

Election Day Communion Service

November 8, 2016; 7:00 – 8:00 pm

7:00 – 7:05	Welcome (purpose of the evening) Reading of Psalm 46, Responsive Reading Ephesians 4:4-6	Andrew
7:05 – 7:15	Worship <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Here For You – (Pad)• Enough – (No Pad)• Everlasting God – (Pad)	Robert
7:15 – 7:20	Corporate reading of the Lord's Prayer Guided prayer <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Confession• Remembrance of God's sovereignty• Pray for Leaders• Submit to leaders	Andrew
7:20 – 7:30	Worship <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We Believe – (Pad)• Lord I Need You – (Pad)• Overcome – (Pad)	Robert
7:35 – 7:40	Preparation for Communion (Ephesians 2:14-22)	Andrew
7:40 – 7:50	Communion (Instrumental music and songs) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sweetly Broken – (Pad)• Jesus Paid It All – (Pad)• Amazing Grace – (No Pad)	
7:50 – 8:00	Reading of Psalm 146 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Doxology Benediction	Robert

Welcome

The Election Season has shown how divided we are when it comes to politics. Sadly, this is true even within the church. So tonight we want to remember who we are as Christ followers. We want to remember that what unites us as brothers and sisters in Christ is far greater and more powerful than what divides us. We gather tonight to remember that no matter what happens God is still sovereign and that our primary task as a church is to love God and love others.

I ask that during the service as best as you are able, don't check your phone for the latest news. There is plenty of time for that later.

We want to invite you free of distraction to slow down and experience the goodness of God. May Psalm 46 be our prayer tonight:

¹ God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.

² Therefore we will not fear, though
the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the
heart of the sea,

³ though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with
their surging.^[c]

⁴ There is a river whose streams make
glad the city of God,
the holy place where the Most
High dwells.

⁵ God is within her, she will not fall;
God will help her at break of day.

⁶ Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;
he lifts his voice, the earth melts.

⁷ The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

⁸ Come and see what the LORD has
done,
the desolations he has brought on
the earth.

⁹ He makes wars cease
to the ends of the earth.
He breaks the bow and shatters the
spear;

he burns the shields^[d] with fire.

¹⁰ He says, "Be still, and know that I
am God;

I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."

¹¹ The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Call to Worship

Would you stand with me and join me in this responsive reading based on Ephesians 4:4-6? I will read the plain text, and if you will respond with the bold, italicized text.

We have come together as one.

One people, gather in the name of the one God.

We will worship together as one.

One community, giving praise and honor to the Righteous One.

We are being empowered as one by One.

One body and one Spirit, called to the hope of one calling,

One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

One God and Father of all who is above all and through all and in all.

Now in the name of the Three-in-One, we act as one.

One people, giving witness to the power of One.

[Robert Bartko leads worship]

The Lord's Prayer

Would you remain standing and join me in praying the Lord's Prayer out loud together as a community?

**Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed by your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
As we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.
Amen.**

Please be seated.

I would like to lead us in a time of silent, reflective prayer for ourselves as individuals, for us as a church and for us a nation. I will give us all a prompt to pray through, and then allow 30 seconds of silence for you to pray with our heavenly Father.

Would you pray with me?

Lord, we come to you tonight as brothers and sisters in Christ wanting to remember the truth of who you have called us, beloved sons and daughters, fully adopted as heirs with Christ.

We begin by confessing our sins to you, specifically as it relates to this election. Confess to God any bitterness, anger, resentment, hatred that you have willingly or unwillingly participated in during this election. As you confess, claim Christ's forgiveness offered to you.

[Silence]

Next Lord, we remember that you sit on your throne, and that no one and no government can ever usurp that throne. We also long for the day when your kingdom will be on earth as it is in heaven. But until that day we remember that you are sovereign over all. Take a few seconds to thank God that He is still king. Thank God that no matter what happens today, tomorrow or four years from now, our God will still be king.

[Silence]

Lord, we come before you as a church, praying for Your church. Almighty Father, your Son, Jesus Christ prayed for his disciples that they might be one, as you are one: Grant that your Church, being bound together in love and obedience to you, may be united in one body by the one Spirit, that the world may believe in him who you have sent, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Ask God for the boldness and tenderness to contribute to the unity of His church and not the tearing down. Ask God to destroy walls between people. Ask God that the world may see our love and unity and from that want to know Jesus Christ.

[Silence]

Lord, we also remember Paul's words to Timothy: "I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth." Pray for our leaders, civic, county, state and national, that they would be men and women of peace. Pray that those that don't know Jesus would come to know Jesus through the unity of the church.

[Silence]

Finally Lord, we also remember Paul's words to the church in Rome: "Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is not authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted." Ask God for a humble spirit to submit to our governing authorities.

[Silence]

Lord we thank you that you hear our prayers. In the name of the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit, we pray for all of this, Amen.

[Robert leads in worship]

Preparation for Communion

As we prepare ourselves for communion, listen to the word of God from Ephesians 2:14-22

For Christ himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Set before us tonight is the Table. And at the Table we remember that we are all sinners saved solely by the broken body and the shed blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We are invited to the table not as Republicans, Democrats, Conservatives or Liberals, but we are invited to the table as brothers and sisters in Christ, all created in the image of God. We are invited not based on anything we do, but based on everything that Christ is for us.

As we come as broken and redeemed people, we look around and realize that the brother or sister standing beside us is the same. No better and no worse.

And as we partake of the bread and the wine, we remember that Christ's death and resurrection were wall destroying acts. The wall of our sin that kept us far from God has been demolished. And the wall that divides us has been demolished. In Christ's death and resurrection, God's desire was to create a new humanity, a new humanity known not for that which divides, but that which unites us—the broken body and the shed blood of Jesus.

So tonight we invite you to the table to remember your brokenness, but also to remember what Christ's death has accomplished—the building up of His church.

Would you pray with me? **[Pray]**

The world has called you to the voting booth to decide which candidate should run the country. We are calling you to the bread and wine, to decide once more who will run your life.

So let us put away our swords and our sound bites. Let us drop our rocks and our nets. Let us come to the table that is not just for the rich and powerful, but for the broken.

Come as you feel led. Linger at the cross if you desire. But on this night, we choose to remember.

Come and receive the body of Christ broken for you, the blood of Christ shed for you.

Communion (music by Robert)

Reading of Psalm 146

Doxology by Robert Bartko

Benediction