

KIRK IN THE HILLS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)
OCTOBER 4, 2026 | 8:00 A.M. CHAPEL COMMUNION SERVICE
IN THE WAY OF IONA ABBEY, SCOTLAND



COMMUNION SERVICE

8:00 a.m. | Cedarholm Chapel

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

* CALL TO WORSHIP

From every nation, from every people and language,
God gathers us as one family in Christ.
We come from many places, but we belong to one Lord.
Christ is our peace; in him, the dividing walls are broken down.
We are one body, one Spirit, one hope in Christ.
Let us worship God!

* HYMN 321

The Church's One Foundation

AURELIA

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God,
You have called us into one body,
Yet we have built walls where you have made a way.
Forgive us for the divisions we create, the neighbors we overlook, and the love we withhold.
Make us one in Christ, gentle in spirit, steadfast in hope,
and generous in love.
Heal what is broken among us and make us instruments of your peace.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (*Silence is held.*)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news:
Christ has broken down the dividing wall of hostility
And has reconciled us to God through the cross.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven;
In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation;
Alleluia, Amen!

SCRIPTURE READING

John 5:1-17; 9:1-6 (NT, page 96.)
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

**Working with God: The Church's Responsibility
in the Great Commission**

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

CELEBRATING WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Today we celebrate World Communion Sunday, remembering our Christian brothers and sisters around the world who also celebrate this holy feast. We remember that this is our Lord's Table, and all who seek Jesus are welcome.

INVITATION

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING | SYMBOLS OF BREAD

You are encouraged to look up and see the bread lifted and identified during our litany. These breads are a reminder that the church around the world shares its unity in the sacrament and its diversity in the elements.

Matzah is unleavened bread which reminds us of all the refugees who, like the enslaved ancient Israelites, leave their homes and flee from danger.

We pray, O God, for your church among those with no place to call home.

Frybread reminds us of Africa, called the cradle of civilization, where Christianity continues to flourish. We acknowledge the painful legacy of the African slave trade.

We pray, O God, for your church in places where it flourishes, and we confess the times and places when we have enslaved our brothers and sisters.

Na'an is an Indian bread that reminds us of Asia, where Christians are a minority and are often threatened by persecution.

We pray, O God, for your church in places where Christianity is dangerous, politically or socially.

Tortillas remind us of Central and South America, where a rich history of Christianity continues to grow, but also where Christians often live amid violence and conflict.

We pray, O God, for your church in places beset by violence and still colored by hope.

The baguette reminds us of Europe, with its vast cathedrals that keep faith alive in lean times, reminding us that the church is not only a building, but a community of people.

We pray, O God, for your church in places where its power is diminished and its followers are few.

THE 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

You have met us at the table, Lord Jesus, to unite us with you and with brothers and sisters around the world. Go with us now into that world,

that we might be a living sign of welcome among refugees, freedom among the oppressed, hope amid persecution, peace amid violence, living faith amid a culture of skepticism, and loving kindness toward the earth and all her inhabitants. Amen.

* HYMN 298

Lord, You Give the Great Commission

ABBOT'S LEIGH

BENEDICTION

TITHES AND OFFERING

Your offering for the Kirk's ministry will be received as you leave worship. Our giving is an offering to God. All offerings are part of our worship of God and are used to support the Kirk's ministry. Text "KITH" to 73256 to give using your mobile device.

POSTLUDE