

# Contemporary Worship

October 4, 2026

*Time after Pentecost - Lectionary 27*

*World Communion Sunday*

*Commemoration of St. Francis of Assisi*

*Today we gather with the whole people of God to give thanks for the gifts of creation and the witness of St. Francis, whose life reflected a deep love for God's good earth and all its creatures. On this World Communion Sunday, we also remember that Christ's table reaches across every boundary, gathering us as one body in many places and many languages. In today's Gospel, Jesus tells a story of a vineyard entrusted to those who are called to care for it. As we hear this challenging parable, we are invited to consider what God has entrusted to us and how we respond to the gifts of grace, creation, and community. May our worship renew us for lives of faithful stewardship, reconciliation, and love.*

## GATHERING MUSIC

*Let Everything (Praise the Lord)*

– Smith/Bashta/Ingram/Barrett/Feucht

*Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.*

*Let everything that has breath praise the Lord, praise the Lord.*

*With all of my heart, with all of my strength, with all that I have,  
I will sing. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.*

*There is a river that flows unrestrained from Your heart,  
Canyons of mercy so deep I could never depart.*

*Father, Your wonders are endless.*

*Open my eyes to believe. Awake my soul.*

*Morning by morning, Your faithfulness shines like the sun.*

*Heaven's on fire, alive with the brilliance of love.*

*Father, Your wonders are endless.*

*Open my eyes to believe. Awake my soul.*

## WELCOME

Leader: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the companionship of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

Assembly: **And also with you.**

## OPENING SONG \*

*Firm Foundation*

*A \* in the order of service indicates that those who are able are invited to stand.*

*All sing **BOLD** print.*

*Chorus:* **Jesus, You're our firm foundation.  
We know we can stand secure.  
Jesus, You're our firm foundation.  
We put our hope in Your holy Word.  
We put our hope in Your holy Word.**

|                                 |                                     |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Verse 1: We have a living hope. | <b>We have a living hope.</b>       |
| We have a future.               | <b>We have a future.</b>            |
| God has a plan for us.          | <b>God has a plan for us.</b>       |
| Of this we are sure.            | <b>Of this we are sure...chorus</b> |

|                                 |                                     |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Verse 2: Your Word is faithful. | <b>Your Word is faithful.</b>       |
| Mighty in power.                | <b>Mighty in power.</b>             |
| God will deliver us.            | <b>God will deliver us.</b>         |
| Of this we are sure.            | <b>Of this we are sure...chorus</b> |

*"Firm Foundation" words and music by Jamie Harvill and Nancy Gordon  
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## HOLY GOSPEL\*

Matthew 21:33-46

*Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders who are plotting his death, revealing that their plans will, ironically, bring about the fulfillment of scripture.*

**Leader:** The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

**Assembly:** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>33</sup> "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. <sup>34</sup> When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. <sup>35</sup> But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. <sup>36</sup> Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. <sup>37</sup> Then he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' <sup>38</sup> But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' <sup>39</sup> So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. <sup>40</sup> Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" <sup>41</sup> They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

<sup>42</sup> Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures:

'The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone;  
this was the Lord's doing,  
and it is amazing in our eyes'?

<sup>43</sup> "Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. <sup>44</sup> The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

<sup>45</sup> When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. <sup>46</sup> They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

Assembly: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## SERMON

## SONG \*

*In Christ Alone*

Verse 1: In Christ alone my hope is found,  
He is my light, my strength, my song;  
This Cornerstone, this solid ground,  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
When fears are stilled when strivings cease.  
My Comforter, my All in All,  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

Verse 2: In Christ alone, who took on flesh,  
Fullness of God in helpless babe!  
This gift of love and righteousness,  
Scorned by the ones He came to save.  
Till on the cross as Jesus died,  
The wrath of God was satisfied.  
For every sin on Him was laid,  
Here in the death of Christ I live.

