**COCU 36C.** **Easter 6C 8am (2010)**

**Welcome and greeting**

We pause in the stillness of the morning. We hear the words of the Psalmist, the sense of God’s blessing poured out into our lives.

**Reading**: Psalm 67

We pause and reflect upon blessing in our lives, the shape of the blessing, the surprises of the blessing. *A silence is kept*

**Hymn**: TIS 110 Sing praise to God who reigns above

Truth be told, we do not always live with a sense of blessing upon us, nor always feel stirred to offer praise to God. Let us find ourselves in the company of God, and know ourselves as God knows us.
*A silence is kept.*

May your know deep in your soul that you are never alone, that your soul in its brightness and belonging connects you intimately with the rhythm of the universe, and with God’s eternal love. May you come to see yourself with the same delight, pride and expectation with which God sees you in every moment. Blessed, to be a blessing. Thanks be. Amen.

**Readings:** Acts 16: 9-15; John 14: 23-29

**Witness**

**Hymn:** TIS 111 Praise to the Lord

**Prayers for others**

This is my prayer/**this is our prayer**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Hymn:** TIS 246 Christ is the world’s light

**Communion**

**Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord**.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

I**t is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right to give our thanks and praise to God….

With a vision of goodness and beauty, God replaced the shadows of chaos with the light of God’s glory; God gave voice to all living creatures to sing with joy; God gave us the water of life to quench our thirsting souls. Shaping a garden to be our home, God pleaded with us
to live in peace and grace. But our ancestors wanted to walk their own paths, finding only false promises and the empty hope of the world.
God urged the prophets to try to open our hearts, but our ancestors were not eager to listen. That is when you blessed us, God our God, sending Jesus to teach us all that had been forgotten.So, we lift our voices, filled with joy, joining them with the glad songs of every place and generation, all creation praising your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory
Hosanna in the highest**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**The narrative**

**The prayer of consecration**Send your Holy Spirit to grace this bread and this cup, that they may become the life of Christ within us, and bless our lives with God’s gentle healing. As we take this bread and drink from this cup, may we be sustained to go forth to share words of hope and acts of compassion in the world. **Amen**.

This was just a cup filled with wine, this was just ordinary bread, baked for guests until Jesus took them: took and drank from the cup, even though it was his cup of pain, filled with the agony of the world; took and broke the bread – even though his body was too young to be broken. Our lives would be ordinary lives unless the bread, unless the wine, is poured into them: and the mystery of grace takes place. Come, not because you fully understand, but because you need to reach out and receive the life that is offered to you. *Ann Siddall*

*Communion is shared*

**Prayer after communion**

**Words of mission and benediction**Coming here has not changed our situations, but strength, hope, grace and love have been poured into us for the journeys we return to.

Holy is this time, holy is this meal, holy is this sacred space we have set apart, and holy is the life we are returned to, to be broken and poured out for others. Amen. *Ann Siddall*

*The candles are extinguished*

May the hand of the Spirit bless you and all peoples,

and keep us well.

May the face of the Spirit shine upon you and all peoples,

and love us well.

May the counsel of the Spirit guide you and all peoples,

and bring us to everlasting peace,

for our world today and always.  Amen.

The peace of God be with you. **And also with you.**
*The sign of peace is shared.*