

WORSHIP HANDOUT  
Sunday October 1<sup>st</sup>  
World Communion  
Joint Worship/Stewardship



OPENING OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

\*SONG OF WELCOME TFWS 2236 Gather Us In (OneLic) vs. 1,3

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

The risen Christ is with us.

**Praise the Lord!**

OPENING PRAYER

**Almighty God,**

**To you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SONG AS CHILDREN GATHER Where Children Belong TFWS 2233

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN: This is a Day of New Beginnings UMH 383 v 1&5

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

**LESSON 1                      Jeremiah 29:4-7, 10-14 CEB**

The Lord of heavenly forces, the God of Israel, proclaims to all the exiles I have carried off from Jerusalem to Babylon: **5** Build houses and settle down; cultivate gardens and eat what they produce. **6** Get married and have children; then help your sons find wives and your daughters find husbands in order that they too may have children. Increase in number there so that you don't dwindle away. **7** Promote the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because your future depends on its welfare.

**10** The Lord proclaims: When Babylon's seventy years are up, I will come and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place. **11** I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the Lord; they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope. **12** When you call me and come and pray to me, I will listen to you. **13** When you search for me, yes, search for me with all your heart, you will find me. **14** I will be present for you, declares the Lord, and I will end your captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have scattered you, and I will bring you home after your long exile, declares the Lord.

**May God add a blessing to this reading.**

**ANTHEM:                      How Beautiful, by Twila Paris**

**\*LESSON 2                      Matthew 21:23-32 CEB**

**<sup>23</sup> When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and elders of the people came to him as he was teaching. They asked, "What kind of authority do you have for doing these things? Who gave you this authority?"**

**<sup>24</sup> Jesus replied, "I have a question for you. If you tell me the answer, I'll tell you what kind of authority I have to do these**

things. <sup>25</sup> **Where did John get his authority to baptize? Did he get it from heaven or from humans?"**

**They argued among themselves, "If we say 'from heaven,' he'll say to us, 'Then why didn't you believe him?' <sup>26</sup> But we can't say 'from humans' because we're afraid of the crowd, since everyone thinks John was a prophet." <sup>27</sup> Then they replied, "We don't know."**

**Jesus also said to them, "Neither will I tell you what kind of authority I have to do these things.**

<sup>28</sup> **"What do you think? A man had two sons. Now he came to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.'**

<sup>29</sup> **"No, I don't want to,' he replied. But later he changed his mind and went.**

<sup>30</sup> **"The father said the same thing to the other son, who replied, 'Yes, sir.' But he didn't go.**

<sup>31</sup> **"Which one of these two did his father's will?"**

**They said, "The first one."**

**Jesus said to them, "I assure you that tax collectors and prostitutes are entering God's kingdom ahead of you. <sup>32</sup> For John came to you on the righteous road, and you didn't believe him. But tax collectors and prostitutes believed him. Yet even after you saw this, you didn't change your hearts and lives and you didn't believe him.**

L: This is the Word of God for all people.

**P: Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE "Can it really be that easy?"

HYMN Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence UMH 626

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION (UMH 7-11)

Sharing Our Joys & Prayer Concerns

Time of Silent and Musical Prayer  
Pastoral Prayer

ANTHEM

A Communion Invitation, by Courtney/Martin

INVITATION

CONFESSION AND PARDON

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved your neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy.**

**Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners: that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.**

**Glory to God. Amen.**

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY UMH #95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

\*UNISON PRAYER

Almighty God,  
giver of every good and perfect gift,  
teach us to give to you all that we have and all that we are,  
that we may praise you not with our words only,  
but with our whole lives. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION (Cont.)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing...

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

**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.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ...

...as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit...

...almighty Father, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

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 now and forever. Amen.

BREAKING THE BREAD

GIVING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

PRAYER RESPONSE

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

\*BENEDICTION and RESPONSE TFWS 2186 Song of Hope

POSTLUDE