

First Presbyterian Church in Evansville, Indiana, is called to embody God's love, made known in Jesus Christ, in life-giving ways, and to engage with God in transforming lives, communities, and institutions to reflect God's goodness.

As a community of open-hearted disciples, we covenant to support and encourage one another as we explore God's grace on our journey of faith.

Convinced of God's Grace and Love, we affirm that there can be no exclusiveness in the worship of Christ.

We welcome all regardless of race, ethnic heritage, national origin, age, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, ability, or socio-economic standing. We encourage the full participation of all in the life of our congregation.



Welcome to Worship

We are grateful for your presence and welcome you to participate in all First Pres has to offer!

New here? If you are seated in the sanctuary, you'll see orange and yellow papers nearby. If you have joys or prayer concerns to share with the congregation during today's service, please fill out an orange prayer card. Ushers collect the orange cards when we share the Peace of Christ. The yellow slips of paper are to let us know you are here. We hope everyone will fill out their name(s) and any information you'd like us to have. Please place these in the offering plate when it is passed later in the service.

Children are always welcome in worship with their people! Childcare for pre-kindergarten and younger is available in room 109 in the education wing. Carts with books and activities for all ages are available outside the door at the front and at the rear of the room, where there is also a *PrayGround* for children and their adults. After the *Call to Live, Love, Pray, Grow*, children from kindergarten through fifth grade may go to *Follow Me Time* with the leaders to room 101 in the education wing.

Please note: our worship services are live streamed and available on Facebook and YouTube. For more information please visit fpcevv.com.

Following worship, you are invited to stay for refreshments and conversation in the parlor.

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

GATHERING

*YOU MAY RISE IN BODY OR SPIRIT.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSES ARE PRINTED IN BOLD.

PRELUDE

INTROIT

"Give Me A Pure Heart"

Mary Beth McCandless; arr. Robert Nicholls

*Give me a pure heart that I may see Thee; a humble heart that I may hear Thee;
a heart of love that I may serve Thee, a heart of faith that I may live Thee.*

- Dag Hammarskjöld

GREETING AND WELCOME

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

God is good. God is great.

God gives us all we need.

God is just. God is kind.

God gives us all we need.

We meet here to praise God. We gather here to meet Jesus.

We come here to be gathered up by the Holy Spirit.

Let us worship God!

*HYMN . . . no. 436

"God of Compassion, In Mercy Befriend Us"

O Quanta Qualia; Paris Antiphoner
John J. Moment

God of compassion, in mercy befriend us,
giver of grace for our needs all-availing.

Wisdom and strength for each day ever send us,
patience untiring and courage unfailing.

Though we are lost, you have sought us and found us,
stilled our rude hearts with your word of consoling.

Wrap now your peace, like a mantle, around us,
guarding our thoughts and our passions controlling.

How shall we stray, with your hand to direct us,
you who the stars in their courses are guiding?

What shall we fear, with your power to protect us,
we who walk forth in your greatness confiding?

*OPENING PRAYER

...in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*CONFESSION AND PARDON

God of grace, you are always helping us to grow through the Holy Spirit. Sometimes we think we can grow all on our own. Sometimes we think that growth looks like power rather than love. Forgive us. Strengthen our faith so that we are more loving, more kind, and more just.

- silence is kept -

In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

...In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

*RESPONSE TO CONFESSION . . . no. 739, v. 4

"O for a Closer Walk with God"

Caithness; Scottish Psalter
William Cowper

**So shall my walk be close with God, calm and serene my frame;
so purer light shall mark the road that leads me to the Lamb.**

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**
Let us share the Peace of Christ!

There are many ways to share signs of peace with one another. You may cross your hands across your chest or hold your hands together in front of you if you'd rather not shake hands or hug. Please ask before assuming that the person you are greeting wants a hug or handshake. Smiles are always appropriate as we share signs of peace.

- USHERS WILL COLLECT THE ORANGE PRAYER CARDS DURING THE SHARING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST. -

WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

...through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

PSALM

Psalm 145:1-8

I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.

Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.

Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable.

**One generation shall extol your works to another
and shall declare your mighty acts.**

They will recount the glorious splendor of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

**They will proclaim the might of your awesome deeds,
and I will declare your greatness.**

They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

**The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
Amen.**

ANTHEM

“Lift Up Your Heads” from *Messiah*

George Frideric Handel

Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors, and the King of glory shall come in.

