

Prayer at the Close of Communion:

Lord, this special communion reminds us of being members of a global community. We have feasted at your table. As you have nourished us, may we go into your world to bring a feast of peace and hope to others, listening with loving ears and acting with loving hearts, in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. AMEN.

***Song** *Time Now To Gather* **TFWS No.2265**

***Benediction/Sending Forth:**

We are no longer islands unto ourselves. We are a worldwide community, living in the love and abundant mercy of God. Go in peace to serve God by serving others in need. AMEN.

Please join us for Sunday School at 9am in the Fireside Room.

- Oct 1: **D is for Deconstruct** (why be religious in the 21st century?)
- Oct 8: **E is for Empire** (How do Government and Religion connect?)
- Oct 22: **F is for Fideism** (What if you can't understand until you believe?)

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"Vermont Hills UMC is a congregation of reconciliation where our Hearts and Minds and Doors are truly open."

Vermont Hills United Methodist Church
October 1, 2017

World Communion Day

***Please rise in body or in spirit**
Unison prayers are in bold.

Welcome

Video: Complete Joy

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Welcome to this house today! We are delighted to have you here!
Congregation: We hunger for a word of hope.
 Liturgist: You have come to the right place. Here you will be fed on the life-giving love of God.
Congregation: We thirst for healing in our lives.
 Liturgist: At the table, you will be fed and your thirst quenched.
Congregation: Thanks be to God who provides for our needs.
 Liturgist: Place your trust in the Lord, for the Spirit is with you.
Congregation: There are times when we are so fearful.
 Liturgist: Place your trust in the Lord, for God is with you.
Congregation: There are times when we wonder if we can get past our troubles.
 Liturgist: Come, place your trust in the Lord, every day, in all your ways.
Congregation: We come to seek healing, love, and mercy. AMEN.

***Song** *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty* **Hymn No. 64**

***Passing of the Peace & Pennies From Heaven**
(We collect change for Neighborhood House as the children receive your Pennies from Heaven offering.)

Opening Prayer:

Lord, we gather with Christians all around the world to receive your nourishing words of hope and peace. Be with us as we seek your will and wisdom. **AMEN.**

Be with us in all our days and in all our ways. As you walked with the Israelites in the desert, when they had given up hope, you came to them with nourishment and your steadfast love. As Jesus walked with your people, your love was made abundantly clear through acts of love and mercy. Be with us this day as we gather to hear your word. Inspire and encourage us in all that we do, that we may serve you faithfully, bringing hope and your message of love to your thirsting world. In Christ' name, we pray. **AMEN.**

Centering Meditation (by Theresa of Avila)

“May today there be peace within.
May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.
May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.
May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you.
May you be content knowing you are a child of God.
Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.
It is there for each and every one of us.”

Scripture:

Matthew 28:16-20 The Voice (VOICE)

¹⁶The eleven disciples, *having spoken to the Marys*, headed to Galilee, to the mountain where they were to meet Jesus. ¹⁷When the disciples saw Jesus there, many of them fell down and worshiped, *as Mary and the other Mary had done*. But a few hung back. They were not sure (*and who can blame them?*). ¹⁸Jesus came forward and addressed *His beloved disciples*.

The disciples don't know what to think or how to act. Nothing like this has ever happened before.

Jesus said: I am here speaking with all the authority of God, *who has commanded Me to give you this commission*: ¹⁹Go out and make disciples in all the nations. Wash them through baptism in the name of the *triune God*. ²⁰Then disciple them. *Form them in the practices and postures that I have taught you*, and show them how to follow the commands I have laid down for you. And I will be with you, day after day, to the end of the age.

Homily: The Big Bang of the Gospel

Choir Anthem

Break the Bread

By Natalie Sleeth

Morning Prayer:

Open our hearts this morning, O Lord. Help us to listen closely to the words of encouragement that you offer to us. Let us internalize those words so that they become the very fiber of our being and frame our thoughts and actions. Make us mindful of all those this day who lives in places of fear and greed, of oppression and hate, of poverty and hopelessness. Enable us to be those who will work for peace and hope for all your people. We lift so many people in our prayers this morning. Many of our loved ones face situations of ill health and mourning, of loneliness and fear, and of alienation and sorrow. Bring them comfort and peace. Our hearts cry out for people all around our world who are endangered by systems of hatred and fear. Touch the hearts of these dear ones, O Lord. Make us those who bring messages and actions of hope and faith. Give us courage and nourish our spirits with this worldwide communion of bread and wine. Strengthen us to truly be your witnesses this day and all our days. **AMEN.**

*Song

This Is a Day of New Beginnings

Hymn No. 383

Offertory:

In gratitude for all that we have received, let us offer our gifts and tithes this day. AMEN.

Prayer of Dedication:

We have been blessed with so much. Take these gift and cause them to work for the places that they are needed in this world which you have loaned to us. **AMEN.**

Communion: World Communion

All are welcome at the table. We practice an open table.