

Sending

*Benediction

*Closing Song: "Siyahamba/We Are Marching in the Light of God"

We are marching* in the light of God (4x)

We are marching*, oh, we are marching* in the light of God. (repeat)

****Additional verses: praying, singing***

Words & Music: South African © 1984 Utryck, admin. Walton Music Corp., OneLicense #A-721171

World Communion Sunday

October 6, 2024



Worship Participants

Pastor: Dr. Joel Kok ♦ Piano: Will Breems ♦ Guitar: Laremy DeVries ♦ Drums: Savannah Lief
Cello: Benjamin Ploegstra ♦ Vocalists: Corrie DeVries, Sevriena Postma
Sound: Jeff Ploegstra ♦ Video: Marty Vander Plaats ♦ CCLI #493458 ♦ OneLicense #A-721171

Hearing Assistance



A telecoil hearing-loop system sends a signal into the sanctuary. If your hearing aid is t-coil equipped, try switching to the t-coil receiver. An FM hearing assistance system is also available for ears without hearing aids. Consult the sound operator for assistance.

Portions of today's liturgy written by Rev. Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Luke 13:29

People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God.

† Bulletin cover art: *Open Table*, Block print with oil-based ink by Lauren Wright Pittman

Gathering

Welcome

*Call to Worship

If you are hungry,

there is room at God's table.

If you are weary,

there is a seat saved for you.

If you dream of belonging, then we will practice belonging here.

From north, south, east, and west, God invites us home.

Let us worship our nourishing God.

*Song: "Lord Most High"

LUYH 593

*God Greets Us, We Greet One Another

*Song: "In Christ There Is No East or West"

LUYH 268

vs.1,2—all, vs.3—women & children, vs.4—men, vs.5—all

Renewal

Prayer of Confession

Creator God, we hear your invitation to love our neighbors as ourselves,
to live like we belong to one another.

And yet, what is out of sight is often out of mind.

Forgive us for training our hearts to focus only on what is in front of us.

Forgive us for ignoring the tie that binds us to all of creation.

Forgive us for assuming that you being with us
means you can't be with others too.

Our gaze has been too narrow.

Open our hearts. Expand our understanding.

Help us to celebrate the many places you are present in this world.

Remind us of the ties that bind us to all of creation.

With hope in our hearts we pray, amen.

Words of Assurance: Revelation 7:9-10

p.1921

"After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice:

**Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever. Amen.**

The Invitation

We invite you to come down the center aisle to the communion table at the front of the sanctuary. You may partake at the table or take it back to your seats to partake there. Gluten-free bread is available on the table.

Communion Song: "Gift of Finest Wheat"

LUYH 815:2,3,5

"We Will Feast in the House of Zion"

Chorus: We will feast in the house of Zion.

We will sing with our hearts restored.

He has done great things, we will say together.

We will feast and weep no more.

1. We will not be burned by the fire, he is the Lord our God.

We are not consumed by the flood,

upheld, protected, gathered up. (to chorus)

2. In the dark of night, before the dawn, my soul, be not afraid.

For the promised morning, oh how long?

Oh God of Jacob, be my strength. (to chorus)

3. Every vow we've broken and betrayed, you are the faithful one.

And from the garden to the grave,

bind us together, bring shalom. (to chorus)

Text & Music: Sandra McCracken, Joshua Moore © 2015 Drink Your Tea Music, joshmooreownsthismusic (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.)

*The Thanksgiving: Psalm 103:1-4

p.939

Praise the Lord, O my soul;

all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

Praise the Lord, O my soul

and forget not all his benefits—

who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,

who redeems your life from the pit

and crowns you with love and compassion.

Join us in the feast! Join the world in this feast!
This is Christ's table.
Come break bread and experience the community God formed us to be.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of the lost and the found,
On this World Communion Sunday, we admit that we are hungry.

We are hungry for justice.

We are hungry for beauty.

We are hungry for peace in the corners of the world that ache.

We are hungry for friendship across party lines.

We are hungry for closer relationships and deeper faith.

We are hungry for bread that nourishes our bodies and souls.

So now, we lift up to you the deepest longings of our hearts,
the hunger pangs that weigh heavy on our spirits.

Hear now the things that our souls hunger for:

We offer our silent prayers.

Gracious God, we are hungry, but we are also hopeful,
because at this table we are reminded of what community can look like.

Here, we remember what love tastes like,

Here, we remember what welcome feels like.

Here, we are united.

So again, we turn to you with our prayers—prayers of gratitude.

Hear, once again the countless things we have to give thanks for:

We offer our silent prayers.

The Institution: 1 Corinthians 11

Memorial Acclamation

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:

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

Dying he destroyed our death.

Rising he restored our life.

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Prayer of Consecration, concluding with the 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.

**"Salvation belongs to our God,
who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."
Amen! Thanks be to God.**

Invitation to Giving

Offering our gifts is an important part of our response to God—connecting our worship with a life of discipleship—and is a way to participate in the ministry of Covenant CRC here in this building and around the world. Offering boxes are available, or check your bulletin announcements for more ways to give.

Prayers for the Church and World

Word

Children In Worship Dismissal: "I Will Hide Your Word Inside My Heart"

LUYH 761:1

Children ages 3 years old through kindergarten are invited to a time of worship designed especially for young children and can gather in the fellowship hall with the helpers. Our young guests are welcome to participate in this service.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: James 3:1-12

p.1883

Message: "Fires and Fountains"

Pastor Joel Kok

*Song of Response: "They'll Know We Are Christians"

LUYH 256

Table

Invitation

People of God, Scripture says that people will come from north and south, east and west to sit at God's Table in the Kingdom of God.

And until that beautiful, promised day when all of creation will share a table with Christ, we will keep gathering at this Table.

At this table, we will tell the story of God's love.

At this table, we will receive Jesus through the bread and cup.

At this table, none will be turned away, for Jesus welcomes all.

At this table we will dream of a better world, where all are fed.

And at this table, none will leave hungry. So, come!