

The bread, broken/ The cup, God's grace overflowing.

May this bread connect us more closely to the sacred in our midst, and with our neighbours near and far. May this fruit of the vine remind us of the inter-connectedness of people in our street and around the world.

The gifts of God, for the people of the world whom God loves.

Communion is shared

Prayer after communion

God of grace, you renew us at your table with the bread of life and the cup of compassion. May this strengthen us in love and help us to serve you as we serve each other. We pray in the name of Christ. Amen.

Words of mission and benediction

Friends, go into this day
strengthened by the great love of God,
enfolding in the compassionate love of Jesus Christ,
filled with the active love of the Holy Spirit

God's peace be with you. **And also with you!**

The peace is exchanged

Please join us for light refreshments in the lounge at the conclusion of this service.

Liturgy incorporated resources from Joan Stott, Bruce Sanguin, Rex AE Hunt and Thom Shuman.

Reign of Christ B

November 25th, 2018

Welcome

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you. **And also with you**

Centering

In the safety of this sacred place we are invited into a time of gratitude, reflection, renewal and hope. *(Silence)*

Come in bringing all of who you are. Calm your hurried pace.

For this hour let the cares, the fretfulness and worry, be set aside.

Know that you are not alone. There is strength and caring support for you here. *(Adapt. CS Owen-Towle)*

So let us celebrate the richness and diversity of life in the presence of God.

Mighty and tender God,

you, the deep within all,

you, the encompassing heart of all,

we enter now into your kin-dom,

your community of wholeness, a realm of peace.

We bring our hunger, and the hunger of the world.

We bring our inner stranger, and the exiled of the world.

We bring our hurting selves, and the hurting of the world.

We open ourselves to healing.

Inspired, we dare to imagine integrity in our inner life, our relationships,

our planet, and our political systems.

We dare to imagine the reign of Christ.

Love's Servant,

your heart for an unfolding cosmos.

Bruce Sanguin. If Darwin Prayed/162.

Readings and reflection

Prayers for others (this is my prayer/this is our prayer)

Indwelling God,
infused throughout all existence,
we honour you with many names.
Your realm is within the human heart.
We accept life for all that it can be,
on earth as throughout all creation.
May we continue to draw sustenance from this earth,
and may we receive forgiveness equal to our own.
May we ever move from separation toward union,
to live in grace, with love in our hearts,
forever and ever. Amen *(Source: Fred F Keip, UUA Worship web)*

Communion

The invitation

The 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.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Out of the clouds and thick darkness of chaos, you spoke the creative Word, God of wonder, and creation burst forth in joy. Rivers and streams teemed with life, green pastures cradled all your creatures. You shaped us in your image, calling us to be your people, living in your steadfast love. But your hopes for us were pushed aside by the seductions of sin and death. Because we were your priceless treasure, you continued to search for us, sending prophets in all the ages. When we continued to worship all the false powers, you sent Jesus to gather us up and lead us back to you.

So, skeptics and scoffers, with the faithful and the followers,
we join our voices together singing our praise to you:

Holy, holy, holy, Shepherd of all creation.

Heaven and earth sing choruses of praise:

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who comes to gather us back to you.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, Steadfast Love, and blessed is Jesus Christ. Setting aside his power, he would turn oppression inside-out, and injustice upside down to create the kingdom where the least are the most valued.

As we remember his service to all, as we celebrate the promised resurrection, we sing of that mystery we call faith:

Christ has died, bringing us your justice;

Christ is risen, offering us your love.

Christ will gather us up to lead us home.

Breaking of Bread/Pouring of Wine

Long ago, our tradition says, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, and broke it: he said it was like his body, an offering of self, broken, that we might know the way of peace, with all creation... And he handed it to his friends, inviting them to eat. *Bread is broken*

Long ago, that same tradition says, Jesus poured a cup of wine, offered thanks for it; He said it was like his blood, a pouring out of his very being in the service of life, a self-donation, inspired by the way of the cosmos. And he gave it to his friends.

We pray that God's Spirit will be poured out upon these gifts of the bread and the cup, that they might become the life of Christ in us. We pray that God's Spirit will be poured out on us: that Spirit which gives us life, so we might offer ourselves in service to others; that Spirit which heals every brokenness, so we might touch others with your grace; that Spirit which fills us with peace, so we might share this gift with everyone we meet.