

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost – Communion Sunday – October 5, 2025– 10:30A
World Communion Sunday – Staff Appreciation Sunday

Order of Worship

The Community Gathers

Prelude –

Instrumental Ensemble

Lighting of the Altar Candles –

A Word of Greeting and Welcome/Centering Words –

Minister 'Ainise Isama'u

Where do you see human suffering? How might you participate in World Communion Sunday in solidarity with those who suffer?

Opening Hymn – Great Is Thy Faithfulness UMH#140, v.1,2

Instrumental Ensemble

Giving God Glory As We Come to Worship

Call to Worship (L: Leader, P: People)

Julie Inouye

Written by: Rev. Taikaku Obata (Ube Church, UCC in Japan)

One: In a world that remains divided and in conflict, God is inviting us, to make us one.

Many: Today we gather around one table, in answer to God's will.

One: What do we find at today's table?

Many: God's love, which endures all things and connects all things.

One: What is not at today's table?

Many: The many powers of the world, which seek to stand over others.

One: Let us repent, and give thanks to God's power to bring salvation to all who believe.

Many: Thanks be to God! Make us witnesses of Your love.

All: Let us worship together the true God, who makes us one.

Opening Prayer

Julie Inouye

Holy and Triune God, your table transcends time and space. As your disciples on World Communion Sunday, we join our voices to the songs and prayers offered to your name throughout the world. Increase our faith and give us grace to love and forgive one another, as you have loved and forgiven us. We remember all your beloved children who suffer this day – especially the victims and refugees of war. We hear the echo of their broken lives in the songs of lament in today's scriptures. Help us bear witness to their suffering without fear. Give us the courage to live in love with you, in you, and for you. For the sake of all your beloved children, we pray. Amen.

Clergy & Staff Appreciation

Derek Murakami, SPRC Vice-Chair

Message for the Children (In Us All)

Minister 'Ainise Isama'u

The Word of God for the People of God

Scripture Lesson: **1 Corinthians 12:12–27 (CEB)**

Julie Inouye

Christ is just like the human body — a body is a unit with many parts, where even the weakest parts are necessary, and all parts have mutual concern.

We were all baptized by one Spirit into one body, whether Jew or Greek, slave or free, and we all were given one Spirit to drink.

The body isn't one part but many.

If the foot says, "I'm not part of the body because I'm not a hand," does that mean it's not part of the body?

If the ear says, "I'm not part of the body because I'm not an eye," does that mean it's not part?

If the whole body were an eye, what would happen to the hearing? And if the whole body were an ear, what would happen to smell?

But as it is, God has placed each one of the parts in the body just as he wanted.

If all were one and the same part, what would happen to the body? But as it is, there are many parts but one body.

So the eye can't say to the hand, "I don't need you," or, the head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you."

Instead, the parts of the body that people think are weakest are the most necessary.

The parts that we consider less honorable are the ones we honor most. The private parts of our body that aren't presentable are the ones given the most dignity.

The parts that are presentable don't need that.

God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the part with less honor, so that there won't be division in the body and so that the parts might have mutual concern for each other.

If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part gets the glory, all parts celebrate with it.

You are the body of Christ and parts of each other.

In the church, God has appointed first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, gifts of healing, the ability to help others, leadership skills, different kinds of tongues.

All aren't apostles, are they? All aren't prophets? All aren't teachers? All don't perform miracles, do they? All don't have gifts of healing, do they? All don't speak in different tongues, do they? All don't interpret, do they?

Use your ambition to try for the greater gifts. And I'm going to show you an even better way.

¡Mirad cuán bueno y cuán delicioso es habitar los hermanos juntos en armonía!

CHAD: While Andie is reading in Spanish, can you put the English on a slide?

Psalms 133:1 (CEB)

Look at how good and pleasing it is when families live together as one!

John 17:21-23

Minister 'Ainise 'Isama'u (*from*

Ko e Tohi Tapu Katoa, the Tongan Bible)

21 'Oku ou lotu ke hoko hake ke ni taha, 'Eiki, 'oku ke 'i hoku totonu 'a hoku tokoni, pea 'oku ou 'i ho'o totonu; ka ko ia pe ke hoko hake ke ni 'i ho'o totonu; ke 'ikai ke fakama'u 'a e lalolagi 'oku ke 'i hange ko e nāe tohi mai ia ke mau.

