

*A Service Of  
Word and Table  
For  
World Communion  
Sunday*



**Invitation**

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin, and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

**Prayer of Confession - Africa**

Christ, Jesus, Lord, I bear your name. No eyes can see it. It is not written on my forehead. No hand can touch it, it is not tattooed on my skin.

I bear your Name, Christ, Jesus, Lord, engraved in the depths of my heart, with letters of love. Who can take it away?

Christ, Jesus, Lord, I bear your name. Nothing can take it away. I shall not shout it from the housetops but people will be able to tell it from my eyes and my hands and my lips, which, because of you, bring happiness. Then people will say: "It's true! He/She bears his name."

Lord, forgive your Church, for not having known at all times how to convey you and announce you to the ends of the earth.

Forgive your Church, for having lived, often, among the powerful and for having been firmly identified with them, instead of with those who perish in prison because they talk too much about love.

Forgive your Church, for having used your name as a lie; for having closed its eyes instead of opening them.

Forgive your Church, for having hidden its poverty under the appearance of wealth, and for having hidden its weakness under the cloak of saintliness.

Forgive your Church, and give it the strength of renewed Hope so that it may live in your love and gather all people together united in this love.

In Jesus' Name. **Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon - The United Congregational Church of Southern Africa**

Christ is our peace; those who are divided he has made one. He has broken down the barriers of separation by his death and he has built us up into one body, with God. To whomsoever repents and believes he has promised reconciliation. So live as people reconciled.

**Amen.**

## **Passing the Peace**

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You have made from one every nation and people to live on all the face of the earth.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. He commissioned us to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth and to make disciples of all nations, and today his family in all the world is joining at his holy table.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

Renew our communion with your Church throughout the world, and strengthen it in every nation and among every people to witness faithfully in your name. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**