WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY 2018

October 7, 2018

*Offerings from the Baptist World Alliance Commission on Baptist Worship and Spirituality*
A few ideas for the Lord’s Supper Table/Altar/Communion Table
Call to Worship – World Communion Day, BWA

Let our ears be attentive

**We come to listen so we may live**

Let our lips be clean

**We come to drink so we may thirst no more**

Let our bonds be pure

**We come to eat so we may hunger no more**

We summon nations and worship You who knows no division

**We summon nations and worship You who knows neither beginning nor end**

We summon nations and worship You who knows no scarcity

**We summon nations and worship You who knows no boundaries**

Guilherme Almeida, Brazil/USA
Invocation for World Communion Sunday

Gracious God, Father of us all, be with us this day as we gather at the Lord’s Table Across time zones and national borders, in multiple Christian denominations and in multiple languages we offer ourselves to be one in your Spirit. Each of us aware of others, as we gather at your table in obedience to your call to remember and give thanks. We remember the example that was set before us and the call to make disciples. We remember how you emptied yourself that we might stand faultless in your presence with rejoicing. We open our hearts to you offering you praise for your love and grace, for your provision. We open our humbled hearts in confession of our sin and shortcomings that we may experience your forgiveness, making ourselves ready to forgive others in your name. Be with us at the Table, Lord, be here and everywhere adored, for we pray in your name, Amen.

Deborah Cochran (USA)
**Prayer** for World Communion Sunday

Almighty God and Father of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we come to You through Jesus the Christ who has taught us that no man cometh to the Father but by Him.

Father God, we ask in the name of Jesus that You would continue to raise up - through the Baptist World Alliance - workers for Your kingdom in all nations. Make us instruments of Your peace in a world that is so in need of a relationship with You through the shed blood of Jesus.

We thank You Lord Jesus afresh for Your work on Calvary as we share in the communion cup on this World Communion Sunday. We pray for a universal acknowledgment of Calvary for the remission of our sins. We confess that we continue to crucify You, Lord Jesus, when we sin in word, in thought and in activities. We come now asking Your forgiveness as we undertake to continue in Your examples of discipling, healing, feeding, visiting, and ministering to the body of Christ worldwide.

We ask special blessings for our BWA President and all BWA Staff, Regional Secretaries, Assistants, and Affiliates as they effect the ministries of the BWA.

We believe, Mighty God, that You are able to do exceeding abundantly above all that the BWA is doing ---all to Your honor and glory.

We thank You for this fellowship of World Communion. Be magnified, be glorified, be exalted, O Mighty God. This is our prayer with thanksgiving, in the name of Jesus, amen.

Bathsheba Stewart (Bahamas)
A Prayer of Intercession, modeled after the Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, Holy God and Creative Spirit
Who are as much in heaven as you are right here, right now, with us, on earth:

Hallowed, blessed and lifted be the many names by which you are known, sought, and praised around the planet!

As we proclaim the coming of your kin-dom, may we be the ones who are committed to building it, with the blocks of justice, generosity, hospitality and compassion.

As we seek to understand and submit to your will
Grant us the humility and wisdom to distinguish it from our own
So to align the phantasies we have of heaven
With the realities we construct here on earth.

As you feed us, your Church, with your holy bread, the body and blood of Christ,
Give us, we pray, the vision and desire to share our daily bread
With those who hunger also for clean water, shelter, and a country to welcome them home.

Forgive us, oh Lord, the self-righteousness that keeps us divided
In the name of religion, class, sexism, ableism, and racism.
We do know it all comes from fear, yet we are too stubborn to see how hard it is to truly forgive those who have hurt us. We struggle to surrender to love and to the need we have for one another, in their full diversity; and this rigidity of heart may very well cost us the survival of our planet.

Melt our hearts, oh Lord. May your mercy prevail.

The temptation to think we are ultimately in control of our lives is another festering demon,
Threatening our fragile equilibrium here on earth,
Keeping us delusional about our self-sufficiency and independence From You and Neighbor.
Deliver us from this insidious evil, Lord. Greed and the obsessive concern with our own well being is our true enemy these days. Keep us away from it, and move us towards healthier notions of solidarity, sustainability, and interdependence.

We, your children, recognize and anticipate the possibility of a different kind of kin-dom, established on shared power and responsibility, and justice that flows from Creator into every aspect of creation.

May we be the ones who persevere, with your guidance, in constructing this kin-dom, for the well being of Creator, creatures, and creation, And for generations to come.

And may such kin-dom be a true reflection of your Glory, from now into Eternity. Amen.

Francesca Debora Nuzzolese (Italy/USA)
A Prayer of Confession

Confession

Merciful and gracious God, our heavenly Father

I confess that, I live, move, and have my being in your grace alone.

Had it not been for your loving kindness,

I would have faced your wrath!

You’re holy but I’m not; you’re faithful but I’m not.

The best of my efforts to do your will are far from your expectations.

Alas! I’m just a saved sinner, saved by your grace.

I can face the future, O Lord, because you’re a forgiving God.

I’m still loved because you remember my past sins no more.

Create in me a clean heart; restore me from my sins daily

That I may live worthy of your calling for your service.

Amen

Chekroveis Cho-o (Nagaland, India)
Litany for World Communion Sunday
(Taken from I Corinthians 11:23-26)

One: For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you,
All: That the Lord Jesus on the night that he was betrayed took a loaf of bread,
One: and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said,
All: “This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”
One: In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying,
All: “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in
remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup,
you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.