



We choose to remember.

Worship resources  
for Election Day Communion services

[ElectionDayCommunion.org](http://ElectionDayCommunion.org)

# About this guide

We've compiled a number of resources to help you plan your Election Day Communion service on November 6. Please feel free to use whatever you find helpful. (And don't forget to give appropriate attribution where necessary!)

Included in this guide are sample calls to worship, prayers, applicable Scripture passages, and more. You may also have your own ideas and resources to add. If so, we'd love for you to share them with other participating churches through our [website](#) and [Facebook page](#).

Again, feel free to use this guide however much (or little) as you like. You're also welcome to make copies and share them with others. More than anything that we may plan or say, we believe the simple act of gathering for Election Day Communion is a powerful reminder—to ourselves and others—of the One in whom we place our hope.

Peace,

Mark Schloneger  
Kevin Gasser  
Ben Irwin



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# Call to worship

Below are two optional calls to worship you can use to begin your service. The congregation's response is indicated in *italics*.

## Call to worship #1

Based on Ephesians 4:4-6

We have come together as one.

*One people, gathered in the name of the one God.*

We will worship together as one.

*One community, giving praise and honor to the Righteous One.*

We are being empowered as one by One.

*One body and one Spirit, called to the hope of one calling,*

*one Lord, one faith, one baptism,*

*one God and Father of all who is above all and through all and in all.*

Now, in the name of the Three-in-One, we act as one.

*One people, giving witness to the power of One.*

## Call to worship #2

From Cahill United Methodist Church (Alvarado, TX), published by re:Worship

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

the love of God,

and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

*And also with you.*

Happy are the people who serve the God of Jacob.

*Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.*

Let us pray.

*Loving God,*

*we gather to praise and worship you*

*and to pledge to you our loyalty and our service.*

*Bless our gathering and our remembering,*

*our hearing and our speaking,*

*that all honor and glory may be yours.*

*Bless us that we may be a blessing—*

*a blessing to you, to our community,*

*to our nation, and to our world.*

*We ask it in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.*

# Prayers

Below are some prayers which can be incorporated into your Election Day Communion service as you see fit. The congregation's response for each prayer is indicated in *italics*.

## **Prayer for the nation**

From *The Book of Common Prayer*

Lord God Almighty, you have made all the peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace: Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## **Prayer for the unity of the Church**

From *The Book of Common Prayer*

Almighty Father, whose blessed Son before his passion prayed for his disciples that they might be one, as you and he are one: Grant that your Church, being bound together in love and obedience to you, may be united in one body by the one Spirit, that the world may believe in him whom you have sent, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## **Prayer for the election**

By Joanna Harader, author of the "Spacious Faith" blog

God of justice and compassion,  
God of Republicans and Democrats and Independents,  
God of the poor and the 1% and the middle class,  
in the heat of this election year  
*we pray for our nation, our churches, and ourselves.*

In the midst of meanness and deception,  
*may our words be kind and true.*

In the midst of loud speeches and harsh accusations,  
*may we listen well and try to understand.*

May those who follow Jesus do the work of Jesus—  
breaking down the dividing walls  
speaking the truth in love  
meeting together in the face of disagreements.

Holy, loving God, have mercy on your children.

*Amen.*

# Prayers (continued)

## **Prayer of confession**

Based on Isaiah 2:4-5, adapted from a prayer by Idlewild Presbyterian Church (Memphis, TN)

Eternal God, before you nations rise and fall. Help us to repent of our country's wrong, and to choose your way of reunion and renewal.

*Great God, renew this nation.*

Give us a glimpse of the kingdom you are bringing to earth, where death and violence and hunger will be no more, and where all nations gather in the light of your presence.

*Great God, renew this nation.*

Teach us peace,  
that we may plow up battlefields  
and pound weapons into building tools,  
and learn to talk across old boundaries  
as brothers and sisters in your love.

