", and thought for a moment before he answered her question with a question.

“Is it a ‘waste’ for you to plan a Christmas dinner for your family? When you have to figure out how you’re going to sit 14 people around a table meant for six? Or how to fit 4 families in three bedrooms? Is it a problem for you to make two desserts-- one that is sugar-free for your diabetic aunt and then another for everybody else? Of course not! And why, because they’re family. You don’t just share DNA and a common blood, you share a heritage, experiences, memories, and struggles just like any other family. You love them and you know you can count on them just as they know that they can count on you for help in any crisis. They will put their lives on the line for you. And when you die, or when they do, you know that there will be some one to mourn your passing, some one to carry you to your final rest, some one to offer a prayer and shed a tear. That is what it means to be a family. These men aren’t my fellow soldiers, they are my brothers, part of my family. We faced the same dangers, shed the same blood, fought for the same cause, saved by the same sacrifice of the same brothers, who didn’t get to return to their wives and children. So we meet, we rejoice, and we remember. For the wives and children who need help, we are there. So, no, it is not a waste.”

Our celebration of the Lord’s Supper this morning wont bring an immediate end to conflict or dissent. But it may serve to remind us of the God we all love and serve, the God who is moving us all, in spite of our recalcitrance to that inexorable end when the unity we know by faith will be realized in this world.

We are children of one Father, saved by the sacrifice of one perfect man who loved us with one perfect love, to provide us all the same glorious future. Communion comes from two Latin roots “Com” meaning with and “munis” meaning gift. One gift-- one body, one blood. So like the 3rd Army-- We meet. We rejoice. We remember.

A young man in his twenties lived through the terror of being in the World Trade Center on the day the twin towers came down on 9-11. He was on the forty-seventh floor and when the people were told to stay, his youth and his instincts told him otherwise. He ran down fort-seven flights to safety. It would seem natural that he would suffer a sense of survivor’s guilt— but as it turns out, that was not the struggle he faced in the weeks and months following 9-11.

What was his problem?-- he was unable to get out of his mind the scene that he left behind—people of all ages, races, genders, nationalities praying, [some] in languages he could not [even] understand, in postures of prayer with which he was unfamiliar. All were praying to one God. he had been raised to think that the baptism he had experienced was the only baptism, and that the church he attended was the only true church.

He asked a pastor sitting by him on the train one morning a year later, “What am I to make of that?...Suddenly, my God seemed embarrassingly narrow. As I was running down the stairs, I couldn’t help but think of the God who is claimed by all these people.”

This young man had just encountered the one [family] that Jesus calls us to. He had a vision of God’s intent for humanity, a distinct expression of faith: one message, one God, one flock, one shepherd, one hope. He understood that God’s intent for humanity is that we will be one people.”

This is the essence of what we celebrate on World Communion Sun-day; the fact that though we are many, though we are diverse, though we live in different countries, and speak different languages, and even pray in different ways, we are all one family, one body, one in Christ Jesus.

Let us remember. Let us rejoice. Let us share with one another one body, one blood.  
PASTORAL PRAYER

O our one Lord, who calls forth one faith and names us all in one baptism, we pray for the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church-- for Catholic and Protestant, orthodox and unorthodox, evangelicals and liberals, who in their differing ways give testimony to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. As we share one Teacher and Savior, let us share one spirit and purpose as well, so that the new humanity you are bringing to light will be seen in our common praise and our steadfast love.

You are one God and by the blood and body of your Son, you have determined that we shall be one people. Give us the wisdom to hold on to what we need to be one church, united by the gift which we have received, by the future which you have promised, by the struggles common to us all, and by the fearful fate that awaits us if we refuse to put aside our differences. Give us the grace to lay down those things that you can do without. Give us a vision of your breadth and length and height which will challenge our smallness of heart and bring us humbly together.

