

Soli Deo Gloria



**COMMUNITY–WIDE
WORSHIP SERVICE**

Observing the
**International Week of Prayer
for Christian Unity**



Sunday, January 19, 2020, 5:00 PM
First United Methodist Church
Holland, Michigan



*A gathering of
Christians Uniting in Song and Prayer
[CUSP]*

Christians Uniting in Song and Prayer (CUSP) is successor to the team that organized and presented five events in October of last year, commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. CUSP is best described by its mission statement:

In the crucified and risen Christ we are reconciled to God and to one another. This is at the heart of the Christian message to which the Church is called to give witness in the world. Deep and painful divisions among its members today, however, obscure this message and therefore compromise its witness.

Out of a shared commitment to overcome these divisions, CUSP was formed. Located in the Holland community, we are a fellowship of Protestants and Catholics convinced that Christians joining in public assembly to sing and pray together can help to restore and promote our unity. Our conviction is rooted in the acknowledgment that Christian unity is both gift and task. In celebrating together our common faith, we recover a vision of the inestimable gift that God has granted to us in Christ. Renewed thereby in our appreciation of this gift, we go out energized to take up the difficult task of reconciling with fellow Christians whose differences keep us separated.

Participants

Worship Leader: Rev. Tania Dozeman

Homilist: Rev. Benjamin Petroelje

Readers: Angela Wagenfeld,

Maura Reynolds, Mary Johnson

Cantor: Zach Kapla

Soloist: Dr. Sonja Trent-Brown

The Holland Ecumenical Choir

A division of CUSP

Music Director: Robert J. Batastini

Organist: Rhonda Sider Edgington

The DeSales Brass: Jack Bender, director

Participants, including choir members, are from the following area churches: Baldwin St, CRC (Jenison), Bethel CRC (Zeeland), Calgary CRC, Christ Memorial, Central Ave. CRC, Church of the Servant (GR), Covenant Presbyterian, First Baptist, First United Methodist, Fourteenth St. CRC, Grace Episcopal, Graafschap CRC, Holy Family Catholic (Caledonia), Hope Church, Maranatha CRC, Pillar Church, St. Francis de Sales Catholic, Third Reformed, Trinity Reformed, Zion Lutheran

Special Thanks to First United Methodist Church, Rev. Brad Bartelmay, pastor, for their gracious hospitality. To GIA Publications Inc., of Chicago for designing and printing this program. www.giamusic.com

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As we exit this service, a collection will be taken up to support the work of CUSP. This is our only source of revenue. Gifts to CUSP are tax exempt.

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www.cuspholland.org Email: info@cuspholland.org

Send us an email to be put on the mailing list for the periodic CUSP newsletter.

At least once a year, Christians remember Jesus' prayer for his disciples that "they may be one so that the world may believe" (John 17:21). In response Christians come together to pray for their unity. Congregations and parishes all over the world exchange preachers or arrange special ecumenical celebrations and prayer services. The occasion for this special experience is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

The traditional period in the northern hemisphere for the Week of Prayer is January 18 to 25. Those dates were proposed in 1908 by Paul Wattson because they coincide with the feasts of the Chair of St. Peter and the Conversion of St. Paul, which he considered to have symbolic significance for Christian unity. In the southern hemisphere churches have chosen other periods to celebrate the Week of Prayer, often around Pentecost, which is also a symbolic date for the unity of the Church.

Continuing the tradition, the World Council of Churches and the Roman Catholic Church have been inviting their ecumenical partners to provide liturgical texts based on a biblical theme to guide the Week of Prayer since 1968. For 2020, they chose Christians from the island nation of Malta for this task. Located in the Mediterranean Sea 50 miles south of Italy and 175 miles east of Tunisia, this small archipelago embraces about 475,000 inhabitants. Because of its strategic location at the crossroads of major civilizations, it has been ruled in the course of its long history by a succession of powers, including the Carthaginians, the Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Normans, Swabians, the Aragonese, the Knights of the Order of St John, the French and the British. In 1964, Malta became an independent nation in the British Commonwealth. In 2004, it joined the European Union.

The current population of Malta is predominantly Christian, of which the majority profess to be Roman Catholic. However, especially since the early nineteenth century, the nation has been host of growing communities from other Christian traditions, including Anglican, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Orthodox. Today, the ecumenical group *Christians Together in Malta* comprises members from the Roman Catholic Church, the Church of England, the Church of Scotland, the Methodist Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Greek Orthodox Church, the Serbian Orthodox Church, the Russian Orthodox Church, the Romanian Orthodox Church, the Bulgarian Orthodox Church and the Coptic Orthodox Church. The Seventh Day Adventists are also part of the Council.

Ecumenical collaboration among these members has been instrumental in promoting the cause of Christian unity in Malta, and we consider it a privilege to celebrate this service in solidarity with our Christian brothers and sisters there. At the same time, we have adapted the liturgy to reflect the realities in our own context here in Holland. May God's Spirit unite our hearts as we worship God together!

