

(hymnal music playing) ♪ Beautiful faithful ♪ (muffled singing) ♪ Glory and honor ♪ ♪ Praise thy ♪ ♪ Oh praise (indistinct) ♪ ♪ Now and forever more ♪ ♪ Now and forever more ♪ ♪ Amen ♪ (indistinct hymnal music)

- Will the congregation please move to the center aisle if you have any space between you so that those who are not seated may be seated. When we gather to praise God, we remember that we are the people of God who have preferred our wills to the divine will, accepting the power which God offers to us to become new persons in Christ. Let us confess our sin before God and one another. Let us pray. Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We pray you of your mercy, forgive what we have been, amend what we are, direct what we shall be, that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways through Jesus Christ, our Lord, amen. You heard the good news, Christ died for us while we were yet sinners. That is God's own proof of His love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

- In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. (muffled speaking) (indistinct hymnal music)

- A prayer in what we believe. We believe in God who has created and is creating, who has come in the truly human Jesus to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the spirit. We trust God who calls us to be the church, to celebrate life and its fullness, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist the evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge, and our hope, in life and death and life beyond death, God is with us, we are not alone, thanks be to God.

- Let us pray. Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the scriptures are read and the word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today, amen. The scripture lesson is from the Gospel according to Saint John 17 selected verses. Since we are reading from a gospel, let the congregation stand. "When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven and said, Father, the hour has come, glorify thy Son that the Son may glorify thee, since thou has given Him power over all flesh to give eternal life to all whom thou has given Him. And this is eternal life that they know thee only true God in Jesus Christ, whom thou has sent. I have manifested thy name to the men who now givest us to me out of the world, thine they were, and thou gavest them to me and they have kept thy I word. Now they know that everything that thou has given me is from thee, what I have given them the words, which thou gavest me and they have received them and know in truth that I came from thee, and they have believed that thou did send me. I do not pray for them only, but also for those who are to believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, even as thou father art in me and I in thee, that they also may be in us that they may be one, even as we are one." Amen and amen. ♪ Glory be to the Father ♪ ♪ And to the Son and to the Holy Ghost ♪ ♪ As it was in the beginning, ♪ ♪ Is now and ever shall be ♪ ♪ World without end, amen, amen. ♪ Worldwide Communion Sunday, which we celebrate and in which we now participate is a recent venture on the part of American Protestantism. It was in 1938, only a generation ago that National Council of Churches of Christ in America, first shared in the Worldwide Celebration of Holy Communion, the Lord's

supper, the Eucharist, on the first Sunday in October. The purpose of such a venture was and is very simple, to remember once a year, along with our other Protestant brethren of all denominational varieties that first, Last Supper in an effort to understand and to believe that what we have in common is more important to us and to God than what separates us, often, so miserably and so bitterly. That is why the passage of scripture for the sacrament this Sunday is the high priestly prayer of Jesus. In the story of the Last Supper as recorded in the gospel according to Saint John, part of which has just been read. Now the emphasis of that passage is, first, that it was possible for the elderly disciples to be one, of one mind, even as Jesus and God were of one mind. And second, that those who hear the good news from his disciples may also be one, one with him, and one with one another. Listen to what Jesus said, I do not pray for these only, that is for the 12, but also for those who believe in me through their word. And that includes us, centuries later in a university chapel at an ecumenical service. Jesus prayed for us that we may be one. Now, let me illustrate the sorrow and the joy and the sustaining power of the Lord's Supper with three incidents from my own life. When I first came to the university back in 1945, I was invited to preach in our local downtown church. I did and after the service, I was told that there would follow a celebration of the Lord's Supper, but that I could not receive as I was not a member of that congregation. And I thought to myself, that I, well, Cleland you're in good company. Jesus could not receive since he isn't a member of that congregation either. And I recall that they may be one, didn't that local church believe that 20th century Christians maybe one? Oh yes, they did, but within limits. The second incident was much more recent. I was preaching at the Naval Academy in Annapolis and a Catholic chaplain invited me to deliver the sermon at the nine o'clock mass. The same sermon which the Protestants were to hear at 11 o'clock. I consented, then I asked him, do I receive the wafer or do I not? I just want to know for comfort sake where I am and what I do. He answered you receive, but you don't stick out your hand like an Episcopalian, (congregation murmuring) you just open your mouth and I put in. (laughing) So, at the given moment, I opened and he popped. You know what? At the end of the service, the priest drains the chalice, he took one sip, brought the chalice to me and said drink it. I did with some fear and trembling, but it was a gentle wine. And the words of Jesus came to me with new meaning, that they may be one, a Roman Catholic, one senior and a Scott's Presbyterian visiting preacher. The third incident is centered on my mother who has often spoken from this pulpit through her son. In the church of Scotland, the Lord's supper is usually celebrated about four times a year, each occurrence is a series of three different but related services, a preparatory service on Friday evening, the communion popper on Sunday morning repeated on Sunday afternoon. The Thanksgiving service on Sunday evening, often concluded with the hallelujah chorus. At the age of 18, my mother received the bread and the wine for the first time after attending the young communicants class for three years. She then never missed that three fold service, four times a year until she died at the age of 82. I told one of my colleagues in the divinity school about this aspect of my mother's church life. In amazed admiration, he commented, she must have a high view of the sacrament. Few months later, I was in Scotland. So I asked her, mother, do you have a high view of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper? She answered, I don't know what you're talking about. At the Last Supper, Jesus asked his friends not to forget Him. "This do in remembrance of me." I am one of his friends, I do not forget Him. Now, that is as low a Protestant view of the Lord Supper as one could find, but it hit my mother going for nigh on 64 years, age 18 to age 82, in remembrance of Him, who was her Lord and in company with fellow communicants who took the Lord's Supper very serious. So here we are on Worldwide Communion Sunday, members of a variety of denominations, which are sometimes abominations, let us hold in our memories and in our hearts, our brethren throughout the world, bound to us because we are all invited

