

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

**Communion
Order of Worship**

August 6, 2017

10:55 AM

ENTRANCE AND PRAISE

Greetings and Announcements

(A nursery for young children is located in the Preschool area downstairs. The congregation is invited to sign the attendance registration pads. We especially appreciate our visitors including an address and phone number.)

Opening Voluntary George Lachenauer
Meditation on "Let Us Break Bread Together"

*Chimes of the Trinity

*Opening Responses

Welcome to this holy place:

House of prayer for many nations; home to all who come.

Welcome to this gathering place:

Friend and stranger, saint and sinner in all who gather here.

Come with hope or hesitation; come with joy or yearning;
all who hunger, all who thirst for life in all its fullness.

Generous God and Generous Savior, touch us through your spirit.

*Proclamation Hymn *Break Thou the Bread of Life* UMH 599

*Call to Prayer:

We gather in God's name.

We claim Christ's promised presence.

My brothers and sisters, not out of fear, but believing that
God is faithful to forgive,

Let us rid ourselves of what we need to carry no longer.

Prayer of Confession and Restoration

Holy God,

Holy and mighty,

Holy and immortal,

Have mercy on us.

*Gospel John 6:35, 41-51 (Pew Bible, NT 98)

For the Word of God in scripture.

For the Word of God among us,

For the Word of God within us.

Thanks be to God.

Homily

The Bread of Life

Dr. Terry Matthews

*Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God above us, maker and sustainer of life, of sun and moon, of water and earth, of male and female.

We believe in God in God beside us, Jesus Christ, the word made flesh, born of a woman, servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree. A man of sorrows, he died forsaken. He descended into the earth to the place of death. On the third day he rose from the tomb. He ascended into heaven to be everywhere present, and his kingdom will come on earth.

We believe in God within us, the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire, life-giving breath of the church, spirit of healing and forgiveness, source of resurrection and of eternal life. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Offering

Offertory Anthem *In Remembrance* arr. Buryl Red

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia!

*The Invitation

*The Story of the Last Supper

Let us pray:

Loving God, through your goodness we have this bread and wine to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. May we know your

presence in the sharing of this bread, so that we may know your touch in all bread, all matter.

We celebrate the life that Jesus has shared among His community through the centuries, and shares with us now. Made one in Christ and one with each other, we offer these gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give both thanks and praise.

Sanctus and Benedictus

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Prayer of Consecration

The Communion

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.

Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.

Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.

Grant us your peace.

Prayer after Communion

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you

(We offer each other the sign of the peace of Christ.)

Blessing

May the everlasting God shield you, east and west and wherever you go. And the blessing of God be upon you.

The Blessing of the God of life.

The blessing of Christ be upon you.

The blessing of the Christ of love.

The blessing of the Spirit be upon you.

The blessing of the Spirit of Grace.

The blessing of the Trinity be upon you. Now and for evermore.

Amen.

*Closing Hymn *Bread of the World* UMH 624

*Dismissal

Let us go into the world rejoicing. It is Christ who goes before us.

Thanks be to God. Amen

*Chimes of the Trinity

*Closing Voluntary *Fanfare Recessional* Alfred Fedak

*Congregation standing as able

Communion at First United Methodist Church - Open Communion

United Methodists practice "open communion." By this we mean that all are invited to the Lord's Table to partake of the sacrament and that none are refused. You do not need to be a Methodist to take communion at a United Methodist Church.

Children in United Methodist Communion

United Methodists not only allow children to receive communion, we encourage it. Jesus said, "Allow the little children to come unto me." Communion is our most tangible way of coming into the presence of Jesus Christ. Bring babies and children too small to handle the elements to communion as well. The communion server will give the baby a special blessing.

Kneeling or Intinction

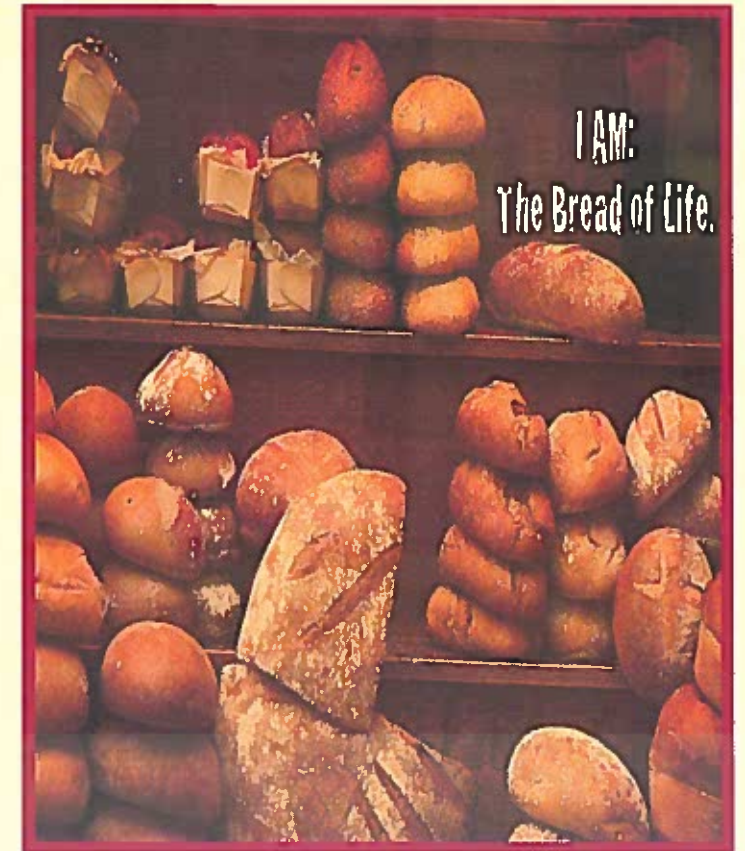
Traditional United Methodist worship has had the people come and kneel at the Chancel rail to receive the elements. In recent years intinction has become a popular way of receiving communion. In intinction you receive communion while standing. The server gives you a piece of bread which you then dip into the cup. At the Sunday 10:55 service we practice both kneeling and intinction. The intinction servers are stationed on the lectern side (left side). You may receive by intinction regardless of whether you are sitting on the left side or the right side of the church. Whether by intinction or kneeling enter by the center aisle and return by a side aisle.

For communion at the rail hold your hands together palms up to receive the bread. The server will place the piece of bread in your hand. Eat the bread, then take a small glass from the tray held by the wine server and drink it. The wine served at First United Methodist Church is unfermented grape juice and is appropriate for any person of any age. When you have finished communion, you may remain at the Altar in prayer for as long as you wish, but keep your hands folded in front of your chest in prayer, so that the server will not mistakenly try to serve you a second time. Return to your pew by the closest side aisle.

If you wish to receive communion but are not able to come forward, please alert an usher, and he or she will direct the communion servers to serve you seated in your pew.

GLUTEN FREE COMMUNION

If you need to receive "gluten free" bread for Communion, please come to the station where the Pastor is serving. Please tell the Pastor when you come forward and you will receive a "gluten free" wafer.



August 6, 2017
Holy Communion
9th Sunday after Pentecost

First United Methodist Church
401 Sixth Street
North Wilkesboro, NC

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"