As we gather together around your family table hosted and supplied by our Lord Jesus, may we be so filled with your goodness that this bread and this wine will be food that endures to eternal life, sustaining our witness and service in Christ's name to the end of our days. May we take our place in the communion of all the saints, and feed upon your mercy forever. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*The pastor will take a seat after the Pastoral Prayer.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Malotte*

*(The congregation will sing in 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, & the power & the glory, forever. Amen.**

*After the Lord's prayer, the liturgist will return to the lectern and say...*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

As Christ gave up selfish ambition and conceit for human beings like us, may we offer our best for sisters and brothers who need the message we can send and the practical help we can provide through our offerings. Let us continue our worship with the presentation of our tithes & offerings.

*The liturgist will take a seat until the Doxology.*

THE OFFERTORY

Dr. Elizabeth Davis

"One Body We, United at the Banquet Feast" Trad. Korean melody, arr. Michael Ryan

\*DOXOLOGY (In Unison)

The Hymnal #592

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

*After the Doxology, the ushers will return to the front with the offering plates and a tray of bread and wine. The liturgist will return to the lectern and say...*

## \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray... We empty our pockets, trusting you, O God, to provide all that we need. We present ourselves for your service because you have given so much of yourself to us in so many ways. We ask that you would receive what we bring and follow these gifts with your blessing so that every tongue on earth may confess Christ as Savior and share in that same mind which so powerfully demonstrates your love for us and our love for one another. Amen.

## \*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us remain standing and reaffirm our Christian faith as it is expressed in the traditional version of the Apostles' Creed printed in our bulletins. Let us say what we believe. . .

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

The liturgist will then say, "Let those who are able remain standing as we all sing together our Hymn of Invitation, "Come Share the Lord", #2269 in our *Sing the Faith* hymnal supplement.

*The liturgist will go stand & sing with the other servers on the front pew.*

\*HYMN OF INVITATION "Come, Share the Lord" *Sing the Faith* #2269

*The preacher will invite the congregation to... "Be seated."*

## THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

### **The Invitation**

At his last meal with his disciples, our Lord Jesus gave us a way to remember his sacrifice of love for each of us by using bread and wine to represent his body and blood. We who could never save ourselves, have been saved by the sacrifice of a sinless lamb, the Son of God.

There is an old Arab proverb that says, "He who breaks bread with me can never be my enemy." As we break bread together, we are reminded of our oneness with each other and with our Lord. All who feel alone, isolated by their own sins or the sins of others, are invited to come and to be welcomed by the One who gave Himself for you.

### **The Words of Institution**

On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord took bread, and after he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples saying: "Take, eat. This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In like fashion after they had eaten, he took the cup. After he had given thanks, he gave it to his disciples saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, drink ye all of it."

These are the gifts of God for the people of God. For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again in final victory.

### **The Distribution of the Elements**

### **The Prayer After Receiving**

Gracious God, you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. You have fed us with the bread of life, and renewed us for your service. Help us who have shared Christ's body and received his cup, to be so renewed in our love for you & for others, that we may remember always the debt of love we owe, and that our love may become your love reaching out into the life of the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION

“One Bread, One Body”

*One bread, one body, one Lord of all,  
One cup of blessing which we bless.  
And we, though many, throughout the earth,  
we are one body in this one Lord.*

Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman or man, no more. *Refrain.*

Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord of all. *Refrain.*

Grain for the fields, scattered & grown, gathered to one, for all. *Refrain.*

\*THE CHARGE AND BLESSING

You have come together as members of Christ's body. You have drunk once more of the Holy Spirit. Now go and share your gifts in service to God's world. If you are a foot, walk the path of justice. If you are a hand, touch others for the sake of healing. If you are an eye, remain open to visions of God's kingdom. If you are an ear, listen for God's word, especially in the world's pain. As the Spirit uses you to re-present the body of Christ, may you know the powerful love of the One who created you, the touching grace of the One who redeemed you and the indwelling life of the One who gives you strength. Amen.

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

Now, when at last we part, it gives us inward pain;  
But we shall still be joined in heart, and in Him meet again.

\*POSTLUDE

Dr. Elizabeth Davis