

SERMON

"It is The Lord's Table "

Pastor Jenny Lee

NO.2022-40
October 2nd, 2022

We Respond to God's Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

In the Great Thanksgiving, we declare, "In remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us." Gracious God, as we receive your body and blood, we may be united with you, and as share the bread and wine with one another, we may be united in you. Lead us be the living offering to make peace and do justice in the world as did Christ. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison

Holy God, we as we present our offerings to you today, we pray that you will join them with the gifts of other churches. Bless and multiply them to partner with vision bearers and dream casters through the World Communion Sunday scholarships and training opportunities. Give these young leaders strength and wisdom to share Christ's grace and love through your world. We pray in your holy name. Amen!

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

*CLOSING HYMN *Grace Greater than Our Sin*

UMH 365 (vs. 1 & 4)

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Jenny Lee

*POSTLUDE

Toni Koons (G) / Sharon Asp (A & SCF)

Worship Resources "The People of The United Methodist Church"

 **Upper St. Croix Parish**
United Methodist Church
ONE Parish THREE Churches

"17th Sunday After Pentecost"
"World Communion Sunday"



Grantsburg-Central
Since 1897



Atlas
Since 1887



St. Croix Falls
Since 1859

SUNDAY SERVICE:

8:30 AM at Grantsburg with Online Zoom Service
9:45 AM at Atlas (at 10 AM Sunday School)
11:15 AM at St. Croix Falls with Online Zoom Service

CONTACT INFORMATION

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www.upperstcroixparish.org

<https://www.facebook.com/UpperStCroixParishUMC>

Upper St. Croix Parish
Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls
October 2nd, 2022
“17th Sunday After Pentecost”
“World Communion Sunday”

*Please stand if you are able.

***PRELUDE** Toni Koons (G) / Sharon Asp (A & SCF)

*** OPENING HYMN** *This is the Day* **UMH 657**

***MISSION STATEMENT** Responsive

Let us shout our mission statement together.

Let us make the disciples of Jesus Christ all generations with open hearts, open minds, and open doors for the transformation of the world. Amen.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE GREETINGS

“Peace be with you”

We Celebrate New Life in Christ

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Responsive

God declared to the prophet Habakkuk “there is still a vision for the appointed time.” Today we gather in this time and place to praise God, celebrate Holy Communion with Christs around the world and receive a special offering for young leaders.

We come today trusting in God.

We come today delighting in God.

We come today committing to the way of God.

We come today ready to worship in fullness of God’s community. We come today ready to build up peace, justice and righteousness. Amen.

DEDICATING HYMN *For the Bread Which You Have Broken*
UMH 614 (vs. 1, 2 & 4)

OPENING PRAYER Unison

God of dreams and visions, open us to your Word today. Give us a spirit of generosity to equip your children around the world with tools to build up peace, justice and righteousness. As we receive your holy meal, fill us with the energy of a runner, ready

to share your vision of love and grace. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen!

CHILDREN’S TIME

UMH 191 (vs. 1)

Sacrament of Holy Communion

INVITATION FOR COMMUNION

Pastor Jenny Lee

CONFESSION AND PARDON Unison

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 our 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.

(All pray in silence)

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, we are forgiven! **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH 13-14 (See insert)

THE LORD’S PRAYER

GIVING (TAKING) THE HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION PRAYER Unison

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.

Proclamation of God’s Word

***THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON**

1 Corinthians 11:17-34

***THE GOSPEL LESSON**

Matthew 26:26-28

(See insert)

This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

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.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his
disciples,

and said: “take, eat; this is my body which given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it
to his disciples, and said: “drink from this, all of you; this is my blood
of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the
forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living
sacrifice,

in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of
faith.

