



## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Welcome to this place:

**where all ages sit side by side,  
where heaven and earth embrace in peace,  
where God has been, is, and always will be.**

Welcome to this place,  
as we gather with all of God's children:

**where we find God's love,  
where we hear the tender voice of Jesus,  
where the Spirit teaches us new songs to sing.**

Welcome to this place,  
where all is made ready by our God:

**where we bring our hunger, and find food;  
where we our woundedness, and find healing;  
where we bring our very selves, and find  
acceptance.**

## HYMN *Gather Us In (#401)*

Here in this place the new light is streaming  
now is the darkness vanished away;

See in this space our fears and our dreamings  
brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;  
gather us in, the blind and the lame;

Call to us now, and we shall awaken  
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young; our lives are a mystery  
We are the old who yearn for your face.

We have been sung throughout all of history,

called to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;  
gather us in, the proud and the strong;

Give us a heart, so meek and so lowly;  
give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water;  
here we will take the bread of new birth.

Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,  
call us anew to be salt for the earth.

Give us to drink the wine of compassion;  
give us to eat the bread that is you;

Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion  
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining,  
not in some heaven, light years away:

Here in this place the new light is shining;  
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.

Gather us in and hold us forever;  
gather us in and make us your own;

Gather us in, all peoples together,  
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

## PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

—from *The Didache* (2<sup>nd</sup> century)

**We give you thanks, O Father,  
for the life and knowledge  
which you have made known to us  
through your Son Jesus;  
yours is the glory for ever and ever.  
As the grain once scattered in the fields  
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside  
are now united on this table in bread and wine,  
so, Lord, may your whole church  
soon be gathered together  
from the ends of the earth into your kingdom;  
for yours is the glory and power,  
through Jesus Christ,  
in the power of the Spirit  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**HYMN *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above (#645)***

Sing praise to God who reigns above,  
the God of all creation,  
the God of power, the God of love,  
the God of our salvation.  
With healing balm my soul is filled,  
and every faithless murmur stilled:  
to God all praise and glory!

What God's almighty power has made  
God's gracious mercy keepeth;  
by morning glow or evening shade  
God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth.  
Within the kingdom of God's might,  
lo! all is just and all is right:  
to God all praise and glory!

The Lord is never far away,  
but, through all grief distressing,  
an ever-present help and stay,  
our peace and joy and blessing,  
as with a mother's tender hand  
God gently leads the chosen band:  
to God all praise and glory!

Thus all my toilsome way along  
I sing aloud thy praises,  
that all may hear the grateful song  
my voice unwearied raises.  
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart;  
both soul and body, take your part:  
to God all praise and glory!

**OPENING OUR HEARTS TO GOD**

**O God, we yearn to be a community of believers,  
united in your Spirit, locally and worldwide.  
And yet we are fraught with divisions:  
denominational, political, theological.  
We are weighed down by tensions  
and the things that break us apart.  
Help us to learn to live in community together,  
loving one another in spite of our differences,  
and respecting one another  
in everything that we do and say.  
Lord Jesus, help us to become  
what you prayed for us to be:  
one in heart and mind and purpose.  
Only through your grace can we achieve this.  
(time for silent prayers and reflection)**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE—**from Ephesians 2:11-22

Do you remember? At one time, you were without  
Christ;  
you were the stranger, the outsider, the alien.  
But now, in Christ, you have been brought home,  
living in God's household of hope and peace.

**God's covenant with us is everlasting;  
God's steadfast love is forever;  
God's forgiveness makes us new and whole.  
Thanks be to God!**

**PASSING THE PEACE**

**HYMN *Live into Hope (#772)***

Live into hope of captives freed,  
of sight regained, the end of greed.  
The oppressed shall be the first to see  
the year of God's own jubilee!

Live into hope! The blind shall see  
with insight and with clarity,  
removing shades of pride and fear,  
a vision of our God brought near.

Live into hope of liberty,  
the right to speak, the right to be,  
the right to have one's daily bread,  
to hear God's word and thus be fed.

Live into hope of captives freed  
from chains of fear  
or want or greed.  
God now proclaims our full release  
to faith and hope and joy and peace.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS** Ephesians 4:1-6 and  
John 17:18-23

**MESSAGE One**

**HYMN *I Come with Joy (#515)***

I come with joy, a child of God,  
forgiven, loved, and free,  
the life of Jesus to recall,  
in love laid down for me,  
in love laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near  
to find, as all are fed,  
the new community of love  
in Christ's communion bread,  
in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,  
each proud division ends.