guests at the table whose host is Jesus the Christ and whose constant prayer is that we would all be one, the clergy who are his servants at the table will serve you in His name and for His sake. And then after the Benediction, who may lead this house of God, we may have a renewed sense of solidarity with other, all other Christian. After all Jesus prayed that we would be one. Amen and amen.

- Let us pray that the world may live in peace and that the church may achieve unity, fulfilling its service here and everywhere. (indistinct) That all ministers and teachers in the church may be faithful servants of the gospel, leading others into its way of life and strengthening their faith. (indistinct) That the leaders of this nation and the world may govern with justice and mercy.

- Lord of mercy, hear our prayer.

- That all our work may be done for the common good, that it be done in safety and that all may be spared from grinding toil, which destroys fullness of life.

- Lord of mercy, hear our prayer. That those who work on frontiers of truth, and those who enrich our lives with beauty and joy may be free to follow their vocations.

- Lord of mercy, hear our prayer.

- That those who suffer disease or poverty or loneliness or grief may be healed and comforted, and that those who are oppressed or persecuted may be strengthened and delivered.

- Lord of mercy, hear our prayer

- That those who we have known and loved, who had died in the faith may be a glorious memory to us and a source of renewed fellowship with all the saints.

- Lord of mercy, hear our prayer. (indistinct)

- Christ our Lord invite to his table all who love Him and who desire to live in peace with one another. May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

- Also with you.

- As forgiven and reconciled people, let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God. (hymnal music playing)
(indistinct hymnal music) ♪ Praise God from whom all blessings flow ♪ ♪ Praise Him, all creatures here below
♪ ♪ Hallelujah, Hallelujah ♪ ♪ Praise Him above, ye heavenly host ♪ ♪ Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost ♪ ♪
Hallelujah, Hallelujah ♪ ♪ Hallelujah, Hallelujah ♪ ♪ Hallelujah, Hallelujah ♪

- Lord of all nations, accept these our gifts of money this day, and grant that the courses to which they are dedicated may prosper under thy guidance and bless these elements of bread and wine, which we bring

that on this day in particular, they may be the special symbols of our oneness with thee, our oneness with one another in this place and our oneness with all thy children everywhere, through Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray, amen.

- The Lord is with you. Lift up your hearts. (indistinct) Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God. (indistinct) Oh God, it is right that we should always and everywhere give you thanks and praise. Only you are God, you created all things and called them good, you made us in your own image. Even when we rebelled against your love, you did not desert us. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our God and king and spoke to us through your prophets. Therefore, we join the entire company of heaven and all your people now on earth in worshiping and glorifying you. Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the highest. We thank you Holy God that you loved the world so much that you sent your only son to be our savior. The Lord of all life came to live among us, He healed and taught people, ate with sinners, and won for you a new people by water and the spirit. We saw his glory, yet He humbled himself in obedience to your will, freely accepting death on a cross. By dying, He freed us from unending death, by rising from the dead, He gave us everlasting life. We remember that on the night in which he gave himself up for us, the Lord Jesus took bread and giving you thanks, He broke the bread, gave it to his disciples and said, take, eat, this is my body, which is given for you. When the supper was over, he took the cup. Again, He returned thanks to you, gave the cup to his disciples and said, drink from this, all of you. This is the cup of the new covenant in my blood, poured out for you and many for the forgiveness of sins. When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we experience a new the presence of the Lord, Jesus Christ, and look forward to his coming in final victory.