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

**(Together) Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on
these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and
blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
redeemed by his blood.**

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other,

and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly
banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

*THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 26:26-28

26 While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it
he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.”
27 Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying,
“Drink from it, all of you, 28 for this is my blood of the covenant, which
is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

* THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON **1 Corinthians 11:17-34**

17 Now in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when
you come together it is not for the better but for the worse. 18 For, to begin
with, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions
among you, and to some extent I believe it. 19 Indeed, there have to be
factions among you, for only so will it become clear who among you are
genuine. 20 When you come together, it is not really to eat the Lord’s supper.
21 For when the time comes to eat, each of you proceeds to eat your own
supper, and one goes hungry and another becomes drunk. 22 What! Do you
not have households to eat and drink in? Or do you show contempt for the
church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What should I say to
you? Should I commend you? In this matter I do not commend you!

23 For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord
Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, 24 and when he
had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body that is for you. Do
this in remembrance of me.” 25 In the same way he took the cup also, after
supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often
as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” 26 For as often as you eat this bread
and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

27 Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an
unworthy manner will be answerable for the body and blood of the Lord. 28
Examine yourselves, and only then eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29
For all who eat and drink without discerning the body eat and drink judgment
against themselves. 30 For this reason many of you are weak and ill, and some
have died. 31 But if we judged ourselves, we would not be judged. 32 But
when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be
condemned along with the world.

33 So then, my brothers and sisters, when you come together to eat, wait for
one another. 34 If you are hungry, eat at home, so that when you come
together, it will not be for your condemnation. About the other things I will
give instructions when I come.




This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

OCTOBER CHURCH MISSIONS


ATLAS

Mission committee chair: Peggy Frederickson

<p>INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:</p> <p>Atlas collects and recycles ink jet cartridges and cell phones year round.</p> 	<p>Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Collection</p> 	<p>We will Collecting loose change to support the Moolah for Milk program.</p> 
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GRANTSBURG

Mission committee chair: Deb Hammer

<p>BE A "BACK-PACK BACKER"!</p> <p>REMEMBER ... Every Sunday Is MAC 'N CHEESE SUNDAY! Supporting the Salvation Army's "Happy Kids Back-Pack Program"</p> 	<p>We will be supporting two missions in October:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Local Family Support 2) Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Collection <p>See the bulletin board for details.</p>
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ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh

 <p>Food Shelf (Communion Sunday)</p>	<p>Sailor Hat Offering:</p> <p>October's Sailor Hat offering will go to support the Homeless Shelter</p> 
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Thank you for your support!

TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Ministers All God's People
Pastor Jenny Lee

Central:
 Pianist Toni Koons
 Liturgist Toni Koons
 Acolyte(s) Willow Nyland/Leland Snyder
 Lawn Mowing **Volunteer Needed**
 Fellowship Mary Lou Wright
 Counter **Volunteer Needed**
 Cleaning Charlie Glonek and Sandra Erickson
 Communion Mary Lou Wright and All Together
 Sunday School Younger/Older
 LuAnn Martell/Barb Loomis

Atlas:
 Pianist Sharon Asp
 Liturgist Sue Olson
 Usher(s) Don Schween
 Cleaning **Volunteer Needed**
 Communion Sue Olson and All Together
 Sunday School Younger/Older
 Josie Grimes/Colleen Adams-Schween

St. Croix Falls:
 Pianist Sharon Asp
 Liturgist Karen Sciacca
 Usher(s) Jim Andrews
 Money Counter Peter Gionis
 Bell Ringer Jim Andrews
 Flowers Ladies of the church
 Communion Karen Sciacca and All Together



BREAKTHROUGH PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK:

"This kind can come out only by prayer" (Mark 9:29)
 Please pray every morning at 8:30, if you are able!

Please pray for our Sunday School kids, the Youth Group, and our teachers.

PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) **An Online Zoom Service is scheduled for this Sunday at 8:30 am and 11:15 am.** The link will be posted on our parish website and Facebook page.
Click the LINK to Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84147808460?pwd=SDZleFNubmEvaDBlcytTRzVxMFIIZz09>
Phone: +1 312 626 6799,
Meeting ID: 841 4780 8460, Passcode: 568271
- 2) Our Sunday Sermons are on the website at upperstcroixparish.org under Sermons!
- 3) You may watch a recorded video of the service on our parish Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/UpperStCroixParishUMC>

This Week's Calendar:

Today: 17th Sunday after Pentecost. World Communion Sunday.
God bless you all!

