

## **Sunday, 5 October 2025 – Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost – World Communion**

World Communion Sunday is observed on the first Sunday of October each year. First adopted as a denominational practice in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.) in 1936, churches in other denominations were later invited to join. It wasn't until 1940, when the Department of Evangelism of the Federal Council of Churches (a predecessor of the National Council of Churches) extended the celebration to several churches around the world, that the practice became widespread.

The idea originated with Dr. Hugh Thompson Kerr, pastor at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA, in 1933. Kerr first conceived the notion of World Communion Sunday during his year as moderator of the General Assembly in 1930.

### **Prelude**

Composer Dale Wood (1934-2003) won a national hymn-writing contest at the age of 13. He later served as editor for *The Sacred Music Press*.

The tune Dove of Peace was first published in *The Southern Harmony*, 1835, a compilation of shape note hymns and tunes published by William Walker (1809-1875).

### **Processional Hymn**

*Louez le Seigneur! (Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord!)* This short song of praise comes from the French speaking people of Cameroon in Africa and is often used as a processional.

The drum played by Pastor Michael during the procession and offertory anthem is a Djembe, a goblet drum originally from West Africa. The word Djembe means “gather together in peace.”

### **Offertory Anthem**

*We Shall Overcome* is recognized as the unofficial anthem of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. It was popular with folk singers, including Pete Seeger. Joan Baez led a crowd of 300,000 in singing *We Shall Overcome* at the Lincoln Memorial in August 1963. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. recited the words to the hymn in Memphis on Sunday, March 31, 1968 during his final sermon before being assassinated the following week.

Tom Trenney (b. 1977) has served as Minister of Music to First-Plymouth Church in Lincoln, Nebraska, since 2009.

### **Recessional Hymn/Postlude**

Harry T. Burleigh (1866-1949) adapted the tune MCKEE in 1940 for use with the text *In Christ There Is No East or West*. He named it for Rev. Elmer McKee, rector of St. George's Church in New York City, where Burleigh was baritone soloist for 52 years. The postlude is a fanfare based on this hymn tune.