

# The Worship of God

at First Baptist Church

World Communion Sunday  
October 3, 2021



Today's Scripture Readings  
30

Acts 18:18-27, Matthew 26:17-

Sermon Title

"What is Communion?"

Call to Worship

Jesus was always the guest.

**In the homes of Peter and Jairus,  
Martha and Mary, Joanna and Susanna,  
he was always the guest.**

At the meal tables of the wealthy where he pled the case of the poor,  
he was always the guest.

**Upsetting polite company,  
befriending isolated people,  
welcoming the stranger,**

**he was always the guest.**

But here, at this table,  
Jesus is the host.

**Those who wish to serve him  
must first be served by him.**

**Those who want to follow him  
must first be fed by him.**

**Those who would wash his feet  
must first let him make them clean.**

For this is the table where God intends us to be nourished.  
This is the time when Christ can make us new.

**So come, you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith,  
for a fuller life, for better world.**

Jesus Christ, who has sat at our tables,  
Now invites us to be guests at his.

#### A Prayer for World Communion

Holy God, we praise you,  
for you are the One from whom we will return.

**You conceived the universe,  
wove the world together,  
and hold all life in your hand.**

You watch us waking or sleeping,  
You keep every tear that we shed,  
You hear every prayer we make,  
You know both our best and our worst,  
And you will not let us go.

**So with rain, wind, and sunshine,  
with all that moves in time with its Maker,  
we praise you.**

We praise you  
for Christ's life, which informs our living,  
for his compassion, which changes our hearts,  
for his clear speaking, for his disturbing presence,  
his innocent suffering, his courageous dying,  
his rising to life, breathing forgiveness,  
We praise you and worship him.

**Merciful God,  
send now, in kindness, your Holy Spirit  
to rest on converting us**

**from the patterns of this passing world,  
until we conform to the shape of the One.**