

Communion

Leader: Jesus said, "Where two or three come together in my name, I am with them". On the night before he died, Jesus had a meal with his friends. While they were eating, he took bread, gave thanks to God, broke it and said, "This is my body which is given for you. Do this in memory of me". After supper he took the cup and said, "This cup is God's new covenant, sealed with my blood. Whenever you drink it, do it in memory of me." We meet together as friends of Jesus, who has invited us to share this meal. We remember that the Faith has been passed on to us by those in every generation who dared to follow Jesus. We remember, too, that we belong to a world-wide family of Christians of every kind. Let us greet one another as sisters and brothers in God's family. May the peace of God be with you.

People: And God's peace with you.

Leader: As we think about God's greatness, love and goodness to us, we begin to be aware that we do not always behave like members of God's family. Often we have not cared about God or about other people, or about the world we live in. Let us look at ourselves honestly and ask God to forgive us.

SILENCE

People: Loving God, even now we do not know how far we have turned away from you. Bring us back. Send your Spirit like a strong wind into our lives; disturb our complacency, expose our faults, drive out our pride and selfishness. Help us put right the things we have done wrong. Make us willing to forgive those who have wronged or hurt us. Clear away our grudges and bitterness. Demolish the walls we have built between us. Freshen our lives with your presence. Help us to live in love and peace with all people.

PAUSE

Leader: God forgives us. Each of us is set free to make a new beginning.

People: Thanks be to God!

Leader: When Jesus took bread and wine, he gave new meaning to commonplace things. In the same way God can use and transform the everyday lives of ordinary people. Almighty God, your love is greater than we can imagine or deserve. You loved us long before we knew or loved you. In the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ you showed that nothing can destroy your love or separate us from it. You welcome us as Jesus welcomed all who came to him: children and old people, the lowly and the powerful, saints and sinners,

strangers and outcast, the sick and the healthy, those who search for truth. Let us offer ourselves and our gifts to be part of God's purposes for the world by raising the bread and wine together.

People: Lord, receive these gifts, harvest of the earth and product of human hands. We humbly ask you to accept us with both our strengths and our weaknesses. May all be used to serve and honor you. With all our hearts we thank you, Lord. Help us to recognize your presence and grow in your love. By your Spirit, may this bread and wine unite us with Christ and give us life and wholeness.

Leader: The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ. (eat bread)

Leader: The cup which we drink is a sharing in the blood of Christ (drink cup)

Leader: In the communion, God binds us together as members of one family. Let us remember to care for one another as God cares for us. Let us remember too our responsibility to care for other people and for the world which God created. Go into the world in peace, renewed and strengthened by God's Spirit.

People: We go to serve in the name of Christ. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.