

Friday AM Communion Service

Opening Words:

Leader 1: Companion of the lonely

Leader 2: Binder of our wounds

Leader 3: Seeker of lost souls

Leader 1: Friend of the poor

Leader 2: Source of all that is

Leader 3: Forgiver of sins,

Leader 1: Voice of the voiceless

Leader 2: Counselor of the confused

Leader 3: Shelter from the storm

Leader 1: Creator of heaven and earth

Leader 2: We in all our ways worship and adore you.

All: Amen

Song “Healer of our Every Ill”

Refrain:

Healer of our every ill,
Light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear,
and hope beyond our sorrow.

1. You who know our fears and sadness,
grace us with your peace and gladness.
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts.....(*refrain*)

2. In the pain and joy beholding
how your grace is still unfolding,
give us all your vision, God of love.....(*refrain*)

3. Give us strength to love each other,
every sister, every brother.
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide.....(*refrain*)

4. You who know each thought and feeling,
teach us all your way of healing.
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart.

Scripture: Ephesians 2: 17-22

So he proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near, for through him both of us have access to one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you

are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

Prayers of the People and for the Day's Conference Work

Confession and Pardon (at the pause each person offers their own private prayers of confession to God)

Leader:

Dear Friends in Christ, the Scriptures tell us to support one another and share our burdens, so let me ask, Are you at peace with God? (pause)

Is there anything in your life that makes you feel separated from God and keeps you from feeling the whole, full, and complete person God intends you to be? (pause)

Is there anger within you? (pause) Or hurt? (pause) Or brokenness in a relationship within the community of believers? (pause)

Friends in Christ, the Jesus tells us not to be anxious about our lives, about today, or about tomorrow. Do you have any anxieties or concerns that keep you from experiencing the *Shalom* or peace that Christ offers and that brings wellness and fullness to our body, minds and spirits? (pause)

As we confess our brokenness, God enters in and brings us the healing of forgiveness, mending our shattered selves, and uniting us in Christ, once more. Receive the blessing of God's mercy and be thankful!

Healing and Anointing – A time of individual prayer or anointing. Please proceed forward if you wish to be anointed and receive healing prayers.

Offering Peace

Great Thanksgiving

Leader:

Christ has promised that when we gather in his name the Holy Spirit will be there. Here we are one body in Christ, united by the power of the Spirit as a beloved community of healing and hope.

All: Alleluia! We are one!

Holy One, we, your created people praise you, our Creator. Before the worlds were, before the stars exploded into birth, you intended love. From the oneness of your will came the many forms of life. Over the void, across the chaos of the deep, your Spirit came breathing light. "Let there be...." And there was and is and ever shall be a new creation. We breathe with your breath, imaged in your likeness, share with nature in all that you have called "good".

Brothers and Sisters. Male and Female. Old and Young. Diverse people from many places with differing ideas and understandings – united as a beloved people of hope joined on the foundation-stone in their love for Christ. We belong together and with all creation we join our voices as one:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy, God of mercy and love, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in your name. Hosanna in the highest.

Leader:

Deep within us we hear your command – “Be fruitful – “ And yet...we fall from our center, deny our callings, choose to build walls and barriers instead of creating places of unity and beauty. We lay waste to the fruits of our spirits. We threaten life of every kind on earth. We break faith with all creation. And yet...

All: Your promise is given. Your promise is kept. You do not withdraw your Spirit from us.

Because you loved the world so much, one came in your name, Jesus, who did not despise us or reject us. Jesus touched and we blossomed. Jesus spoke and we were rooted in the new life of the truth. Jesus bore our barren sins, our bitter sorrows and carried our grief to the cross. On the night of his betrayal Jesus took the gifts of the earth into his hands, lifting the loaf and blessing it as he said,

All: “Take, eat, this is my body given for you.”

Leader:

After supper he took the cup as he lifted it for blessing, saying,

All: “Drink from this all of you. This is the cup of the new community joined as my body through my blood, poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins.”

Then as now we taste the bread and touch the cup. Now, as then, we drink and sing. Here we meet Christ, receive God’s grace, and experience a glimpse of the triumph of God.

O Holy One, gather us up as you pour out your Spirit on us and on these gifts. Bind us together in your bread prepared for the world to be shared freely with all in the example of your Son. Leaven us with courage, with compassion, with trust. Bless us and break us open as your child was broken to shape a new creation. Lift us up as his cup was lifted. Press our wills so that the wine of your love overflows into our lives. Fill us with the sweetness of your mercy, grace and love and prepare us to be with you as one people, united around the table you have prepared for us in the life that is to come.

All: Make us one in Christ, one with one another and one in service to all your creation until your victory is known to all!

Amen.

Lord’s Prayer

Songs of Communion:

Hungry by Kathryn Scott

Hungry, I come to you

For I know You satisfy

I am empty, but I know

Your love does not run dry

So I wait for you

So I wait for You

I’m falling on my knees

Offering all of me

Jesus, You’re all this heart is living for

Broken, I run to You
For Your arms are open wide
I am weary, but I know
Your touch restores my life

So I wait for you
So I wait for You
I'm falling on my knees
Offering all of me
Jesus, You're all this heart is living for

“One Bread, One Body” (UMH 620)

One bread, one body, one Lord of all
One cup of blessing which we bless
And we though many, throughout the earth
We are one body in this one Lord

Gentile or Jew, servant or free
Woman or man, no more

Many the gifts, many the works
One in the Lord of all

Grain for the fields, scattered and grown
Gathered to one, for all

“Here, O My Lord, I see Thee” (UMH 623)

1. Here, O my Lord, I see thee face to face;
here would I touch and handle things unseen;
here grasp with firmer hand eternal grace,
and all my weariness upon thee lean.
2. This is the hour of banquet and of song;
this is the heavenly table spread for me;
here let me feast, and feasting, still prolong
the hallowed hour of fellowship with thee.
3. Here would I feed upon the bread of God,
here drink with thee the royal wine of heaven;
here would I lay aside each earthly load,
here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiven.
4. Too soon we rise; the symbols disappear;
the feast, though not the love, is past and gone.

The bread and wine remove; but thou art here,
nearer than ever, still my shield and sun.

5. Feast after feast thus comes and passes by;
yet, passing, points to the glad feast above,
giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy,
the Lamb's great bridal feast of bliss and love.

“Time Now to Gather” (TFWS 2265)

Time now to gather, time now to feel
Christ's holy presence gracing this meal.
Grain from the harvest, fruit of the vine;
Simple the supper, sacred the sign

Time to remember Christ who was sent.
Time to say, “Thank you” for all he meant.
Come to this table. Come without fear.
God will forgive you, welcome you here.

All who are hungry, come and be fed.
Serve one another this cup and bread.
All who are troubled, hurting, or sad,
Come, and find healing. Come, and be glad!

Blessing/Benediction

Drawn on resources from the BOW Service of Healing II, Touch Holiness edited by Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi (communion service/adapted pg 165 and Opening Words from the Glossary of Greatness pg 211)

Thanks to the new class of Commissioning Candidates for leading this service