

SUPPLY LIST/OVERVIEW



Ministry Leadership Center Press
Intergenerational Worship Guide: World Communion Sunday
Supply List and Overview

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Authors: Sara Tillema, Erin Reed Cooper, Becca Bibee
Editorial Direction: Becca Bibee, Sara Tillema
Line Editor: Darrah Cain
Interior Design: Olivia Wheeler
Interior Formatting: Darrah Cain
Cover Graphic Design: MLC Staff Image

Weekly Synopsis

World Communion Sunday reminds us that we belong to a community that spans time and place. At Christ's table, we gather as equals—young and old, clergy and laity, wealthy and poor, privileged and under-resourced. There, we receive the same meal that nourishes us as we seek to live as Christ's body in the world. This week, we intentionally practice and honor what it means to live as a diverse community of believers through every element of worship. Together, we will listen to and honor the voices of our neighbors, pray and sing as one, be formed by our shared meal, and be sent out to live lives shaped by the radical love and welcome Jesus embodied at the Last Supper.

Guide Overview

This document contains an overview of the service and a full supply list for the week. Think of it as your planning checklist in the weeks leading up to worship. Review the synopsis and theological lens to understand the week's themes, confirm your leadership roles are filled, and work through the supply list and worship environment instructions with enough lead time to gather materials and prepare the space.

This guide contains:

- The Synopsis of the week
- The Theological Lens for the week
- Preparing for Leading—a brief reflection for leaders before the service
- Leadership Roles for the week
- The Supply List for the week
- Preparing the Worship Environment—including instructions for the Focus Table
- Any printed supplements for the week

Topic / Theological Lens

In 1933, a Presbyterian pastor, Hugh Thomson Kerr, serving in Pittsburgh, invited his congregation to celebrate communion with a wider vision: to imagine Christians across the globe gathered at one table in Christ. As nationalism, economic turmoil, and the rise of fascism in Europe threatened to divide nations and peoples, Kerr understood the Lord's Supper as a quiet act of unity and resistance—a reminder that our deepest allegiance is not to borders or politics, but to the body of Christ. Adopted first by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and later embraced by other denominations, World Communion Sunday became an annual invitation for churches to worship in solidarity, to lift up the global church, and to remember that, through baptism, we belong to a worldwide community. Nearly a century later, amid deep polarization and rising conflict, the day carries the same hopeful defiance, calling the church back to a shared table where division gives way to belonging and where our common life in Christ is stronger than the forces that seek to pull us apart.

After all, it is at the communion table that we are formed in faith: surrounded by community, confessing and receiving forgiveness, passing the peace, and practicing again and again the habits that shape us into Christ's people. Here we receive grace we did not earn and extend Christ's peace to neighbors we did not choose, learning that we are nourished not as isolated individuals but as one body. Sharing one loaf and one cup, we embody God's vision of belonging, where every person has a place, and the gifts of many cultures and stories are gathered into one feast. In this sacrament, we rehearse the life God intends for the world, a life marked by abundance, generosity, reconciliation, and hope.

It is at the table where we are taught God's ways, as echoed in the Prophet Isaiah's vision of the nations learning to walk together in God's paths. Communion becomes not only a meal we share but a lesson in how to live together in God's coming kingdom. In this practice, we begin to taste God's vision of *shalom*, not simply the absence of conflict, but the fullness of life with God and neighbor, where divisions are healed, instruments of war are transformed into tools that bring life and nourishment, and former enemies learn to dwell side by side.

Around Christ's table, we rehearse that peace with our bodies and our lives, practicing reconciliation, justice, and shared belonging. And we are reminded that we are never called to live this way alone: we clothe ourselves together with compassion, kindness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving as we have been forgiven. When we falter, the community and the Holy Spirit sustain us, binding us together in Christ's peace and forming us, again and again, into one body for the sake of the world.

Preparing for Leading

For this week, pastors and worship leaders are invited to approach worship with openness and flexibility, setting aside the need for control or perfection. This service is designed to be intentionally interactive, with the voices of those gathered helping to shape the experience in meaningful ways.

As you prepare, review the liturgical guide and thoughtfully select the intergenerational elements that best fit your context. Take care not to overfill the service with interactive components; leave space for familiar rhythms and practices that ground your congregation every week.

Communicate clearly in advance about the service's intergenerational nature so participants know what to expect. Pay close attention to any setup instructions, adapting them as needed to suit your space and community.

This may feel like a different expression of worship than what you are accustomed to. Trust that the Spirit is at work in both familiar and unexpected ways, and allow space for that movement to be experienced within you and among your congregation.