Verse 3: There in the ground His body lay,  
Light of the world, by darkness slain;  
Then bursting forth in glorious day,  
Up from the grave He rose again!  
And as He stands in victory,  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me;  
For I am His and He is mine,  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

Verse 4: No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
This is the power of Christ in me;  
From life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny!  
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man  
Can ever pluck me from His hand;  
'Till He returns or calls me home,  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

*"In Christ Alone" words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend*  
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## **PRAYERS \***

*The assembly responds to each petition ending in "Hear us, O God,"*

**Assembly: Your mercy is great.**

*The assembly responds to the final petition ending with "through Jesus Christ our Lord."*

**Assembly: Amen.**

## **PEACE \***

**Leader:** The peace of the Lord be with you always!

**Assembly: And also with you!**

*The assembly greets each other with  
"peace be with you...and also with you."*

*You're invited to share God's peace with those around you.*

*If you're worshipping on Facebook, you may also greet one another in the comments.*

## OFFERING

Cornerstone – Mote/Liljero/Myrin/Morgan/Bradbury

*As we respond to hearing God's Word and prepare to feast at God's table we contemplate the many ways we serve the Kingdom of God through our time, talents, and gifts.*

*Offering plates are available at each entrance to the sanctuary and the QR code below can be used to give our tithes and offering.*



*My hope is built on nothing less, than Jesus' blood and righteousness.  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly trust in Jesus' Name.*

*Christ alone. Cornerstone. Weak made strong in the Savior's love.  
Through the storm, He is Lord. Lord of all.*

*When darkness seems to hide His face, I rest on His unchanging grace.  
In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.*

*When He shall come with trumpet sound, oh may I then in Him be found.  
Dressed in His righteousness alone. Faultless stand before the throne.*

## CONFESSION \*

Leader: Let us come before God with open hearts,  
trusting in God's mercy and grace.  
Let us pause to confess our sins.

*Silence is kept for reflection and personal prayer.*

Leader: Gracious God,

**Assembly: we confess that we don't always live the way you call us to live.  
We have been distracted, self-centered, and impatient.  
We have ignored the needs of others  
and failed to care for your creation.  
Forgive us, change our hearts,  
and help us follow Jesus with greater love.  
Amen.**

## **WORDS OF FORGIVENESS \***

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION \***

## **LORD'S PRAYER \***

**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 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, and the power,  
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

*All those who confess Jesus as Lord and Savior are welcome to the table.  
We invite you to come forward to receive the communion elements from the servers.  
You will be handed a wafer from the server and are invited to select a cup of wine from the tray.  
Pre-packaged elements of grape juice and gluten free wafers are available  
in the baskets at the communion rail and at each entrance to the sanctuary.  
You may partake of the elements at the communion rail and dispose of the cups and packaging in the baskets  
at the end of each communion rail or take the elements back to your pew to partake of them and dispose of  
the cups and packaging after the service.  
"Bread from the Lord's Table" and/or a pastoral blessing are available for children who do not yet commune.*

**Leader:** Come to the table of Christ, where there is room for all.

*As you are served communion:*

**Communion Server:** The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you  
**Communion Receiver:** Amen.

## **One Bread, One Body**

*Chorus:* 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.

*Verse1:* Gentile or Jew, servant or free,  
Woman or man, no more...*chorus*

*Verse 2:* Many the gifts, many the works,  
One in the Lord of all...*chorus*

*Verse 3:* Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,  
Gathered to one for all...*chorus*

*Words & Music: John Foley, SJ, b. 1939*

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## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*Leader:* Let us pray.

Gracious God,  
you have nourished us at the table of Christ.  
Send us forth to care for your creation, love our neighbors,  
and serve the world in peace.  
Make us faithful stewards of your gifts and one body in Christ.

**Assembly: Amen.**

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION & SERVICE**

### **BLESSING \***

*Leader:* May God bless you with love for all creation,  
the grace of Christ to guide your way,  
and the Spirit to make you instruments of peace.

**Assembly: Amen.**

## SONG \*

*We Will Walk with God*



We will walk with God, my broth-ers, we will walk with God,  
We will walk with God, my sis - ters, we will walk with God,



we will go re - joic - ing till the king-dom has come,



we will go re - joic - ing till the king-dom has come.

Text: Swaziland traditional, trans. by John L. Bell, b.1949, © 2002, The Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent  
Tune: Swaziland traditional

## DISMISSAL \*

Leader: Go in peace as you care for creation, love your neighbor,  
and share the gifts God has given you.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

## SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor Leslie Fox Lott, Transition Pastor

Pastor Denny Asp, Associate Pastor

Deacon Diane Schwiger-Alexander, Director of Youth & Family

Lisa Parrott, Director of Sunday School

Chad Baker, Director of Worship & Music

Praise Team

## FLOWER DEDICATION:

*The altar flowers are given in loving memory of Margaret's mother,  
Thora Phelps, by Vic and Margaret Hahn.*

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