



# **Venice United Church of Christ**

**October 5, 2025**

**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**World Communion Sunday**

**Rev. Barbara Dickason, BCC**

**“Preparing Supper”**

**United in Christ’s love,**

**A just world for all**



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**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**World Communion Sunday**  
**October 5, 2025**

**Singing Prelude**

*Sing a New Song*

Shutte

**Sing a New Song      Sing Twice**

*Refrain (Unison)*



Sing a new song un - to the Lord; let your song be  
sung from moun - tains high. Sing a new song  
un - to the Lord, sing-ing, "Al - le - lu - ia."

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**Welcome and Announcements**

**We Approach God's Presence**

**Meditation/Bringing in the Light of Christ**

*Bread of the World*

Bourgeois

## **Responsive Call to Worship**

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

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

What do we find at today's table?

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

What is not at today's table?

**Everything that seeks to divide and separate us from God's love  
and the gift of God's community that we discover in each other.**

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

**Together let us worship God, who makes us one.**

## **Prayer of Global Invocation**

*video*

Pastor General Miguel Tomás Castro

This morning, we are worshipping and celebrating World Communion Sunday with congregations around the world. Pastor General Miguel Tomás Castro, pastor of la Iglesia Bautista Emmanuel in San Salvador invites us all to join together in our morning prayer of invocation. The English translation is below.

*(English Translation)*

*Dear sisters and brothers in Global Ministries, and on World Communion Sunday with the churches, Disciples of Christ, and the United Church in Christ in the United States. From El Salvador, this sister church, Emmanuel Baptist Church, joins you in this moment of witness. We pray.*

*God of all mercy, who has blessed us in your son Jesus, Messiah, Redeemer, we want to thank you for all that Jesus has taught us and all that Jesus has bequeathed to us. We are grateful that He exhorts us to remain in this communion of faith and hope, so that we may be one family, one people, proclaiming that Jesus Christ is the hope of the world. We believe that your Holy Spirit will make us more fraternal, more of a family, more of your people, to proclaim the precious message of the Kingdom of God on this earth and in this history.*

*Bless all the work and witness of Global Ministries, as well as all its counterparts in Latin America and throughout the world. May honor and glory be to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer, Amen.*

**\*Hymn**

*Morning Has Broken*



# Morning Has Broken

C Am Dm G Dm G C

1. Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing, black-bird has  
 2. Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from heav - en, like the first  
 3. Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing born of the

Em Am Em F G C Am F C

spo - ken like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the  
 dew - fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet  
 one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - ery

Am G C G Am Dm GW C

morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!  
 gar - den, sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.  
 morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

WORDS: Eleanor Farjeon, 1931

MUSIC: Gaelic melody; arr. Dale Grotenhuis, 1985

BUNESSAN  
55.54D

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### **\*Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

Spirit of Encouragement,  
You thrive in our times of doubt.  
Your work takes root even if the drought of fear destroys our fertile soil.  
Yet we allow our mistrust of you and our neighbors  
to disturb our growth.

**We ask you to increase our faith when we are refusing to cultivate it.**

**Motivate us to seek new ways of exploring our faith.**

**Embolden us to trust even when fear creeps into our minds. Amen**

### **\*Words of Grace**

In seasons of drought and rains,  
God is still giving us the encouragement to grow in faith.  
Know that through the grace of God,  
we will continue to find the strength  
to stretch ourselves and expand our faith.

**Rejoice! Give thanks to God!**

### **\*Response**

*Rejoice*

Plumtre/Messiter

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!**

## **We Encounter God in the Word**

### **First Reading**

John 17:20-23

*The Voice*

The Word of God. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Story for Young People**

*Children of God*

Martin

Child-ren of God, let's love\_\_ one an-oth - er. Love is a gift, a bless-

- ing of God.\_\_ Love one an-oth - er, sis - ters and broth- ers.

