

First Presbyterian Church, October 6, 2024—World Communion Sunday

Genesis 11:1-9, Acts 2: 1-12

UNITED IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST

**CONGREGATION: PLEASE RESPOND, USING THE BOLD TYPE WHEN YOUR PAGE COLOR IS MENTIONED. YOU WILL BE CUED WHEN TO SPEAK**

**1. Introduction**

**2. Living in Babel**

...So if the purple, blue and yellow people said "Hello": **"Hello"**  
when they were meeting green, pink and turquoise people who said "Hello": **"Hello"**  
they all understood each other.

And sometimes they all said "Hello" together: **"Hello"**,  
because they liked being the same.

At other times they greeted each other using the word "Peace," instead of "Hello." The yellow and blue people, the purple, green, turquoise people and the pink people said it together: **"Peace"**

And they liked the sound of it so much they said it louder: **"Peace"**

And sometimes they turned to someone near them and they said: **"Peace."**

In fact, all these multi-colored people liked being together so much that they had a fear...the fear of being separated from each other and sent out into the world. So together they decided to build a city right where they were, so God would never scatter them apart.

They all said to one another (Genesis 11:4): **"COME, LET US BUILD OURSELVES A CITY, AND A TOWER WITH ITS TOP IN THE HEAVENS, AND LET US MAKE A NAME FOR OURSELVES; OTHERWISE, WE SHALL BE SCATTERED ABROAD UPON THE FACE OF THE WHOLE EARTH."**

**3. Then God Came Down**

**4. So God Confused the Language of All the Earth**

So God confused the one language spoken in Babel, and scattered all the people across the earth.

They could no longer greet one another with the word: "Peace!"

Now when the **pink** people wanted to say "Peace" they said "Shanti": **"Shanti"** (SHAHN-tee) – India

When the **turquoise** people wanted to say "Peace" they said "He Ping": **"He Ping"** (hey ping)– China

When the **green** people said "Peace" they said "Kurtuku": **"Kurtuku"** (kur-TU-ku) –Australia

When the **yellow** people said "Peace" they said "Sohl": **"Sohl"** (sohl) –Iran

When the **purple** people said "Peace" they said "Mir": **"Mir"** (meer) –Russia

When the **blue** people said "Peace" they said "Goom-Jigi": **"Goom-Jigi"** (goom-jee-jee) –Ghana

(The words for "peace" come from: Katz, Karen, Can You Say Peace?, New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2006)

Now, when they all said "Peace" at the same time, they couldn't understand each other. Listen to each other as all you multi-colored people say "Peace": **pink --"Shanti", turquoise--"He Ping", green--"Kurtuku", yellow--"Sohl", purple--"Mir", blue--"Goom-Jigi"**.

They couldn't understand each other so they said it over and over again, louder and louder: **pink - -"Shanti", turquoise--"He Ping", green--"Kurtuku", yellow--"Sohl", purple--"Mir", blue--"Goom-Jigi"**.

but they stopped, because they could not longer understand each other.

God scattered the people across the globe

in God's multi-colored, multi-ethnic, multi-languaged vision of creative diversity!

### **5. And God's Vision Continued to Unfold**

...If they had all been gathered together in one place and the purple, pink, blue, turquoise, yellow and green people tried to communicate peace it still would have sounded like this: **pink -- "Shanti", turquoise--"He Ping", green--"Kurtuku", yellow--"Sohl", purple--"Mir", blue--"Goom-Jigi"**. Even if people spoke loudly, and said their word over and over again, they didn't understand each other: **pink --"Shanti", turquoise--"He Ping", green--"Kurtuku", yellow--"Sohl", purple--"Mir", blue-- "Goom-Jigi"**. And so they stopped.

### **6. Then God Came Down**

...the world that liked the accepted ways of following God more than Jesus' way of following God, that world said: "Enough."

they all said it together: **"Enough"**

Then they said it even louder: **"Enough"**

They said it loud enough to shake the walls: **"Enough"**

### **7. So God Came Down in a New Way**

...The Holy Spirit of God came down to Jerusalem, into the room where Jesus' disciples were gathered, with the sound of a mighty wind:

**ALL: "DIVIDED TONGUES, AS OF FIRE, APPEARED AMONG THEM, AND A TONGUE RESTED ON EACH OF THEM. ALL OF THEM WERE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND BEGAN TO SPEAK IN OTHER LANGUAGES, AS THE SPIRIT GAVE THEM ABILITY." (ACTS 2: 2-4)**

### **8. The People Gathered Together in One Place Again**

...If you had been there that day, and all those people tried to greet each other with "Peace," you would have heard something like this as each of them spoke in their own language: **pink --"Shanti", turquoise--"He Ping", green--"Kurtuku", yellow--"Sohl", purple--"Mir", blue-- "Goom-Jigi"**. (Repeat several times)

### **9. And The Message Is Jesus**

...So here we are this morning, in all our God-given yellow, purple, blue, pink, turquoise and green diversity. Here we are with our different histories, our different continents, our different politics, our different ways of faith, our different languages and customs, our different ages and genders and sexual identities and beliefs. And when we try to speak peace to each other, it still may sound like this: **pink --"Shanti", turquoise--"He Ping", green--"Kurtuku", yellow--"Sohl", purple--"Mir", blue-- "Goom-Jigi"**.

And that sound, that we once heard as confusion, is now the beautiful sound of God-given diversity. The diversity that comes together this World Communion morning in our sanctuary and around the globe as we break the bread and drink the cup together, remembering that are able to love because God loved us first.

And we are each called to bring our diversity into the family of God, so together we can be the ones who now tell the world:

**"OUR GOD HAS DONE GREAT DEED OF POWER:"** (Acts 2: 11)

**"FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON, SO THAT EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM MAY NOT PERISH BUT MAY HAVE ETERNAL LIFE. INDEED, GOD DID NOT SEND THE SON INTO THE WORLD TO CONDEMN THE WORLD, BUT IN ORDER THAT THE WORLD MIGHT BE SAVED THROUGH HIM."**

**AMEN, AND AMEN.** (John 3:16-17)