The love that made us, makes us one,  
and strangers now are friends,  
and strangers now are friends.

The Spirit of the risen Christ,  
unseen, but ever near,  
is in such friendship better known,  
alive among us here,  
alive among us here.

Together met, together bound  
by all that God has done,  
we'll go with joy, to give the world  
the love that makes us one,  
the love that makes us one.

## CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

— Worldwide Communion Liturgy

### Invitation

Christ invites us all to this holy feast.  
As we gather this morning,  
we remember our sisters and brothers  
from above and below the equator,  
from the far east, to the near west,  
from every time zone around the globe.  
As today's sunlight inches across land and sea  
Christians gather to celebrate their place  
in God's Kingdom.  
All are invited and all are welcome.  
Come, for the meal is ready!

### Prayer of Preparation

One: To God be the glory:  
great things God has done!

Let us pray:  
healing God,  
we come before you  
wounded, yet seeking wholeness,  
isolated, yet seeking community,  
overwhelmed, yet seeking simplicity,  
sinful, yet seeking grace:

All: **God, we yearn for the healing you  
promise.**

One: God of justice,  
we come before you  
selfish, yet seeking a generous heart,  
prideful, yet seeking humility,  
responsible for injustices,  
yet seeking forgiveness:

All: **God, we yearn for the justice you  
promise.**

One: God of peace,  
we come before you  
afraid, yet seeking assurance,  
agitated, yet seeking serenity,  
confused, yet seeking clarity:

All: **God, we yearn for the peace you promise.**

One: Knowing that through Christ  
all things are made new,  
we come to this communion table  
to be recreated through the bread and  
cup, and  
to be renewed in our faith and  
commitment.

All: **God, we offer ourselves  
to renewal through you.  
This we pray through Jesus Christ,  
our healer and redeemer. Amen.**

### Words of Institution

#### Blessing of the Elements

One: God, may this bread connect us more  
closely  
with you and with our neighbors near and  
far.

All: **Bless this bread, we pray.**

One: May this fruit of the vine remind us of the inter-  
connectedness of people around the  
world.

All: **Bless this cup, we pray.**

**May this simple meal bring us into union  
with you, your people and your world  
united in the one body of Christ.**

### Prayer of Thanksgiving *(after communion)*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!  
With thanksgiving,  
let us celebrate our life in Christ  
giving thanks to God  
our creator and sustainer:

**Loving and gracious God,  
thank you for this holy meal.  
Thank you for Jesus and  
his unfailing love for all people.  
Thank you for this day, and each day,  
in which we worship and serve you. Amen.**

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For yours is the kingdom,  
and the power,  
and the glory  
now and forever. Amen.*

### HYMN *In Christ There Is No East or West (#318)*

In Christ there is no east or west,  
in him no south or north,  
but one great fellowship of love  
throughout the whole wide earth.

In Christ shall true hearts everywhere  
their high communion find;  
his service is the golden cord  
close-binding humankind.

Join hands, disciples of the faith,  
whate'er your race may be.  
All children of the living God  
are surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and west;  
in him meet south and north.  
All Christly souls are one in him  
throughout the whole wide earth.

### BENEDICTION

May the grace of Christ attend you,  
The love of God surround you,  
And the Holy Spirit keep you,  
That you may live in faith,  
Abound in hope,  
And grow in love,  
Now and forevermore.  
And all of God's people said, Amen!

### POSTLUDE

*"As the Father has sent me, so I send you."* John 20:21

#### Holy Spirit Prayer

Holy Spirit,  
Comforting fire,  
Life of all creation.  
Anointing the sick, cleansing body and soul,  
fill this body!

Holy Spirit,  
sacred breath, fire of love,  
sweetest taste, beautiful aroma,  
fill this heart!

Holy Spirit,  
filling the world,  
from the heights to the deep,  
raining from clouds, filling rivers and sea,  
fill this mind!

Holy Spirit,  
forgiving and giving,  
uniting strangers, reconciling enemies,  
seeking the lost, and enfolding us together,  
fill these gathered here!

Holy Spirit,  
bringing light into dark places, igniting praise,  
greatest gift, our Hope and Encourager,  
Holy Spirit of Christ,  
we praise you!

**– Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179AD)**