Who is this King of Glory? The Lord, strong and mighty in battle. The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.

- Psalm 24:7-10

EPISTLE

Philippians 1:21-30

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; yet I cannot say which I will choose. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

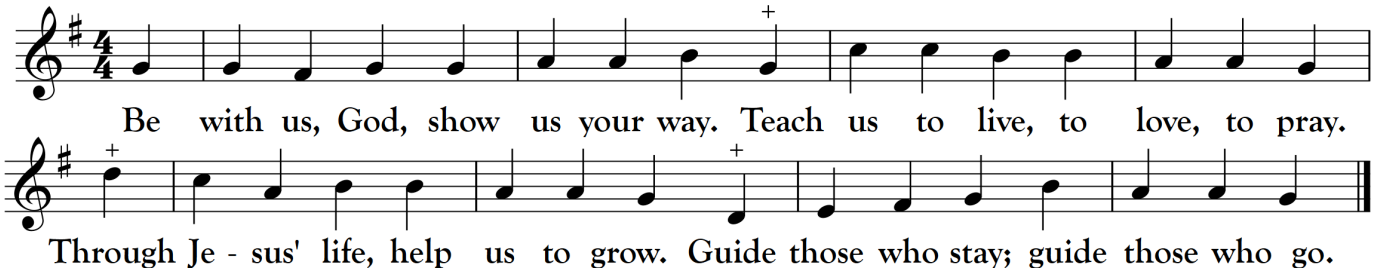
Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

CALL TO LIVE, LOVE, PRAY, GROW

Tallis' Cannon

All will sing one time through together - children grades 5 and younger are invited to come forward as we sing (bringing the blue information card from the pew rack with them). After the first time through, we'll sing in canon twice each: lectern side, middle, pulpit side, choir loft. After the song, those 5th grade and younger may choose to go to Follow Me Time with their leaders, and those who wish to remain in the Sanctuary may return to their people.



“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’”

When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Our Daily Choice

- SILENCE FOR REFLECTION -

*HYMN . . . no. 773

“Heaven Shall Not Wait”

Heaven Shall Not Wait

John L. Bell and Graham Maule

Heaven shall not wait for the poor to lose their patience,
the scorned to smile, the despised to find a friend: Jesus is Lord;
he has championed the unwanted; in him injustice confronts its timely end.

Heaven shall not wait for the rich to share their fortunes,
the proud to fall, the elite to tend the least: Jesus is Lord;
he has shown the master’s privilege: to kneel and wash servants’ feet before they feast.

Heaven shall not wait for the dawn of great ideas,
thoughts of compassion divorced from cries of pain: Jesus is Lord;
he has married word and action; his cross and company make his purpose plain.

Heaven shall not wait for triumphant Hallelujahs,
when earth has passed and we reach another shore: Jesus is Lord
in our present imperfection; his power and love are for now and then for evermore.

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*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

- A New Creed, *The United Church in Canada*

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

...through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

CALL TO GIVING

You may send a check to the church office, or give online at fpcevv.com/giving, or text "GIVE" to 833-921-6520.

Let us offer our lives to God.

OFFERTORY

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

William B. Bradbury; arr. Brent Olstad

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE . . . no. 606

Old Hundredth; Genevan Psalter

"Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"

Thomas Ken

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below.

Praise God above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with You.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

- prayer continues -

...through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. **Amen.**

SENDING

*HYMN . . . no. 305

Darwall's 148th; John Darwall
Brian Dill

"Come Sing, O Church, In Joy!"

Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church in song!
For Christ has led us through the ages long!
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

Long years have come and gone, and still God reigns supreme,
empow'ring us to catch the vision, dream the dream!
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

Let courage be our friend; let wisdom be our guide,
as we in mission magnify the crucified!
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

Come sing, O church in joy! Come join, O church, in song!
For Christ the Lord has triumphed o'er the ages long!
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

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INVITATION TO MINISTRY AND MISSION

BLESSING AND CHARGE

...and the song of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **Alleluia!**
...rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

"We Will Walk with God"

Sizohamba Naye; arr. John L. Bell
Swaziland Text, John L. Bell (english)

*We will walk with God, my brothers; we will walk with God.
We will walk with God, my sisters; we will walk with God. We will go rejoicing till the kingdom has come.
Sizohamba naye, Ngomhla wenjabula sizohamba naye.*

POSTLUDE

"March on *Lift Up Your Heads* from Handel's *Messiah*"

Alexandre Guilmant

Leading worship this morning:

Preacher	Jerusha Van Camp
Liturgist	Tracy Shaw
Director of Music	Robert Nicholls
The Choir of First Presbyterian Church	
The Flute Choir of First Presbyterian Church,	Dick Bernhardt, Director
Audio	Blake Foerster-Daniels
Visual	Finch Parker

Pastor Mary Beth McCandless is on vacation today and will return to the office on Tuesday.

Happening at First Presbyterian Church

First Light Youth Group welcomes all teens in 6th-12th grades on the first and third Sunday evenings of the month. Meeting from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., First Light is a place where everyone is welcomed and celebrated. You can let Rev. Jerusha know you're interested by clicking [HERE](#), or just come along tonight!

The Mission Committee invites you to lunch with them! Bring your lunch (*beverages provided*) on **Monday, September 21 at 11:30 a.m.** for an informative presentation by Elizabeth Arnold, Director of Outpatient Services at Southwestern Behavioral Healthcare, as she shares how Southwestern is making a difference in the lives of individuals and families throughout our community. Learn about the mental health services that Southwestern provides, the impact of the Friends of Mental Health program in supporting quality care, and what it means to have a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) in the area. This is a wonderful opportunity to gain insight into available resources and reduce stigma surrounding mental health.

We will celebrate the annual **Blessing of the Animals** service next **Sunday, September 27** at both morning services! This year, we are also offering an opportunity to have your animal companion photographed with Santa! Those wishing a photo are asked to bring a pet food item to be donated to the food pantry at Patchwork Central.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, September 20

7:30 a.m. Band Rehearsal
8:30 a.m. Wide Awake Worship
9:15 a.m. Fellowship Time
9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
Choir Rehearsal
We Make the Road
10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
6:15 p.m. Evening Prayer
7:00 p.m. *Singing Resistance - Evansville*

Monday, September 21

11:30 a.m. Mission Lunch and Learn

Tuesday, September 22

11:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
3:45 p.m. Teen Rehearsal
4:45 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal
5:45 p.m. Chorister Rehearsal
6:00 p.m. We Make the Road

Wednesday, September 23

12:00 p.m. We Make the Road
3:15 p.m. Chorister Rehearsal
7:00 p.m. We Make the Road

Thursday, September 24

4:00 p.m. Choir Beginners
5:00 pm. Chorister Rehearsal
6:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Friday, September 25

Church Office Closed

Saturday, September 26



WORLD COMMUNION OFFERING

The World Communion Offering works to ensure all God's people flourish as God intends through ministries working for racial justice, gender justice, peacemaking, global witness, and ecumenical and interfaith relations.

Thank you for your participation in the World Communion Offering.

IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!

WAYS TO GIVE —

- ✚ Through your congregation
- ✚ Donate by credit card online at pcusa.org/give/wco
- ✚ Text GIVEWCO to 41444 or scan this QR code

—OT—

You can help sustain these important ministries that are supported by the World Communion Offering by making an online gift at any time throughout the year. Checks may be sent to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); P.O. Box 643700; Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.



To learn more about how your gift to World Communion Offering makes a difference, visit pcusa.org/wco.



The World Communion Offering is one of three annual Special Offerings. The Churchwide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) play an important role in defining what it means to be a connectional church, bringing together the diversity of the PC(USA) to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns. The Offerings offer opportunities for partnership, learning, and witness and profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.

*Lord, we thank you for the gift of
this global table where all are
welcome, and none are strangers.
As we eat this bread and drink this
cup, we pray that you would make
us one in you, regardless of our
languages, cultures or circumstances.
Amen.*



WORLD COMMUNION
OFFERING

Used with permission from JusticeUnbound.org

We are there...to share our table, to share loving kindness.

