

You may now partake of the elements, either in your pew or at the altar rail.

Prayer after Communion:

Thank you for including us in this sacred mystery of Jesus Christ. In it we have encountered the Divine presence: the warmth of your love, the surety of salvation, and a refreshed view of life and all it might hold. Now send us out with your blessing, to do your will and to love all whom we meet as we reflect the presence of Christ in all we do. Amen.

Holy Communion

Advent 1, Year C, December 1, 2024

Written by Rev. Mary Johnson - Transformingcommunion.com

Invitation:

Jesus desires to come into your life. Come to this table and find Christ here. Come and taste and savor this divine goodness. Come and listen for the tenderness in his voice and seek to feel the gentle touch of grace. Immanuel is with us.

Confession:

We have been seeking for signs of the coming of the Son of Man everywhere. Yet you come when we least expect you. It is never obvious. It's never loud, but quiet and unassuming. You come as a child needing our mercy. You come as someone with a thirst that is in our power to quench. You keep reaching out to us, yet we keep looking in the wrong places. Forgive us, Jesus, for not responding to your coming. We didn't expect you to come this way. Amen.

Extending Forgiveness:

Behold, Christ stands at the door and knocks; open the door and the Son of Man will come in and dine with you. You are forgiven; now be on your guard for your Lord is near.

Behold, Christ does stand at the door and knocks; open the door and the Son of Man will come in and dine with you. You are forgiven; now be on your guard for your Lord is near. Amen and Amen.

Great Thanksgiving:

People point to signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars.

We have heard the predictions of Christ's appearing for centuries.

Yet you have never left us, nor forsaken us in our times of need.

You are with us even to this present age.

Maranatha! Come Lord, and be our guest.

We greet your presences with our heartfelt worship and adoration!

You are present.

You are always near.

We see your glory in the eyes of a child.

We hear your voice in the cries of the needy.
 We taste your goodness in the compassion that flows freely during every disaster.
 We feel your healing touch in every act of kindness.
 We smell your sacred scent in each fresh beginning.

Your glory is all around us and shines forth throughout the whole earth.
 We are not alone in singing your praises.
 You are praised in every generation, because you are faithful and true.
 All of creation praises you, because all of life has benefitted from your goodness.
 And all of heaven joins us because they know it is true:
Heaven, declare God's glory!
Sky, proclaim the Divine handiwork!
Each day sing of God's glory to the next,
And each night share it with the one that will follow.
No words are needed.
Your voices proclaim with silence.
And your testimonies extends throughout the whole earth. (Based on Psalm 19:1-4a)

God is present in Immanuel.
 The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.
 We stand in Christ's presence wherever love is expressed.
 When physical needs are met, we find the living Christ.
 When emotional needs are satisfied, Christ's present is made known.
 When relational needs find inclusion, Christ dwells with us.
 When justice needs find a voice, Christ speaks with surety.

When someone needs to be served,
 we find Jesus coming down to our level,
 taking up towel and basin,
 to meet the need while inviting us to join.

To serve our need, Jesus, took the simple bread of Passover,
 blessed it with prayer, broke it with his own hands, and shared it with everyone
 saying:
 "Take a piece and eat, this is my body broken and shared with you.
 Do this often and remember."

To serve our need, Jesus took the bottle of Passover wine,
 blessed it with prayer, poured it with his own hands, and shared it with everyone

saying:
 "Take a sip, this is the cup of my blood which I pour out freely in celebration of God's
 eternal covenant of grace, promising you and the whole world the forgiveness of every
 sin. Do this often and remember."

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup we remember
 this holy mystery that we proclaim before the world:
The Son of Man died; arose; and will come again.

Holy Presence, Holy Power, Holy Love,
 reveal yourself through this bread and wine
 allowing them to become for us the body and blood of Christ;
 Christ in the world.

Holy Presence, Holy Power, Holy Love,
 reveal yourself through us, your people
 allowing us to become for the world, your church,
 the body and bride of Christ;
 Christ in the world.

Holy Presence, Holy Power, Holy Love,
 be present to the Choptank Charge:
 working through Spedden, Antioch, and Beckwith United Methodist Churches.
 May your love work through them:
 transforming lives, meeting needs, and giving hope.
 This is our prayer we pray in Jesus' name,
 through the power of the Holy Spirit,
 and with the endless grace of our Creator whom we worship now and forever. Amen.

Let us pray as Christ taught us:
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.