Sunday Worship Service:

- 10/2: 8:30 am Grantsburg with Zoom
9:45 am Atlas (Sunday School- at10:00am)
11:15 am St. Croix Falls with Zoom
- 10/4: 6:30 pm, SPRC Meeting at the Grantsburg Parsonage
- 10/8: 8am, UM Men's Meeting (G)

This Week's Birthdays & Anniversaries:

Karen Sciacca
10/5



If you know anyone's birthday is missing,
please let pastor Jenny know.

Next Sunday (October 9th) Volunteers:

Central:

Pianist	Toni Koons
Liturgist	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland/Leland Snyder
Lawn Mowing	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Fellowship	Paulie Kratchmer
Counter	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Cleaning	Charlie Glonek and Sandra Erickson
Sunday School	Younger/Older LuAnn Martell/Barb Loomis

Atlas:

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Wendell Hauble
Usher(s)	Sue Olson
Cleaning	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Sunday School	Younger/older Cheryl Olson/Jamie Steffen

St. Croix Falls:

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Karen Sciacca
Usher(s)	Jim Andrews
Money Counter	Peter Gionis
Bell Ringer	Jim Sciacca
Flowers	Ladies of the church



Oct. 2nd: World Communion Sunday
(Please join us for a special offering for World Communion Sunday to support Global students and seminarians.)

Oct. 9th: Ad Council Meeting (SCF)

Oct. 12th: Welcoming Dinner for all age Children at Grantsburg

Oct. 16th: Laity Sunday

October 2nd, 2022.
Matthew 26:26-28; 1Corinthians 11:17-34

Pastor Jenny Lee, Ph.D.
Upper St. Croix Parish UMC



“It is the Lord’s Table”

I want to start with something funny. I found this from an internet site: A four year old boy was in church when the wine and communion wafers were passed out. He was very interested in this and started to get up. His mother leaned over and told him that he was not old enough to partake in Communion. Later, when the collection plate came by, he ignored it. His mother again leaned over and tried to coax the nickel out of him. He steadfastly refused, saying, “If I can’t eat, I’m not paying.”

Today is World Communion Sunday. I want to talk about “Communion” and “why we keep World Communion Sunday.” First, let’s consider what Communion is and how it got its name. The Holy Communion or the Sacrament of Holy Communion is a liturgy to receive a piece of bread and a cup of wine (juice) at worship service. Christians believe that as we receive the bread and wine (Communion), we remember how the Lord died for our sins, forgiveness, and love. We believe that we are one in the Lord and one with the Lord as we share the bread and wine. Jesus, our Lord, commanded us to do so as often as possible.

Some churches call it “The Lord’s Supper”, or Eucharist. “The Lord’s Supper” focuses on what “the Lord” has done with his disciples and commanded us to do it. It stresses “the Lord’s Supper.” Catholic Church usually calls it “Eucharist.” The word “Eucharist” is from the Ancient Greek “Eucharistein,” which means “Great Thanksgiving.” It is from when Jesus first gave “thanks” to God at the first Lord’s Supper. The name Eucharist focuses on the meaning of “thanks,” or “gratitude.” The United Methodists typically use the name “Holy Communion.” The “Communion” is from the word “Community,” which means “being together,” “union,” and “unity,” focusing on “unity with Christ” and “unity with one another in the Lord.” Therefore, whatever you call it, it doesn’t matter; it is the meaning we should keep in our minds.

Some denominations of the church believe in “Communion elements” differently. Some denominations believe that the communion elements, “the bread and wine,” became the real body and blood of Christ as the minister blessed them. Some believe that Jesus Christ is present in the elements by the Holy Spirit, and some believe it symbolizes Jesus Christ’s presence. The United Methodists believe that the bread and juice elements symbolize Jesus Christ’s presence. Furthermore, some denominations use real wine, but the United Methodists use grape juice. With regards to the bread case, there are no restrictions. We can use a proper loaf of bread to share with people; like wafers, unleavened bread, homemade bread, sweet honey bread, and so on.

