



COMMUNION

DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion Hymn: VU # 64, vs. 1 & 2 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

AN INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The celebration of communion is always a festival of friends, a pulling together of our loves and our hopes, our moments of agony and our glimpses of victory. It is here, where bread is broken and wine is shared, that we can be ourselves and see others for who they truly are: sons and daughters of the living God. Here the communion things of life – bread and wine, memories and dreams – become holy, touched by God. Here that which is earthly becomes divine, and that which is human becomes more than it has ever dreamed. As we come to this table, we are reminded that this is not the table of this congregation; nor is it the table of the United Church of Canada, or any particular denomination. It is the table of Jesus Christ, the family feast of the whole people of God. All who seek to be nourished and sustained in the journey of faith, and long to live justly and in peace with their neighbour, are welcome here. Let us eat and drink together for our strengthening in the faith, and for the sake of the world.

CALL TO GIVE THANKS (Responsive)

Glory to God in the highest!

And on earth, peace to all!

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is good to give thanks and praise.

THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you, gracious God, Creator of light, Giver of all light, Source of Love. We bless you for all your gifts. You bring creation to birth and send prophets to awaken us to your Advent among us. We praise you for that holy night of hope and the wonder of this time of joy. We thank you for those who, like Mary, have the strength and courage to give birth to your love in the world; for those who, like the shepherds, dare to seek out the Child of Bethlehem. We praise you that your everlasting light is shown to us in womb and tomb, in cradle and cross, in tenderness and compassion.

THE CREED OF THE UNITED CHURCH (Responsive)

Let us repeat together a contemporary expression of Christian faith:

Man is not alone, he lives in God's world.

We believe in God; who has created and is creating, who has come in the true Man, Jesus, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by his Spirit. We trust him. He calls us to be his church: to celebrate his presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in live beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray:

Holy God, we praise you. Let the heavens be joyful and the earth be glad. We bless you for creating the whole world, for your promises to your people of Israel, and for Jesus Christ in whom your fullness dwells. Born of Mary, he shares our life. Eating with sinners, he welcomes us. Dying on the cross, he saves us. Raised from the dead, he gives new life. Living with you, he prays for us.

With thanksgiving we take the bread and this cup, and proclaim Jesus' death and resurrection. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us that this meal may be our communion in the body of Christ. Make us one with Christ and with all who share this feast. United us in faith, encourage us with hope, inspire us to love, that we may serve as your faithful disciples until we feast at your table in glory. We praise you, eternal God, through Christ your Word made flesh, and in the power of your life-giving Spirit, now and forever. Hear us now as we pray, saying **Our Father.....Amen.**

PRAISE BEFORE COMMUNION (Unison)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

REMEMBERING JESUS AT THE TABLE (Responsive)

Let us remember together that vision of God's reign, shown to us in Jesus at the table:

He shared food with followers and friends,

With saints and sinners.

With crowds of thousands on the hillside,

And a few friends in an upper room.

On the night before he died, he had supper with his companions.

He took bread, broke it, and gave it to them, saying:

“Take eat. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup and after giving thanks, he passed it among them, saying:

“Drink this. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Through this loaf and cup, Jesus lives within us.

In word and deed, Jesus lives among us.

BLESSING

Send, O God, your holy spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that all who share in this bread and cup may be the body of Christ: light, life, and love in the world. In this hope and as your people we praise you.

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

L: The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are now ready.

Choir: Let us break bread together on our knees.

L: The body of Christ.

Choir: Let us drink wine together on our knees.

L: The blood of Christ.

Choir: Let us praise God together on our knees.

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION:

Life-giving God, we give thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of his holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by the life of Christ, that we may faithfully proclaim the Good News of your love and that your church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world. Through Jesus Christ, our redeemer. Amen.

Hymn After Communion: VU # 64, vs. 4 & 5 ‘O Little Town of Bethlehem”