

**“FROM ALL TRIBES AND PEOPLES AND TONGUES”
OCTOBER 2008**

On October 5th, we will celebrate World Communion Sunday. On this first Sunday in October, Christians around the world will partake of the Lord’s Supper and lift up the fact that the Christian Church is indeed a worldwide church. There are followers of Jesus Christ in every land and we will be united in the breaking of the bread and the passing of the cup.

One of the great passages that describes this worldwide community of faith, is found in the Book of Revelation. John has a vision of heaven and describes what he sees with these words,

*“I looked up, and behold, a great multitude which no man could number, from all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying with a loud voice, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits upon the throne, and to the Lamb!’”
(Revelation 7:9-10)*

The scope and grandeur of this vision is moving. John struggles to put it into human words. Heaven will be populated by believers from all tribes, peoples, and tongues.

We will celebrate John’s vision on World Communion Sunday. In a world that is divided in so many painful ways, John shows us the unity of God’s people. We can imagine hearing the many voices lifting up praise to God in their native tongue:

English: “Salvation belongs to our God ...”

Spanish: “La salvación pertenece a nuestro Dios ...”

German: “Die Rettung kommt von unserem Gott ...”

Greek: “Ἡ σωτηρία τῷ θεῷ ἡμῶν ...”

Only God could create such a celestial choir. All of our efforts to attain unity here on earth will be transformed and perfected by God’s power. What is so difficult to accomplish on earth will be the norm in heaven.

Please circle October 5th on your calendar and make it a point to join us when we celebrate World Communion Sunday. As Christians unite in worship around the globe, we will witness to the hope that is found in our Risen Lord. It is so easy to give in to the temptations of violence, strife, and division. In today’s hurting world, millions are looking for another way. May the oneness that Christians show on October 5th lift up that vivid vision of John.

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