- Christ is there, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

- We remember and proclaim with gratitude Holy God what your son has done for us in his life and death, in his resurrection and ascension, accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving in union with Christ's offering for us as a reasonable and holy surrender of ourselves. Send the power of your Holy Spirit on us gathered here out of love for you and on these gifts. Help us know in the breaking of this bread, the presence of Christ who gave his body and blood for all people, make us one with Christ, one with each other and one in service to all people.

- With your son Jesus Christ, may the Holy Spirit in the Holy church, (indistinct)

- In unity with Christ and with each other, we pray, our father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is heaven give us this day our daily bread and forgive our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, amen. Because there is one loaf, we many as we are are one body, for it is one loaf of which we all partake. When we break the bread, is it not a means of sharing in the body of Christ?

- When we give thanks over the cup, is it not a means of sharing in the blood of Christ?

- It is our custom when we gather on the four days in which we celebrate the Lord's Supper here in this place, to do so by gathering around the table of our Lord, the choir will receive as the first table, making two concentric circles around the table, being close to one another and facing the altar as well as facing each other. After the choir has communed, the ushers will assist you, beginning with those persons seated in the transepts to either side of the altar, and then moving through the congregation. We ask you to follow the instructions as they are in the order of worship. As one table is receiving the elements, another group of persons prepare to receive. And then as one table goes to their places, those who were waiting, come and gather around the table of our Lord. In the name of Christ, we break bread and drink from the cup.

- Grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Go now with the assurance that God's love goes with you. Amen. (indistinct hymnal music)

- Our Lord said, "By this shall all people know that you are my disciples if you love one another." Beloved in these moments, we have received from the love of Christ and now with the peace of God in your hearts, will you go to love in the name and then the spirit of Christ, amen. (indistinct hymnal)

- In the mystery of this Holy communion, God's spirit comes to us, healing us and making us a new people in Christ. Go now knowing that you are a new creation and may God's spirit go with you, amen. (indistinct hymnal music)

- Jesus said I have come that you might have life and have it abundantly. Arise now beloved, having received that abundant life from Christ, may you now go forth, feeling the presence and the joy of Christ in your heart and in your soul. And share this love and joy in his Holy name, amen, There may be persons sitting in the congregation who would like to receive the sacrament where you are, as these persons are being seated, the ministers will serve you in your place. If this is your desire, simply indicate this as the ministers come down the center aisle. You have given yourself to us, oh Lord. (indistinct) Your love has made us a new people. (indistinct) Your glory has filled our hearts. (indistinct) Amen. Allow me just two words members of the Duke Wind Symphony have asked us to announce that due to rain yesterday evening, the Duke University Wind Symphony will sponsor a Viennese bowl tonight at 8:15 p.m on the rear terrace of the Mary Duke Middle Biddle Music building. All of you in the Durham and Duke community are invited to share this evening. In case of rain, the program will be held here in Duke Chapel, that's tonight at 8:15 p.m. Following Worldwide Communion Sunday, next Sunday, we will be privileged to have as our preacher, the Reverend Dr. Phillip Potter, the executive general secretary of the World Council of Churches. He is widely known as an outstanding preacher, so, I invite you and your friends to come and hear the Reverend Dr. Phillip Potter, as he brings to us greetings from the World Council of Churches and preachers for us on this second Sunday in October. And now as we have broken bread and have received the blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, we invite you to exchange whatever greeting you feel the spirit of God leads you to exchange with those around you. This is known in the church, traditionally, as the exchange of the peace. You may say the peace of God be with you, the love of God be with you or if it's someone special, beside you may even say, I love you. So, will you stand now as we exchange the peace in the name and in the spirit of Christ. (indistinct) (indistinct hymnal music) And now dear brothers and sisters in Christ, go out in peace, to love God and love your

neighbor in all that you do (indistinct) The blessing of Almighty God, creator, Redeemer and sustainer, be with you now and always. ♪ Amen ♪ ♪ Amen ♪ ♪ Amen, amen ♪ ♪ Amen ♪ ♪ Amen ♪ ♪ Amen ♪ (indistinct hymnal music)