

Communion Resources

Katherine Hawker
www.liturgyoutside.net

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Communion Service (2006)

Invitation

Note: We begin with the a very inclusive invitation (extemporaneous) closing with the phrase “no matter who you are, no matter where you came from this morning, no matter what you bring with you... you are welcome, here, at this table and in this community.”

Table Prayer

As we come again to this table

we remember the story that Jesus’ friends told.

It was a night of celebration and also betrayal

when Jesus took the bread left over on the table

blessed it and broke it and shared it with them saying,

“When you eat this bread, and remember me,
you become one in my body.”

On that same night in much the same way

he took the cup after supper saying,

“My very lifeblood will be poured out

but when you drink this cup, and remember me, I will be in you.”

Come Holy Spirit, come.

Bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine.

Bless all of us in our eating and drinking

that our eyes might be opened,

that we might recognize the risen Christ in our midst,

indeed, in one another.

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Procession

The congregation comes forward, taking bread,

“The body of Christ (or bread of life) shared with you.”

and dipping it in the juice/wine,

“The cup of blessing, shared with you.”

Votive candles are on the altar to light in prayer and offering plates are also set at the front of the sanctuary.

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Communion Prayer with Nicene and Biblical References (1998)

Written for the Missouri Conference FaithWorks 1998.

In the beginning
when God created the heavens and the earth,
the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep,
while the breath of God swept over the face of the waters.

*In the beginning was the Word
and the Word was with God and the Word was God.
The Word was in the beginning with God.
All things came into being through the Word,
and without the Word, not one thing came into being.*

God from God, Light from Light,
True God from true God,
We come to you in humble adoration.

*We remember the covenant
You have made with your people in every time and place.
We remember Sarah's laughter,
Moses' burning bush,
and Milcah's claim to the promise.*

We rejoice that you call all of creation
to return to this table of broken wholeness.
We rejoice in Mary's tears of love,
in Paul's inspired thorn,
in Thecla's costly obedience.

*We remember that on the night of betrayal
Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it,
sharing it with his closest friends,
saying: "This is my body, given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."*

On that same night, in much the same way,
he lifted a cup after supper
saying: "This is the cup of the new covenant.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

*Come, Holy Spirit!
Bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine.
Bless all who share at this table
that our eyes might be open
to see the risen Christ in our midst. in each other.*

The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ
The cup which we bless is the communion of the life blood of Christ.
The gifts of God for the people of God,
Come for all things are ready.

Sources: Genesis 1, John 1, Nicene Creed. Inspired by Genesis 18, Exodus 3, and Numbers 27:1, John 12, 2 Corinthians 12, and the "Acts of Thecla", A Christian novel of the second century C.E.

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Communion Prayer with UCC Statement of Faith (1998)

Text juxtaposes the Nicene Creed with the Statement of Faith of the United Church of Christ, copyright 1957.

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,
God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,
and to your deeds we testify:

**We believe in one God, the Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

You call the worlds into being,
create persons in your own image,
and set before us the ways of life and death.

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
eternally begotten of the Creator,
God from God, light from light,
true God from true God, begotten not made,
of one Being with the Creator.**

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion,
Jesus took bread, gave you thanks and broke the bread,
"This is my body, given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."
On that same night, in much the same way,
he lifted a cup after supper saying:
"This is the cup of the new covenant.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Creator and the Christ,
who has spoken through the prophets,
who is worshiped and glorified at this table.**

You call us into your church
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to be your servants in the service of others,
to proclaim the gospel and resist the powers of evil,
to share in Christ's baptism
and to eat at Christ's table.
Amen.