Love is a gift of God.\_\_

**Anthem**

*A Communion Invitation*

Martin/Courtney

**Second Reading**

Luke 17:1-10

*NRSVue*

The Word of our Messiah. **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

“Preparing Supper”

Rev. Barbara Dickason, BCC

### **We Respond to God’s Grace**

**Prayer Concerns and Sharing Gratitude**

**Silent Prayers**

**Pastoral Prayer and the \*Lord’s Prayer (sung standing)**

**\*Our Father, which 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, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen**

### **We Share God’s Love**

**Story of Connection**

**Invitation to Generosity**      *(Offering plates are found by each doorway for your use.)*

**\*Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise God all creatures here below,**

**Praise God above, ye heavenly host, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.**

**\*Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

**Bread of Life and Vessel of Endurance,**

**Fill us with all that we need each day to share your amazing**

**joy and love with the world. Encourage us to stretch ourselves**

**in our giving. Help us to see that we have all the faith we need**

**to keep co-creating with you. Amen.**

## **Invitation to Holy Communion**

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

**God scatters life across the earth.**

God scatters people in every land and nation.

**God scatters disciples far and wide.**

Like a shepherd, God gathers.

**God gathers people into families of faith.**

God gathers people into communities of love.

**God gathers people into the body of Christ.**

*(The ministers and servers will prepare the elements; the congregation is then invited to come and receive the bread and the cup.*

*If you cannot come but wish to receive, the servers will come to you.)*

**Communion Meditation**

*Hymne*

Vangelis

### **Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**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.**

**Hymn**

*I Eat This Bread*

Owens

(remain seated until the “Alleluia” verse)

**I eat this bread, I eat this bread, I eat this bread in remembrance of you. (Repeat)**

**I drink this cup, I drink this cup, I drink this cup in remembrance of you. (Repeat)**

**I praise your name, I praise your name, I praise your name, I praise your name. (Repeat)**

**\*Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! (Repeat)**

## **We Go to Carry the Light**

**\*Blessing and Benediction**

**\*Sending Blessing**

*Threefold Amen*

DANISH

**Postlude**

*I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

ELLACOMBE

**Please remain seated in silence for the Postlude as the Light of Christ is carried into the world. The worship has ended; our service begins.**

Worship materials are taken from

*Increase Our Faith: Service Prayers for the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost*

by Rev. Michelle L. Torigian

Global Ministries, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ and The United Church of Christ;  
<https://www.globalministries.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/WCS-Communion-Liturgy.pdf>;

Rev. Dr. Ian Alexander, Church of Scotland.

### **Supporting Our Service Today**

**Acolyte:** Allison Rowe      **Liturgist:** Gayle Davis

**Communion Steward:** Suzi Benscoter

**Welcome Table:** Sandy Barrie      **Greeter:** Janet Beardsley

**Head Usher:** Nancy Bennett      **Usher Team:** Sue Atkinson, Sandy Barrie,  
Jim Daugherty, Nancy Knudson, Howard Taylor, Kausie White

### **Technology Team**

*(Live Streaming, Camera, and Sound Technicians)*

Gary Woodrum, Debra Mosely, Maria Groody,  
David Jack, Linda Newton, Wally Davis, Patty Fjetland

The **Lord's Table** was decorated by Victoria Augustine

The **Sanctuary Flowers** are given by

Dave Van Nortwick:

“In loving memory of my bride of 58 years, who left us 5 years ago”

and by Dee Rogers:

“In loving memory of Bob Dube...On our anniversary and always, you'll be in my heart.”