Some churches have restrictions for participants who would receive Holy Communion; such as age, baptism, and membership. Some churches strongly recommend that only people who are over 14 years old, confirmed and are members of the church can receive it. I think I shared my experience: When my father and I attended a Korean Methodist Church as new attendants, they didn’t allow us to receive Holy Communion because we were not baptized and not members of the church yet. I felt rejected, not welcome, and like an outsider. I looked at my father. My father said, “I’m ok because I used to drink wine often.” But I was not sure he really was ok.

The good thing about the United Methodist Church is that we have open hearts, open minds, and open doors. One of the ways we practice these beliefs is we welcome everyone to the Lord’s table. No matter who you are because God loves you, and Jesus invites you to his table. Everyone is welcome because it is the Lord’s table and because it is Jesus’ invitation to receive his love and grace.

As I mentioned before, I attended a Korean Methodist Church, which is relatively conservative. They used homemade bread and homemade wine, and believed the bread and wine, after the pastor's blessing, became very holy, and then they treated them carefully. After the service, they buried the leftover elements like we bury a dead body at a funeral. The Holy Communion service was like a sad funeral service with the grief of the loss. Only those who have a church membership could receive Holy Communion.

However, since I came to the United States, I joined the United Methodist Church and learned about a joyful Communion service. It is like a celebration of a feast at the Lord's table. The Lord's Supper was a feast celebrating the Jewish Holy Day, called "Passover." "The Passover" is the day to remember and celebrate that God rescued the Israelites from Egypt. The Lord's Supper, namely, Holy Communion, is to celebrate our salvation by Christ's love and God's grace, remember Christ's death for our sins, and celebrate our union with the Lord and with one another in the Lord. It reminds us we are one in the Lord, one with the Lord, and one for the Lord, as we share the bread and a cup. It is the table of the Lord's invitation to receive His love and grace. After the service, we can enjoy the leftover bread and juice at fellowship as Jesus did with his disciples.

Early Christians brought bread and wine to the church for Holy Communion as we read the Letter of 1 Corinthians in today's scripture. As we sign up to determine who will bring the bread, they also did so. Some were always able to bring it, but some couldn't do it for several reasons. They thought Holy Communion was like a Potluck, showing up whose bread looked and tasted good, but didn't share with others. They ate their own without sharing after service. While at the service, some ate the bread and wine because they were hungry. Many of those who couldn't bring bread were poor. Eventually, Communion divided the people between those who could bring bread and wine and those who couldn't. The Apostle Paul told them, "Holy Communion is a new covenant of the Lord to love one another and unite with one another. Therefore, if you bring bread, you may share it with others who couldn't bring it. Do not judge each other, but love one another."

World Communion Sunday is the day we practice sharing our bread with those who don't have enough bread, especially for next generation of young adults. In conclusion, I want to share the rest of my story. Since I studied in a seminary in the U.S.A. when I struggled with financial issues, I met a good friend who shared good information. She was a Methodist Seminarian who knew about the Methodist policies. She directed me to apply for a scholarship to the General Board of Higher Education & Ministry (GBHEM), an institution of the United Methodist Church, to support global students and seminarians who would be ministers and leaders in the future. I applied for and received a scholarship from GBHEM from 2009 to 2017. They collect special offerings from the church on World Communion Sunday every year and support many global students, American college students, and seminarians. If I hadn't received the scholarship, I would not be here today. I encourage you to support many students in need, giving a special offering, and noting it as "World Communion Offering." We collect this offering and send it to the Conference. These offerings provide us with credit for our apportionment, like UMCOR giving. It is like we share our bread with those who don't have enough bread. Let's join and make tomorrow different. Thanks be to God. Amen!