

The Church's One Foundation

The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the word.
From heav'n he came and sought
her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought
her,
and for her life he died.

Elect from ev'ry nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation
one Lord, one faith, one birth:
one holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with ev'ry grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder
this world sees her oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder,
by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are
keeping;
their cry goes up: "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song.

Through toil and tribulation
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace forevermore;
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth has union
with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won.
Oh, blessed heav'nly chorus!
Lord, save us by your grace,
that we, like saints before us,
may see you face to face.

World Communion Sunday

Pastor Debra Samuelson
October 2, 2008



This Sunday, October 5, is World Communion Sunday, an observance that began in 1936 in the Presbyterian Church. Within just a few years the observance had spread to other denominations. On this day we celebrate our oneness in Christ, the Prince of Peace, in the midst of the world we are called to serve. Our opening hymn for this coming Sunday, "The Church's One Foundation" by Samuel Stone (1839-1900), was chosen with World Communion Sunday in mind. As a young pastor, Samuel Stone was not sure the people in the church he served understood what they were saying when they recited the Apostles' Creed. To assist in their learning he wrote 12 hymns, each explaining a part of the Creed in more depth. "The Church's One Foundation" is the 9th of the 12 hymns (and the only one to survive) explaining what it means to be the universal, or catholic church and the communion of saints. Over the years this hymn has become a symbol of unity, calling believers of different denominations to join together in service and worship that is grounded in Christ.

On this World Communion Sunday we will also celebrate with 20 of our young people at Redeemer their first communion at the 11:00 worship service!

We look forward to celebrating our unity with the whole Christian church on earth this coming Sunday!



*Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839-
1900*

Public Domain