*Great God, renew this nation.*

Talk sense to us,  
so that we may wisely end all prejudices,  
and may put a stop to injustice and cruelty,  
which divides or wounds the human family.

*Great God, renew this nation.*

Draw us together as one people who do your will,  
so that we may be a light to our nation,  
leading the way to your promised kingdom,  
which is even now coming among us.

*Great God, renew this nation.*

*Great God, eternal Lord,  
show us there is no law or liberty apart from you;  
and let us serve you whole-heartedly, as your devoted followers,  
through Christ our Lord.*

# Scripture readings

Below are a few suggested Scripture readings for your Election Day Communion service.

## **From the Revised Common Lectionary**

The Revised Common Lectionary (used by several U.S. denominations) lists the following Scripture readings for Sunday, November 4 (the Sunday before election day). Whether or not your church uses the Lectionary, you may want to consider reading some or all of these passages during your Election Day Communion service on November 6.

First reading and psalm:

- Ruth 1:1-18
- Psalm 146

Alternate reading and psalm:

- Deuteronomy 6:1-9
- Psalm 119:1-8

Second reading:

- Hebrews 9:11-14

Gospel:

- Mark 12:28-34

On the next page, you'll find a number of idea starters for short sermons or devotionals based on some of the passages listed above.

## **Other suggested readings**

- Deuteronomy 24:17-22
- Zechariah 7:9-10
- Jeremiah 22:16
- Luke 4:14-21
- Romans 13:1-10
- James 2:14-17

# Sermon suggestions

You may wish to share a brief message during your Election Day Communion service. If so, you are welcome to use any of the idea starters below. These suggestions are tied to some of the Scripture readings from the Revised Common Lectionary (see previous page).

## **Ruth 1:1-18**

In this text, a Moabite woman named Ruth leaves her own country behind in order to remain by her Hebrew mother-in-law's side. Near the end of this text, Ruth famously declares, "Your people will be my people and your God my God."

Ruth shows what it means to put loyalty to God (and to God's people) ahead of everything else—even loyalty to one's own country. As followers of Jesus, we are called follow Ruth's example. Today we have an opportunity to remember that we are first and foremost citizens of God's kingdom.

## **Psalms 146**

This psalm highlights the folly of placing too much hope in our political leaders. As Scripture reminds us, no politician can meet our deepest needs. "Princes... cannot save" (146:3).

The psalmist then turns his attention to the only One who *can* save. He reveals God's agenda is much different than that of earthly leaders. God cares for the oppressed, the hungry, the orphan, and the foreigner. If these words sound familiar, that's because they echo another famous text: Isaiah 61, which Jesus quoted at his inaugural sermon, in which he revealed purpose in coming.

## **Deuteronomy 6:1-9**

For ancient Israelites, Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (or the Shema, as it was called) contained the greatest command in all of Scripture: love the Lord your God. There was no higher duty to which people were called. There was no higher allegiance. This was the whole reason for the Israelites' existence. They were to talk about it wherever they went. They were to remember these words every time they left home and every time they returned.

Today, as we meditate on the words of the Shema, we too can remember that whatever other loyalties or allegiances we may have—including to particular candidates, causes, or political parties—nothing is more important than our shared devotion to God.

## **Mark 12:28-34**

When Jesus was asked, "Which is the greatest command," he didn't give just one answer. He gave two. Like all observant Jews of his day, Jesus believed that loving God was the greatest command. But there was a second, he said: love your neighbor. Matthew's account drives the point home even more clearly: everything else in Scripture hangs on these two commands (Matthew 22:39).

Years later, the apostle Paul wrote that neighbor love is "the fulfillment of the law." Our faithfulness to God, then, is not measured by our ideological purity, our willingness to vote for the "right" candidates, or some other human standard. It is measured by no more—and no less—than our willingness to love those around us.

# Suggestions for communion

Many denominations already have set liturgies for communion. We encourage you to follow whatever practices are appropriate for your tradition, but you are also welcome to incorporate the ideas below as you see fit.

