



For Communion Sundays during Ordinary Time

Invited to the Feast of Creation

A Green Communion Service

Invitation to Communion

One: We celebrate this holy meal because
Jesus' ministry happened around tables:
tables where the unwelcome were invited in,
where the powerful were taught and humbled,
where the hungry were fed and
the thirsty were given something to drink.
In these meals God's saving presence was revealed and made real,
and a new form of community was given birth.

**All: We come to this table to meet Jesus,
made known in the breaking of the bread.**

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

One: God, we give thanks for your presence
made known through your creation.

We are thankful that it was your word,
borne on your very breath,
which commanded the first waters to yield
the disordered order
of teeming, abundant life.

We are grateful for the waters of judgment
which brought a new start for your world
when we sullied it with violence.

We give thanks that you parted the seas,
offering us a way out of bondage.

We are glad that you have rocked
in the waters of Mary's womb
and that your feet have felt
the welcome of warm soil cupped around them.

We give thanks for our lives molded
from the same warm soil of earth
and your en-livening breath.

We know your goodness in fields
that hold seeds of grace and seeds of wheat
in equal measure.

We celebrate life with grains and fruits and cold clean water,
set on the table that all may be refreshed.

And we are thankful that we are neither the first nor the last
to be invited to this feast,
but are members of a great web of worshippers
who have come before and will come long after.

Another: We give thanks that Jesus lived a human life among us;
teaching, feeding, healing, casting out evil,
and calling all into your service.

He shared in our suffering and joy,
and received death at our hands.

We rejoice that you raised Christ from the dead
and so ended our captivity to sin and death,
freeing us for your works of love and justice.

We celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit, the wind from God,
who calls us into the body of Christ where,
like Mary, we are asked to give birth
to love, mercy and justice for your world.

We give thanks for the gifts of this table,
the bounty of your beautiful earth,
for it is here that all are gathered, filled with good things to eat,
and sent into your world to proclaim *shalom*.

**All: Holy, holy God of love,
the whole creation speaks of your glory.**

One: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion
Jesus gathered with his followers to share a meal.
He took bread that was to feed them,
gave you thanks, God, and broke the bread to share it, saying,
“This is my body, which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

And likewise Jesus took a cup of wine
that was to quench their thirst and gave you thanks for it.
He then said,
“Take this cup and share it among you.
I will not drink of it again until the realm of God has come.
This cup that is poured out for you
is the new covenant in my blood.”

Another: Come, Holy Spirit and
 bless these earth-born gifts of bread and wine.
 Bless us as we receive them
 that we might be made ready to feed your sheep,
 to return flourishing to the land,
 to heal the lame and blind and deaf,
 to unstop the mouths of the mute for your praise.
 Make us faithful in all things to which you have called us.

All: **In the strength Christ gives us,
 we offer ourselves to you, God.
 We give thanks that you have called us
 to serve your world and your people.**

Breaking Bread, Pouring Wine

One: By this bread Christ's body is fed.
 We are gathered and sent into God's world
 to proclaim *shalom*.
 Through this cup of blessing
 our old covenant with death is broken.
 We are filled with new life.

 Let us pray now in the words of Jesus the Christ,
 who taught us to pray saying

Prayer of Our Savior

Sharing the Elements

 This is the bread of life and the cup of the new covenant.
 It is given for all who come. Be fed for all things are ready.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**We thank you God because you have invited us to this table.
Here we are strengthened for the task ahead of us:
 the loving of the world.
Here we receive all Christ's gifts.
Strengthen our faith.
Help us love one another and your creation more.
Teach us to pray, share, sing, teach, feed, heal, call and welcome
 as you have done to us.
Make our lives a form of praise for your love
 shown to us through Jesus Christ.**

Invited to the Feast of Creation was written by the Rev. Betsy Flory. Rev. Flory came late to ministry, discovered a passion for teaching young people and so was led to a passion for the creation - since our young people need a world to grow in. Currently she serves on the UCC Environment and Energy task force and is rearranging her life in order to do more education in churches about a proper relationship between humans and the many other parts of God's creation.



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