Leadership Roles

This service is designed to reflect the fullness of the body of Christ through shared and intergenerational leadership. The worship leader serves as a guide for the overall flow, offering clear invitations, transitions, and framing language while remaining open to the movement of the congregation and the Spirit. The preacher is responsible for shaping and delivering the proclamation, whether through a sermon, table-based reflection, or contemplative practice, ensuring the message is accessible and engaging for all ages. The liturgist(s) lead prayers, scripture readings, and communal responses, and may be intentionally composed of multiple voices across generations. Musicians support congregational singing and help create a cohesive tone, with opportunities for instrumentalists and vocalists of various ages to participate. Additional roles may include children and youth leaders (supporting the Focus Table and interactive elements), ushers or hospitality leaders (guiding movement, seating, and participation), and table hosts or facilitators (if using table-based elements of worship).

The worship leader will need to recruit a diverse group of participants, including children, youth, adults, and elders, ensuring that leadership is visibly shared rather than centralized. Many roles, such as reading scripture, assisting with communion, leading prayers, or helping with movement-based elements, can be distributed across the congregation. This shared leadership not only supports the flow of the service but also embodies the theological vision of unity, participation, and mutual belonging that World Communion Sunday proclaims.

Supplies

- Low table (under 18 inches) with tablecloth and optional risers
- Communion Elements
- Fabrics representing diverse cultures (non-sacred), along with flowers, wheat or rice sheaves, and baskets
- Play dough in bread-like colors (gluten-free if needed), rolling pins, cutting boards, round cookie cutters, plastic knives, and small baskets for organizing materials
- Wooden or play-food bread items (variety of cultural breads), wooden knives, and optional additional play-food items
- Small pitchers of water (one per cup), cups, and rolled washcloths for spills
- Toy or real tableware (plates, cups, utensils), along with placemats and napkins
- Assorted breads and crackers, grapes, coconut, pineapple, or other globally representative foods
- Small paper plates, communion cups, juice varieties, and serving sets
- Post-it notes
- Pens/markers
- Printed Table Topic card for the Intergenerational Proclamation

Preparing the Worship Environment

The worship environment is not a backdrop—it is an active participant in the faith formation of every member of the congregation.

The Focus Table is the low, central table (under 18 inches high) that holds the week's provocation materials.

Focus Table Instructions

This week, the children's Focus Table will be central to the worship and should be placed near or just in front of the altar/communion table. The table will be a visual representation of the diversity of cultures and Christian practices related to World Communion.

Suggested items represented on the Focus Table:

- Find fabrics of various cultures and countries to represent diversity (please be mindful of appropriation: for instance, Kente cloth is sacred and should not be appropriated.) Other items to beautify the table, like flowers, wheat or rice sheaves, and baskets.
- Play dough in the colors of breads, rolling pins, and cutting boards, round cookie cutters, and plastic knives. Place like-items in small baskets on the table. (You may use boxes under the tablecloth as levels to make materials more visible.)
- Bread-like manipulatives- there are many wooden play-food items that represent different breads. Provide wooden knives. Other play food items may enrich this display. These items should be placed at the lowest level for use by the youngest worshipers.
- Small water-pouring vessels. Do not overfill; provide one pitcher per one cup. Pair with rolled washcloths to catch spills and other table-setting toys. Include tableware, placemats, napkins, etc.
- On a separate table, make an attractive display of crackers, breads, grapes, coconuts, pineapples, and other foods that represent welcome, abundance, and providence. Place small paper plates and—if available—trays of communion cups filled with different juices for tasting. Depending on your tradition, you may use these items in place of the communion elements, or make them available throughout worship for people to taste and enjoy.

Note: Colorations brand makes gluten- and wheat-free play dough. Simple recipes can also be found using rice flour and cornstarch.

Other Notes on the Space

For this service, the worship space should communicate that all are welcome, needed, and belong. Use warm, natural lighting when possible so people can see one another. Ensure clear pathways for movement, especially for interactive elements and for those coming forward to receive or share communion. Keep the Focus Table and communion table as central visual anchors, using color, texture, and simple materials to invite curiosity without overwhelming the space.

If using the Table Proclamation method, seat the congregation at round tables or in small, intergenerational groups that encourage conversation. Place communion elements on each table so they feel like an intentional part of the worship experience. Prepare tables in advance with scripture, cups, plates, and Table Talk prompts, and ensure movement between tables and the central table is smooth and accessible.

Throughout, prioritize accessibility, clear sound, and shared participation. The overall tone should be warm, invitational, and participatory, reflecting the unity and abundance of the Body of Christ

Table Talk Card

1. Take a piece of bread and pass the plate to the person beside you. As you serve one another, say **"The Body of Christ"** or **"This is for you."**
 2. Pour some grape juice into a cup (with assistance, as needed), and pass it to your neighbor, saying, **"The Blood of Christ"** or **"This is for you."**
 3. After everyone at the table has received the elements, reflect on the following: What does it feel like to be served by someone at the table?
 4. This meal has been shared by Christians across every century, culture, and language. Who do you imagine at this table with you—from history, from another country, from your own past? Say their name out loud.
 5. Close by going around the table and finishing this sentence: "Today, I am grateful for..."
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