## Invitation to the table

Adapted from "A call to put away your swords and your sound bites,"  
by Jonathan Martin, lead pastor of Renovatus Church

The world has called you to the voting booth to decide which candidate should run the country. We are calling you to the bread and wine, to decide once more who will run your life.

So let us put away our swords and our sound bites. Let us drop our rocks and our nets. Let us come to the table that is not just for the rich and powerful, but for the broken.

Come and receive the body of Christ broken for you, the blood of Christ shed for you.

## Communion liturgy

Published by the Peace and Justice Support Network of the Mennonite Church USA

Brothers and sisters,

if you will to love God before, in, and above all things,  
in the power of God's holy and living Word, then let each say: *I will.*

If you will to love your neighbors  
and to serve your neighbors with deeds of love  
then let each say: *I will.*

If you will to practice mutual admonition toward your brothers and sisters,  
to reconcile yourselves with those whom you have offended,  
to abandon all envy, hate, and evil will toward everyone,  
and to also love your enemies, and do good to them,  
then let each say: *I will.*

If you desire publicly to confirm before the church this pledge of love,  
by eating bread and drinking wine,  
the living memorial of the suffering and death of Jesus our Lord,  
then let each say: *I desire it in the power of God.*

[silent reflection]

Let us eat and drink with one another in the name of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. May God give to all of us the strength to carry out our pledge. *Amen.*

We praise and thank you, Lord God, Creator of the heavens and the earth, for your goodness towards us. Especially you have loved us so much that you sent your beloved son to us, so that all who believe in him may not be lost, but have eternal life. Based on his example we walk the way of love and peace, and we also pray:



# Suggestions for communion (continued)

*Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from the evil one.*

“For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, ‘This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’ ”

“In the same way he took the cup also after supper, saying, ‘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.”

[serving of the bread and cup]

Brothers and sisters, by eating the bread and drinking the cup in memory of the shed blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, we have had fellowship with one another, and have all become one loaf and one body. Since Christ is our Head, we should become conformed to our Head and as his members follow after him—love one another, do good, give and receive counsel, serve our neighbors, and even love our enemies.

Arise now and go forth in the peace of Christ Jesus. The grace of God be with us all. *Amen.*

## **Post-communion benediction**

Now is the time for us all to make our votes clear.  
Through the power of the Holy Spirit,

may God take your shoes,  
and fill them with feet that follow the way of Jesus;

may God take your lips,  
and make them proclaim the good news of Jesus;

may God take your hands,  
and make them touch the world’s wounds with the healing and compassion of Jesus;

and may God take your hearts,  
and set them on fire for Jesus!

For this is the year of the Lord’s favor:  
*Blessed be the name of the Lord!*

# Additional resources

Below are some additional resources you may wish to consult as you plan your Election Day Communion service.

## **Peace and Justice Support Network**

The Peace and Justice Support Network is a ministry of the Mennonite Church USA. Their website offers a number of helpful suggestions and resources for a “Christian Citizenship Sunday,” much of which is also fitting for an Election Day Communion service. [Read more](#)

## **Worship and Election Day**

Taylor Burton-Edwards is the Director of Worship Resources for the General Board of Discipleship of the United Methodist Church (UMC). His article provides some ideas for organizing an Election Day Communion service. While his post is intended primarily for UMC congregations, others may find it helpful as well. [Read more](#)

## **re:Worship**

The re:Worship blog has several useful resources for worship services to mark dates of national significance, such as election day. Available resources include calls to worship, prayers, song suggestions, and more. [Read more](#)

## **Book of Common Prayer**

The Book of Common Prayer (BCP) is the official prayer book of the Episcopal Church. It includes “An Order for Celebrating the Holy Eucharist,” which is intended for occasions outside the Sunday morning worship service. The entire BCP is available online. [Read more](#)