

**First Presbyterian Church, Sylacauga, AL  
The Rev. James B. Stanford III  
October 4, 2009  
World Communion Sunday**

**Luke 13:22-30**

**“Somebody’s Knocking At Your Door ... Sounds Like Jesus”**

**I have been robbed once in my life. I was living in the Manse in Memphis and had been away overnight. I returned to find the front door kicked in and my TV and stereo equipment taken. Because of the broken door and door-jam, it took days to get it fixed and to get the house secured again. Eventually, I wound up with heavy glass security doors in addition to dead bolts.**

**Perhaps that why, when I moved to Sylacauga, I have had an aversion to locking the doors. Besides, there are four entry doors to the Church’s Manse, and all but one of the doors has glass panes.**

**Robert Frost has a poem about “Mending Walls” with the line that goes: “Something there is that doesn’t love a wall.” We probably once felt that way about locked doors. There was a time when people never, ever locked their door. Even if they went away on vacation, they just left the door unlocked.**

**The unlocked door, you see, was a symbol, really, of welcome. The greeting used to be, “Just turn the knob and come on in.” Maybe it’s a picture of heaven.**

**Doors appear quite a bit in scripture. For instance, in teaching about prayer Jesus says, “knock and the door shall be opened to you.” Access to God is available always; God’s door is always open.**

**Or when the resurrected Jesus appeared to His disciples, including Thomas who doubted. Remember: “the doors were shut ... but Jesus came and stood among them.” Or in Revelation 4:1, when John receives his vision, he writes: “After this I looked, and there in heaven a door stood open...”**

**Yet, when all is said and done, knowing the One who stands by the door is what matters ... KNOWING JESUS ... not knowing about Jesus. When all is said and done, argued about and theorized, hoped for and lobbied against ... in the end, what matters is whether you know Jesus Christ ... because He is the door, and we must enter through Him.**

**Surprisingly, people will come from east and west, from north and south, to sit at table and eat ... in the kingdom of God. These words date back to the Psalms, where in Psalm 107, verse 3, the Psalmist says: “They will come from east and west, from north and south, and be filled with good things.” A vision is described of how God intends it to be: a feast for all people from the ends of the earth. No part of the world will be overlooked or**

left out. People from everywhere will come together to celebrate the rich abundance of God's grace and love.

Astronaut Russell Schweikert once saw the world from outer space and said, "When you go around the earth in an hour and a half, you begin to recognize that your identity is with the whole thing. And that makes a (difference). You look down (there) and you can't imagine how many borders and boundaries you cross again and again and again, and you don't even see them ... from where you see it, the thing is a whole and it's so beautiful. You wish you could take a person from each side in various conflicts and say, 'Look. Look at it from this perspective. Look at that. What is important?' ... You realize that on this small spot is everything that means anything to you ... all of history and music and poetry and art and death and birth and love and tears and joy and games and all of it on that little spot out there that you can cover with your thumb..."

To give us that vision ... to help us begin to make that choice ... to live out our commitment to Jesus Christ, He calls us to come to His Table ... from the east and the west, from the north and the south ... to come together and share in this sacrament of love and grace.

One final verse from the Bible this morning about a door ... this time from the Book of Revelation (3:20): Jesus says, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock: If any one hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in with him and eat with him and he with me." There's knocking at our door this morning ... and it sounds like Jesus. He awaits your invitation to come in for he longs to sit at table with you.

Ask yourself two faith questions (from The Study Catechism, 1998)

**Q. 70. What is the main difference between baptism and the Lord's Supper?**

**A. While I receive baptism only once, I receive the Lord's Supper again and again. Being unrepeatable, baptism indicates not only that Christ died for our sins once and for all, but that by grace we are also united with Him once and for all through faith. Being repeatable, the Lord's Supper indicates that as we turn unfilled to Him again and again, our Lord continually meets us in the power of the Holy Spirit to renew and deepen our faith.**

**Q. 78. What does it mean to share in the Lord's Supper?**

**A. When we celebrate the Lord's Supper, the Lord Jesus Christ is truly present, pouring out His Spirit upon us. By His Spirit, the bread that we break and the cup that we bless share in our Lord's own body and blood. Through them He once offered our life to God; through them He now offers His life to us. As I receive the bread and the cup, remembering that Christ died even for me, I feed on Him in my heart by faith with thanksgiving, and enter His risen life, so that His life becomes mine, and my life becomes Him, to all eternity.**