

## Communion for Children

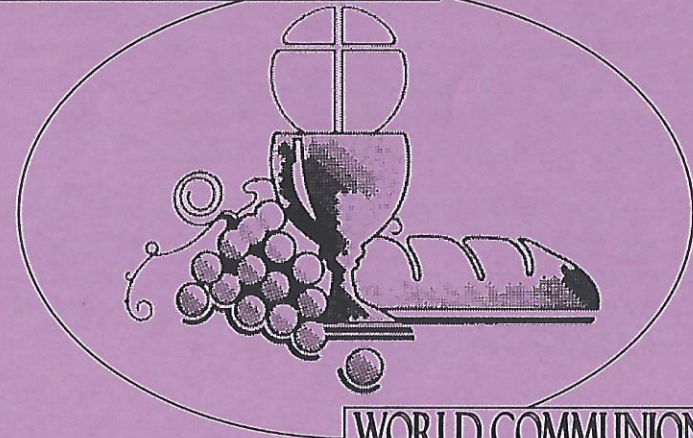
Many have asked whether it is appropriate to allow children to participate in communion. The constitution of the Presbyterian Church states: "The invitation to the Lord's Supper shall include baptized children who are being nurtured and instructed to participate with an understanding of the significance of the invitation to the Lord's Table and of their response in faith."

Because a child's understanding of Communion and his or her faith can best be determined by the child's parents, the Session feels that it is up to the parents to decide if their children should participate.

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## SERVICE OF COMMUNION



## WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

### THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

#### Words of Institution

**F**riends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God! People will come from east and west, from north and south, and sit at the table in the Kingdom of God.

When our risen Lord was at the table with his disciples, he took the bread, and blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him.

This is the Lord's table. Our Savior invites those who trust him to share the feast that he has prepared.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

L: The Lord be with you,

P: **And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: **We lift them up to the Lord our God.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: **It is right for us to give thanks and praise.**

L: Loving God, you made this world marvelous for us to enjoy. You gave Jesus to be our Savior and friend and to bring us to you. You sent your Spirit to make us one family in Christ. For these gifts of your love we thank you, and we join with angels and saints in this joyful hymn of praise.

All:

**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.**

L: For your kindness to us and your goodness to all, we give you thanks.

We thank you that you showed your love by sending your Son, who gave his life for us, and rose again from death, and lives to pray for us forever.

We thank you that he has taken away all that separated us from you and has made us friends with you and with one another.

We thank you that he has brought us together to this table, to strengthen us by his love.

Send your Holy Spirit on us and on these your gifts of bread and cup, that we may know Christ's presence, real and true, and be his faithful followers, showing your love for the world.

All:

**Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, forever. Amen.**

## Preparing the Bread and Cup

L: The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat. This is my body, given to you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me."

Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord until he comes.

## Communion

L: The gifts of God for the people of God.

*(Distribution of the bread and cup: Please hold each until all are served, so we may partake together.)*

### *Distribution of the bread*

L: The body of Christ, given for you.

P: **Thanks be to God.**

### *Distribution of the cup*

L: The blood of Christ, shed for you.

P: **Thanks be to God.**

## Response of Prayer

All:

**Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us in this sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in your eternal kingdom. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**