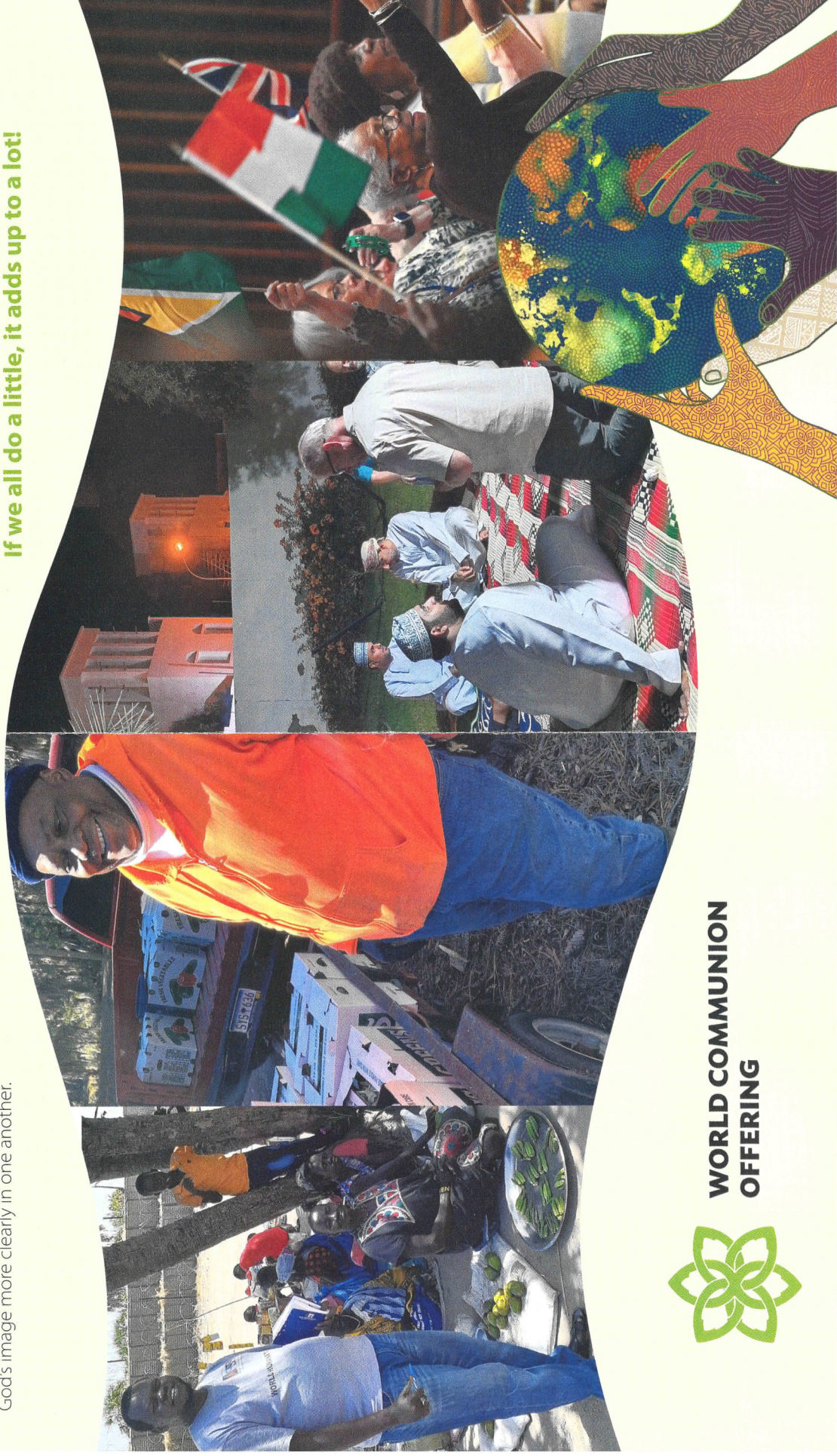
We join siblings in Christ across the globe in God's mission of welcome, justice and hope. We step beyond the boundaries of our neighborhood and into the life of the worldwide Church, learning to see God's image more clearly in one another.

In a world that often feels divided, this Offering helps us remember that we belong to one another, even to people we may never meet.

With our gifts, we witness this truth and celebrate what it means to belong to a global, connected Church shaped by God's endless love in Jesus Christ.

Thank you for your participation in the World Communion Offering.

If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!



**WORLD COMMUNION
OFFERING**