22 Kuo ou foaki ki ai 'a e mamahi 'oku ke foaki kiate au; ke ni taha mau, hange ko ke taha.

23 'Oku ou 'i ai 'i he'ene; koe 'i ai 'i hoku totonu; ke ni fakavē ke ni taha kae kamata pe ko ni taha fakataha; ke iloa 'e he lalolagi 'oku ke tohi mai ia ke au, pea 'oku ke mālōli kiate kinautolu hange ko koe mālōli kiate au.

CHAD: While 'Ainise is reading in Tongan, can you put the English on a slide?

John 17:21-23 (CEB)

21 I pray they will be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. I pray that they also will be in us, so that the world will believe that you sent me.

22 I've given them the glory that you gave me so that they can be one just as we are one.

23 I'm in them and you are in me so that they will be made perfectly one. Then the world will know that you sent me and that you have loved them just as you loved me.

Sermon – DEI: Diversity, Embodied IN Christ

Rev. Allison Mark

Pastoral Prayer/Lord's Prayer –

Rev. Allison Mark

We Respond to God's Grace

Celebration of Holy Communion –

Clergy Team

Today, we join Christians around the world who gather at Christ's table in many languages, cultures, and traditions. On this World Communion Sunday, we remember that though we come from many places, we are one body, sharing one bread and one cup in Christ.

INSERT: UMC PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

CHAD: Can you add this to slides BEFORE our regular liturgy

INVITATION TO THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: Like a sower, God scatters, and God will give growth.

Many: God scatters life across the earth.

One: God scatters people in every land and nation.

Many: God scatters disciples far and wide.

One: Like a shepherd, God gathers.

Many: God gathers people into families of faith.

One: God gathers people into communities of love.

Many: God gathers people into the body of Christ.

INSERT: UMC COMMUNION LITURGY

LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE: (no slide necessary)

Today, on this World Communion Sunday, God gathers us at one table with disciples of every language, culture, and tradition. From cathedrals and chapels, from huts and houses, from fields and cities, God gathers us in many places and makes us one in Christ. At this table, we remember the cost of discipleship and rejoice in the richness of Christ's gifts poured out for the whole world.

Communion Prayer

Creator of the Universe, Maker of mountains and rivers, deserts and seas, vineyards and wheat fields, we praise you for the life you have given us and for all living things around us! From the seeds you scattered, you gathered the people of Israel, giving them your covenant and your promise. In the fullness of time, you came to us in Jesus of Nazareth, child of Mary and the Promised One of Israel. We honor his teachings, we weep at his suffering, and we rejoice in his risen life. With angels and archangels, with our ancestors in faith, and with our brothers and sisters who gather at your table across every continent and island, we ask your blessing on this bread and this cup. May these gifts of Christ's body and blood strengthen us to be the gathered and scattered Church in the world—many in culture and expression, yet one in Spirit, one in truth, one in faith, one in love. Gather your scattered seeds into your home of grace and peace, where all creation is renewed in you.

Communion Hymns – Our Great Savior arr. by Rich Heffler

Instrumental Ensemble

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (after Communion) - (no slide necessary)

We thank you, generous God, for the nourishment of this table and the living presence of Christ among us. We thank you for the gift of growth and grace in this life-renewing feast. We thank you for the company of your great cloud of witnesses, here in this place, in every land, and

throughout the generations. Take your gathered people and scatter us again into the world—renewed, invigorated, and committed—that, so nourished, we may take root and bear life-giving fruit to feed, heal, clothe, and comfort, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Offering Our Gifts –

Minister ‘Ainise Isama’u

Offertory – Blessing to the World 2x

Instrumental Ensemble

Doxology – Glory Be to the Father UMH#71

Instrumental Ensemble

Prayer of Dedication –

Julie Inouye

Divine Master, purify the motivations of our hearts, as we offer you the works of our hands. May we work tirelessly, until your servants can confidently say, “We have done only what was ours to do.” May these gifts inspire us to be as generous in our giving and with our forgiveness, as you have been with us. Amen.

Going Forth in God’s Holy Name

Faith in Action – The Ministry of Faith UMC

Minister ‘Ainise Isama’u

Closing Hymn – Shine Jesus, Shine v.1,2

Instrumental Ensemble

Commission and Blessings

Rev. Allison Mark

Written by: Rev. Dr. Ian Alexander (Church of Scotland)

We have been guests of Jesus Christ. We have received God’s good gifts. Now we go out in the energy of the Spirit to our homes, to our neighborhoods, to our workplaces ready to put Jesus’ words and being into action: to be the salt of the earth, to be light to the world, to seek justice, to make peace, to preserve the creation, to gain life for all.

The Blessing of the God we know as Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit be upon us all, today and every day. Amen.

Passing of the Peace – Postlude