Preludes (*Remain seated*)

- *The DeSales Brass*
- *Choir: Precious Lord, Take My Hand – Setting by Nathan Carter*
Commemorating tomorrow's Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Call to Prayer: A House of Prayer for All People – *Carlton R. Young*

GATHERING HYMN

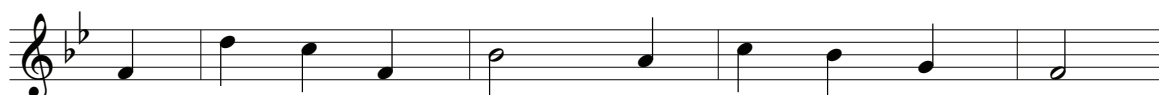
All please rise

HYMN: Sing Praise to the Lord

Stanza three will be sung by the choir alone.



1. Sing praise to the Lord! Praise God in the height!
2. Sing praise to the Lord! Praise God on the earth,
3. Sing praise to the Lord, all things that give sound,
4. Sing praise to the Lord! Thanks - giv - ing and song



Re - joice in his word, you an - gels of light.
In tune - ful ac - cord, you saints of new birth.
Each ju - bi - lant chord, re - ech - o a - round.
To him be out - poured all a - ges a - long.



You heav - ens, a - dore him by whom you were made,
Praise him who has brought you his grace from a - bove.
Loud or - gans, his glo - ry tell forth in deep tone,
For love in cre - a - tion, for heav - en re - stored,



And wor - ship be - fore him in bright - ness ar - rayed.
Praise him who has taught you to sing of his love.
And trum - pets, the sto - ry of what God has done.
For grace of sal - va - tion, sing praise to the Lord!

Text: Psalm 150; Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877, alt.

Tune: LAUDATE DOMINUM, 10 10 11 11; Charles H. H. Parry, 1840–1918

WORDS OF WELCOME

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

INVOCATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Leader: Spirit of love, come upon this assembly and dwell among us.

All: **Come, Holy Spirit!**

Leader: Spirit of unity, show us the path toward Christian unity.

All: **Come, Holy Spirit!**

Leader: Spirit of hospitality, teach us to be welcoming.

All: **Come, Holy Spirit!**

Leader: Spirit of compassion, instill within us an attitude of respect
to all those whom we meet.

All: **Come, Holy Spirit!**

Leader: Spirit of hope, help us to detach ourselves from all hindrances
to our ecumenical journey.

All: **Come, Holy Spirit!**

PRAYERS OF PARDON AND RECONCILIATION

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It begins in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The first two measures are marked with an asterisk (*). The time signature changes to 3/4 for the final two measures. The lyrics are: 'Ký - ri - e, Ký - ri - e, e - lé - i - son. (hum)'. The piece concludes with a 'Fine' and 'D.C.' (Da Capo) marking.

Music: Jacques Berthier, © 1980, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

(at the conclusion)

Leader: The Lord is merciful and gracious. . . removes our transgressions from us.

All: **Amen.**

SIGN OF PEACE

Leader: Christ has given us peace that surpasses all understanding.

The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

All are seated

First Reading – Numbers 21:4–9

At the conclusion:

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8

Repeat refrain after the choir, and again after each verse

RJB

May God bless us in his mer - cy,
 may God bless us in his mer - cy.

O God, be gracious and bless us
 and let your face shed its light upon us.
 So will your ways be known upon earth
 and all nations learn your salvation. *℟.*

you guide the nations on earth. *℟.*

Let the nations be glad and shout for joy,
 with uprightness you rule the peoples;

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
 let all the peoples praise you.
 May God still give us his blessing
 that all the ends of the earth may
 revere him. *℟.*

Psalm 67: *The Revised Grail Psalms*, © 2010 Conception Abbey and The Grail
 Music: © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc.

Second Reading – Acts 28:1–10

At the conclusion:

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

All stand

Alleluia – *Sung by the choir, then repeated by all.*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Music: Alleluia 7; Jacques Berthier, © 1984, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

Gospel – John 3:14–21

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

At the conclusion :

Reader: The gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Homily *All are seated*

Choral Anthem: *Christus Paradox – Sylvia Dunstan / Alfred Fedak*

You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shepherd. You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
 You, peacemaker and sword bringer Of the way you took and gave,
 You, the everlasting instant; You, whom we both scorn and crave.

Clothed in light upon the mountain, Stripped of might upon the cross,
 Shining in eternal glory, Beggar'd by a soldier's toss.
 You, the everlasting instant; You, who are both gift and cost.

You, who walk each day beside us, Sit in power at God's side.
 You, who preach a way that's narrow, Have a love that reaches wide.
 You, the everlasting instant; You, who are our pilgrim guide.

Worthy is our earthly Jesus! Worthy is our cosmic Christ!
 Worthy your defeat and vict'ry. Worthy still your peace and strife.
 You, the everlasting instant; You, who are our death and life.

Christus Paradox, Sylvia Dunstan, © 1986, GIA Publications, Inc.

PROFESSION OF FAITH AND CONCLUDING PRAYERS

Please stand

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God,
Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, one in Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
Was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man.
For our sake he was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered, died, and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,
And the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Leader: We cannot face the storms of life alone. A boat moves forward when all row together. In the face of difficulties we recognise the need to pull together and to unite our efforts. Let us pray.