The **Church Sign** was changed by Faye Newton and Lisa Sclafani

**Sunday Librarian:** Ellen Schleicher

**Fellowship Time:** Wendy Seeley and Barbara Talmage



**Senior Minister**

**Rev. Barbara Dickason**

**Music Staff**

**Barbara Quinn:** *Music Director*

**Lynda Weston:** *Bella Handbell Director*

**Other Staff**

**Gary Leidheiser:** *Custodian*

**Barb Quinn:** *Office Assistant*

**The church office is open M-Th, 9-1.**

**Email will be monitored daily when the office is closed.**

**Pastor Barb's day off is on Friday. Please reach out in case of Emergency.**

**All other emails received over the weekend will be answered the first of the week.**

**If you need help with the App, see Maria Groody, Sharon Leidheiser,  
or Pastor Barb during Fellowship Time.**

**If you do not receive the Connect, please call the office and let Barb Quinn know.**

**Would you like to donate to VUCC online? Use your Smart Phone to scan the QR code  
below, and it will take you directly to our donations page. It is really easy!**



**This Week at a Glance**

**Monday, October 6**

10:00 AM Women's Fellowship Board—CR

12:00 PM SpiritFed!

Noon Bible Study via Zoom (link below)

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83576594637?pwd=U2024sKmOPiy3CyMqV4OarYUtofaom.1>

Meeting ID: 835 7659 4637

Passcode: 913882

(The easiest way to connect is to use the link in the Connect.)

3:30 PM Pastoral Relations Committee—Parlor

**Tuesday, October 7**

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

6:00 PM Girl Scouts

**Wednesday, October 8**

9:00 AM - Noon Library Hours

10:00 AM Bible Study—CR

11:00 AM RCSSC—Naar Hall

6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

## **Calendar Continued**

### **Thursday, October 9**

10:00 AM AAUW—Naar Hall

1:00 PM Church Family Life Comm.—CR

6:00 PM Daisies

### **Friday, October 10**

8:30 AM Men's Weekly Coffee—Panera

9:00 AM Knit Wits—Parlor

4:40-7:30 PM SCDC—Naar Hall

### **Saturday, October 11**

10:00-11:30 AM CARE Ministries Organizing Meeting—Naar Hall

Part Two: Blueprints and Initiating Construction

### **Sunday, October 12**

9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary

9:00-9:45 AM Library Hour

10:00 AM Worship in situ and virtual

Neighbors in Need Offering Begins

1:00-11:15 AM Library Time

11:00 AM Fellowship Time

## **Coming Dates/Events (A Sampling)**

- 9:30 AM, Friday, October 31, Shelf Varnishing for Immokalee—Naar Hall
  - 4:00 PM Thursday, November 6, Handbell Rehearsals Begin
- Sunday, November 9, Feeding the Hungry and Food Pantry Mission Moment, New Members Received, Mission Market
  - 6:00 PM Saturday, November 15, Venice Area Audubon Society will host biologist/photographer/author Stan Tekiela in Naar Hall
    - Sunday, November 16, after worship, Basket Auction
  - 9:00 AM, Monday, November 24, Decorate Sanctuary/Naar Hall for Advent
- 7:00 PM Tues., Nov. 25, Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at Jewish Congregation of Venice
  - 2:00 PM, Friday, December 5, Women's Fellowship Tea—Naar Hall
  - 7:00 PM Tuesday, December 9, Blue Christmas Worship Service
    - Sunday, December 14, Christmas Fund Offering Begins
  - 7:00 PM Wednesday, December 24, Christmas Eve Worship Service

## **2026**

- Sunday, January 11, Mission Fair—Naar Hall
- Tuesday, January 20, Women's Trip to Spanish Point in Osprey
  - Sunday, January 25, CROP Walk
- 5:30 PM, Tuesday, January 27, Word Made Flesh Dinner, Naar Hall
- 10:00 AM-4:00 PM, Saturday, January 31, Venice Garden Club Flower Show—Naar Hall
  - Friday/Saturday, February 6-7, Venice Coin Club Show—Naar Hall
    - Sunday, February 8, On the Spot Mission Moment
- 8:00 AM-1:00 PM, Saturday, February 14, Women's Fellowship Rummage Sale
  - Saturday, February 28, Christian Education Event TBA
  - Sunday, March 8, Immokalee Sunday with Alan Penick