

Service of the Table

Friends, from many pasts and pathways we are gathered to this one place; a sacred space that provides homecoming and healing for all who yearn for the mystery of love to deepen and ripen in their soul. And so we come, not in a show of strength, nor presumption of privilege. Rather to remember and be remembered; to be held and made whole by the grace of Christ, the mystery of God and the encouragement of the Spirit.

Giver and Redeemer of life, we offer our gratitude; we lay down our defences for a love that creates then calls us forth – often from places of imprisonment and desolation. For you are our liberation and hope, you are our mercy and courage for the journey.

And so, ours is the song of countless generations who have also been captivated by your beauty and set free in your healing presence:

**Holy, holy, holy is God,
heaven and earth resound to God's glory.
Hosanna in the highest
and blest is the One who comes in God's name.
Hosanna in the highest!**

Before these symbols of everyday life – bread for the sharing and wine for gladness of heart – we pause and pray.

For in and through them, we seek a union of heart, mind, and spirit with the One we remember at this table:

Then Jesus took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. (Luke 22:10-20)

Christ who calls, rescues, and ennobles, fill us with your spirit of strength and compassion for all.

Equip and inspire us to be your people in this time and place. Amen!

Prayers of the People

Sing into prayer: VU 400

Lord, listen to your children praying;

Lord, send your Spirit in this place.

Lord, listen to your children praying;

send us love, send us power, send us grace!

Even as we gather in relative safety

And in the company of this community,

we remember and pray for the people around the

world: especially those whose lives have been ended

or up-ended by natural disaster or humanity's

inhumanity *(Silence)*

We pray for a world that confuses us,

Politics and leaders that frustrate us.

We pray in earnest for the world and its people.

Lord, listen to your children praying;

Lord, send your Spirit in this place.

Lord, listen to your children praying;

send us love, send us power, send us grace!

In our prayers we remember:

those who are hungry

for food, for justice, for peace;

those who are thirsty
for living water, for salvation, for life;
those who are estranged
**from loved ones, from their homes, from the
community;**
those who are vulnerable
**to the elements, to brokenness, to the
suffering of others;**
those who are in need of healing
those who are imprisoned
in jail cells, in occupations, within themselves;
Lord, listen to your children praying;
Lord, send your Spirit in this place.
Lord, listen to your children praying;
send us love, send us power, send us grace!

May we never cease to pray and give thanks for each
other,
**remembering and especially lifting up those
whom others might consider the least among
us.**

We pray as Jesus taught:
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the
glory forever and ever.**

Send, O God, your Holy Spirit upon us and what we
do here, that we and these gifts, touched by your

Spirit, may be signs of life and love to one another, and to the world.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, God most holy, now and forever. Amen.

Responses when served:

The bread of life broken for you.

Amen. OR Thanks be to God.

The cup of blessing poured out for you.

Amen. OR Thanks be to God.

*(Choir is invited down first. Any who wish to remain seated for communion are served. You are invited to come forward for communion, standing in groups of 6 or so at the front. **Communion by intinction:** Take your bread and dip it in the chalice. When all in the group are served and when you are ready you may return to your seats and the next group will come forward.)*

Prayer after Communion

One: Eternal and gracious One, though we live in a world of need,

**here we have tasted your goodness
and hungered for a world more just.**

Though afflicted by brokenness and division,

**here we have heard your call
to be a people of healing community.**

Though daily we touch our limits,

**here we have received
the fullness of your grace.**

Send us forth, O God,

united in faith, in hope, and in love. Amen