Reader: Gracious God, heal the painful memories of the past which have wounded our churches and continue to keep us apart.

All: **Hear our prayer for Reconciliation.**

Reader: Gracious God, teach us to fix our course on Christ, the True Light.

All: **Hear our prayer for Enlightenment.**

Reader: Gracious God, strengthen our confidence in your providence when we feel overwhelmed by the storms of life.

All: **Hear our prayer for Hope.**

Reader: Gracious God, transform our many separations into harmony and our mistrust into mutual acceptance.

All: **Hear our prayer for Trust.**

Reader: Gracious God, give us the courage to speak the truth with justice in love.

All: **Hear our prayer for Strength.**

Reader: Gracious God, dismantle the barriers, visible and invisible, that prevent us from welcoming our sisters and brothers who are in peril or in need.

All: **Hear our prayer for Hospitality.**

Reader: Gracious God, change our hearts and the hearts of our Christian communities, that we may be agents of your healing.

All: **Hear our prayer for Conversion.**

Reader: Gracious God, open our eyes to see the whole of creation as your gift, and our hands to share its fruit in solidarity.

All: **Hear our prayer for Generosity.**

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven
hallowed be they 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.**

HYMN: Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

Stanza three will be sung by the choir alone.



1. Lord, whose love in hum - ble serv - ice
 2. Still the chil - dren wan - der home - less,
 3. As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion,
 4. Called from wor - ship in - to serv - ice,



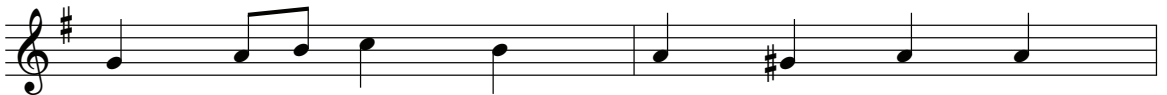
Bore the weight of hu - man need,
 Still the hun - gry cry for bread.
 Till your love's re - veal - ing light
 Forth in your great name we go



Who up - on the cross, for - sak - en,
 Still the cap - tives long for free - dom,
 In its height and depth and great - ness
 To the child, the youth, the a - ged,



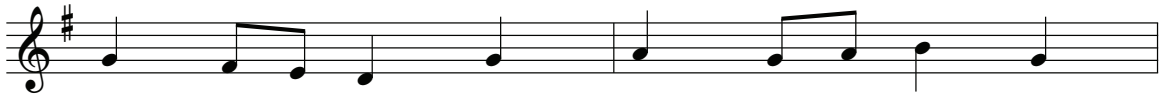
Of - fered mer - cy's per - fect deed:
 Still in grief we mourn our dead.
 Dawns up - on our hu - man sight,
 Love in liv - ing deeds to show.



We, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship
 As you, Lord, in deep com - pas - sion,
 Mak - ing known the needs and bur - dens
 Hope and health, good - will and com - fort,



Not of voice a - lone, but heart,
 Healed the sick and freed the soul,
 Your com - pas - sion bids us bear,
 Coun - sel, aid, and peace we give



Con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose
 Use the love your Spir - it kin - dles
 Stir - ring us to faith - ful serv - ice,
 That your chil - dren, Lord, in free - dom,



Ev - 'ry gift that you im - part.
 Still to save and make us whole.
 Your a - bun - dant life to share.
 May your mer - cy know, and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984, alt., © 1988, Oxford University Press

Tune: IN BABILONE, 8 7 8 7 D; *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenliedjes en Contredansen*, c.1710

Announcements and acknowledgements

Rev. Dr. Christopher Dorn, Chairman, Christians Uniting in Song and Prayer

Commissioning

Leader: We have come together as Christians. . . to proclaim the Good News.

All: May we respond to God's gracious call with a true spirit of discipleship. Amen.

Benediction

All respond Amen to each invocation.

Closing Hymn: O God, beyond All Praising*Stanza two will be sung by the choir alone.*

1. O God be-yond all prais-ing, we wor-ship you to - day
 2. The flow'r of earth - ly splen-dor in time must sure - ly die,
 3. Then hear, O gra-cious Sav - ior, ac - cept the love we bring,



And sing the love a - maz-ing that songs can - not re - pay;
 Its frag - ile bloom sur - ren - der to you, the Lord most high;
 That we who know your fa - vor may serve you as our King;



For we can on - ly won - der at ev - 'ry gift you send,
 But hid - den from all na - ture the e - ter - nal seed is sown,
 And wheth - er our to - mor - rows be filled with good or ill,



At bless - ings with - out num - ber and mer - cies with - out end.
 Though small in mor - tal stat - ure to heav - en's gar - den grown.
 We'll tri - umph through our sor - rows and rise to bless you still,



We lift our hearts be - fore you and wait up - on your word;
 For Christ, the man from heav - en, from death has set us free,
 To mar - vel at your beau - ty and glo - ry in your ways,



We hon - or and a - dore you, our great and might - y Lord.
 And we through him are giv - en the fin - al vic - to - ry!
 And make a joy - ful du - ty our sac - ri - fice of praise.